

Association of Christian Educators of Louisiana Handbook

STANDING RULES

2024-25

Association of Christian Educators of Louisiana Handbook

Revised 6.4.24

Table of Contents

Section 1. - Philosophy	3
Purpose, Vision, History	3
Biblical, Christian Foundation	3
Section 2. - Responsibilities	4
Administrator Responsibilities	4
Coach Responsibilities	7
Section 3—Organization and Government	7
Member Organizations	7
Executive Board	9
Executive Director	9
Commissioners	10
Failure to Comply with ACEL Guidelines and Rules	10
Grievances and Appeal Process.....	11
Fees and Penalties	11
Meetings	12
Social Media	12
Section 4 —Sanctioned Sports	12
Division Classification	13
Co-oping	13
Association Records	14
Participation of ACEL Member Organizations in Other Leagues.....	15
Section 5—Behavior and Sportsmanship	15
Section 6 & 7—Homeschool and Private School Definitions	18
ACEL Homeschool Organizations.....	19
ACEL Private School Organizations	20
Section 8—Student Participation.....	20
Eligibility.....	20
Transfers	21

Junior Varsity Competition	22
Section 9—General Rules	22
Official ACEL League Schedule.....	22
Scheduled Game Times	23
Reporting Scores.....	23
Officials	23
The Official Timer, Scorer, and Line Judges	24
Facilities	24
Uniforms	25
Section 10—Athletic Rules	25
Game Day Rosters.	25
Section 11—All-District/ All-State Selection.....	27
Section 12—State Playoffs and Championship.....	31

Association of Christian Educators of Louisiana Handbook

Section 1. - Philosophy

Purpose, Vision, History

- 1.1. The purpose of the ACEL is established to bring honor and glory to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, through athletic and academic competition, to protect the Christian bond of our member organizations, to promote pure, amateur athletic sports, and to foster Christian leadership and fellowship among our students.
- 1.2. The vision of the ACEL is to encourage Christian growth through physical, emotional, technical and spiritual excellence.
- 1.3. In 2010, the Association began as the Louisiana Christian School Athletic Association (LCSAA), a partnership between private Christian schools and Christian Homeschool organizations. In 2012 the Association name was changed to the Association of Christian Educators of Louisiana (ACEL) and the current purpose established.

Biblical, Christian Foundation

- 1.4. The biblical texts that guide the ACEL

(1Cor. 10:31) *“Whatever therefore you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”* All activities of the ACEL are directed by the admonition of Paul to the Corinthians, *“let all things be done decently and in order.”* (1Cor. 14:40)

- 1.5. Importance of Prayer

To practically support our biblical foundation, all ACEL contests should begin with public prayer. The host organization for each contest is responsible to conduct the prayer. The format, style and content of the prayer is determined by the host school. If necessary, the visiting team’s Administrator on Duty should help the host team’s Administrator on Duty facilitate a prayer.

- 1.6. Definition of Christian Competition

To “do all to the glory of God” the ACEL encourages all ACEL organizations to strongly consider the following definition of competition as outlined in the book *Inside Out Coaching, How Sports Can Transform Lives* by Joe Ehrmann.

“The root word of “competition” is the Latin word “petere,” meaning to search or strive for. It is most often used in the context of striving or searching for something valuable or excellent. The preposition “com” means together.

Literally, competition is defined as a “mutual quest or striving for excellence”. Since true competition is a “mutual quest for excellence” there are no winners and losers. Everyone who competes wins. This cooperative sense of competition leads to respect for others, personal and team integrity and justice and fairness.”

This understanding of the true meaning of competition in no way prohibits striving to win. It does mean, however, that in addition to competing to win, we compete to achieve a higher purpose, a “God glorifying” purpose. We compete cooperatively with our opponents to propel ourselves and our opponents to physical, emotional, technical and spiritual excellence. Winning the competition on the scoreboard but failing to promote this mutual “God glorifying” striving for all these aspects of excellence is a loss for all involved. ACEL organizations are exhorted to do all they can to teach their coaches, athletes, and fans this transforming concept.

1.7. Transgender Policy

The ACEL, in its ultimate desire to follow God’s Word and to train up children in the way they should go, acknowledges that man was created in the image of God as male and female. We, as members of the ACEL, believe and adhere to the principle that God created each individual with specific attributes and in His image to ultimately bring glory to the Creator. For these reasons, the ACEL believes that the purported changing of biological gender/identity through alternate means such as, but not limited to, surgery, dress, personal appearance, personal pronouns, etc. is a rejection of the principles laid down in God’s Word and is not permitted in the ACEL. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:14; Matthew 19:4)

Section 2. - Responsibilities

In order to instill the purpose, vision and goals of the ACEL the following responsibilities are assigned:

Administrator Responsibilities

- 2.1. The Head Administrator of each ACEL organization must certify on the annual ACEL Membership Renewal Form that the administrator has read and understands the ACEL by-laws.
- 2.2. The Head Administrator of each ACEL organization shall be responsible for the enforcement of the association by-laws and for the instruction of the student body, coaches and school parents in the appropriate by-laws. This instruction is to include the established sanctions for by-law violations.
- 2.3. The Administrator on Duty of each ACEL organization shall attend all ACEL events. Appointed directly by the Head Administrator or Athletic Director, the Administrator on Duty is the official representative of the Member Organization at the league-sanctioned competition. The Administrator on Duty is responsible for the general organization,

management and supervision of the organization's student body and spectators before, during and after each event. The Administrator on Duty shall do all that they can to proactively diffuse and calm tense or volatile situations.

- 2.4. The Administrator on Duty from each team shall work together to handle any issue that arises beyond the scope of the officials' authority. The Administrator on Duty is NOT responsible for the opposing team and shall not engage correctively with members of the opposing team. Issues with the opposing team shall be brought to the attention of that team's Administrator on Duty for correction.
- 2.5. The Administrator on Duty may not be a coach or other individual participating in that event.
- 2.6. The Administrator on Duty shall locate and introduce themselves to the Administrator on Duty of the opposing team prior to the beginning of the contest. Failure to do so is equivalent to not having an Administrator on Duty at the event.
- 2.7. The Administrator on Duty shall receive free admission to ACEL events. Administrators on Duty must leave their name and contact information at the gate in order to receive free admission.
- 2.8. In the event that a coach, player or spectator is ejected from a contest by the official, the Administrator on Duty of both the home and away team shall be responsible to report the ejection within 24 hours. Ejections are to be both recorded on the score report and a separate incident report containing the facts and circumstances of the incident plus an outline of the corrective actions or sanctions imposed by the organization. Some minimum sanctions are listed below:
 - 2.8.2. The minimum sanction required for a player or spectator ejected is a one game suspension. That suspension is to be the next contest scheduled or the next sport of participation if during the state championship. If the disqualified spectator is the parent of a team member, within 10 days, that parent must successfully complete the free NFHS Positive Sports Parenting course found at NFHSLearn.com. Proof of completion must be submitted to the ACEL by the organization within 14 days.
 - 2.8.3. The minimum sanction required for multiple spectators ejected from a single team will be immediate suspension of the team until reinstated by the ACEL Executive Board.
 - 2.8.4. Because coaches play such a key role as role models, the ACEL's position is that their involvement in unsportsmanlike incidents should result in more serious consequences. The minimum sanction required for a coach's ejection is to be suspension from coaching the next two games on the team schedule. Additionally, they must successfully complete the online NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior course within seven days of disqualification. There is a fee for the course that can be found at NFHSLearn.com. Proof of course completion must be submitted to the ACEL by the organization within 14 days.
 - 2.8.5. Fighting at athletic events will not be tolerated and sanctions in those incidents should be more severe than for other types of unsportsmanlike ejections. Consequently, player disqualifications for fighting carry a minimum two game

- suspension. Coaches involved in any fight or physical confrontation are suspended immediately until reinstated by the ACEL Executive Board.
- 2.8.6. The minimum sanction for non-game participant person that enters the field of play, court, or competition and/or engages in a verbal or physical altercation with a contest official, coach, or competitor is an immediate 30-day suspension from the team's contests. This 30-day sanction may be increased up to the remainder of the season at the discretion of the ACEL Executive Board. If the offender is a parent of a student participating in the event, the student athlete will likewise be immediately suspended for seven days. This suspension may be increased to 30 days at the discretion of the ACEL Executive Board.
 - 2.8.7. If the season ends before any suspension can be imposed, they are to be carried over to the next season. Unimposed suspensions in the playoff/state tournament will be imposed the next sport of participation. If regional or state events in cross country, tennis, or track & field is the next sport of participation, then the suspension will carry over to the following sport of participation.
 - 2.8.8. Any player, coach, fan, or staff member failing to leave the court/field in a timely manner after being ejected from the game by the official(s) will cause his/her team to forfeit that game.
 - 2.8.9. Should the ejected individual fail to honor the next game's suspension, his/her team will forfeit that game as well.
 - 2.8.10. All ejections must be reported by both teams to the Executive Director by the next day.
 - 2.8.11. In all the above situations, member organizations are free to impose more stringent sanctions as they see fit.
- 2.9. Should a team not have an Administrator on Duty, the opposing Administrator on Duty must submit an incident report within 24 hours to the Executive Director. Minimum sanctions for failure to provide an Administrator on Duty are listed below:
 - 2.9.2. The organization will be censured by the ACEL for a first offense.
 - 2.9.3. It is the position of the ACEL that the purpose, vision, and goals of the league cannot be adequately instilled within coaches, athletes and fans without dedicated leadership by an organization's administration. Therefore, for a second offense, the organization will be fined \$250.
 - 2.9.4. For third offense within an academic year, an organization will be placed on probation.
 - 2.9.5. For a fourth offense within an academic year, an organization will be suspended from the ACEL.
 - 2.10. Should the Administrator on Duty fail to address or adequately resolve an incident or fail to report an incident to the ACEL, the incident will be reviewed by the Executive Board.
 - 2.11. The Administrator on Duty for each game shall be listed on the score report for the game.

Coach Responsibilities

- 2.12. Models Christ-like behavior at all times in interactions with players, coaches, officials and spectators.
- 2.13. Disciplines those on the team who exhibit unsportsmanlike behavior.
- 2.14. Proactively does all he/she can to diffuse and calm tense or volatile situations.
- 2.15. Understands that he/she is a teacher and that the athletic arena is a classroom to teach life lessons more important than “winning.”

Section 3—Organization and Government

Member Organizations

- 3.1. Application to the ACEL is open to Christian private schools and Christian homeschool organizations in Louisiana and surrounding states.
- 3.2. All participating organizations must promote a steadfast, Christian worldview that emphasizes knowing truth as determined by God’s word and living a Christian life.
- 3.3. Requests for admission to the ACEL are by application and interview by the ACEL Executive Board.
- 3.4. All participating Member Organizations must be approved by the ACEL Executive Board.
- 3.5. ACEL Member Classifications:
 - 3.5.1. Full Members—Current Member Organizations in good standing eligible for regular season league play, playoffs, and state championship play. Representatives of Full Member Organizations may serve on the ACEL Executive Board, committees of the executive board, and as sports commissioners.
 - 3.5.2. Probationary Members—Member Organizations in good standing eligible for regular season play, but ineligible for playoffs, state championship play, or representation on all-district/all-state teams. All newly accepted organizations are admitted as Probationary Members. Full Members may be placed on Probationary status at the discretion of the ACEL Executive Board.
 - 3.5.3. Associate Member—Current Member Organizations in good standing eligible for regular season league play, playoffs, and state championship play. Associate Members have proven themselves by interview to be compatible with the purpose of the ACEL but do not state in their by-laws a doctrinal Christian position. Representatives of Associate Members organizations may serve on committees of the ACEL Executive Board and as sports commissioners.
- 3.6. All newly admitted ACEL organizations are subject to a one-year assessment period as Probationary Members. At the end of the probationary year, they may apply to the ACEL Executive Board for Full Membership. Full Membership status shall be dependent on their performance and adherence to the ACEL mission/purpose and standing rules during the assessment period.

- 3.7. All newly admitted ACEL organizations are required to fulfill a 3-year commitment to the ACEL. A \$3000 exit fee will be required of any organization failing to meet the 3-year commitment.
- 3.8. ACEL membership must be renewed annually by completing the ACEL Membership Renewal Form in May for the next academic year.
 - 3.8.1. Full ACEL member organizations must report grievances against a probationary member no later than the Membership Renewal deadline for the upcoming academic year.
- 3.9. All athletes participating in ACEL contests are required to be covered by accident/liability insurance.
- 3.10. Current ACEL Member Organizations or ACEL Commissioners that recruit new members to the ACEL, resulting in a successful application and interview for membership by the ACEL Executive Board, will receive the first-year membership fee (\$300) paid by the new Organization.
- 3.11. Organizational Splits
 - 3.11.1. The Executive Board shall review membership applications from groups splitting from a current ACEL organization.
 - 3.11.2. Such groups shall be subject to the following stipulations if accepted for membership:
 - 3.11.2.1. A new organization formed by a split is considered a new organization and is subject to all ACEL rules governing new organizations to include but not limited to probationary status during the first year of participation.
 - 3.11.2.2. A new organization formed by a split is ineligible to co-op with another ACEL organization during their first year of participation.
 - 3.11.2.3. A new organization formed from a split must submit a list of all anticipated transfer students along with their ACEL Membership Application. Official withdrawal notices for listed athletes must be received for transferring students within 24 hours of the new organization's acceptance into the ACEL.
 - 3.11.2.3.1. Transferring students listed in the membership application shall be exempt from the ACEL transfer rule. The formation of a new organization or the admittance of a new organization into the ACEL is NOT grounds for an exemption of the transfer rule. Only in situations in which an ACEL organization splits will an exemption to the transfer rule be considered.
 - 3.11.2.3.2. The exemption only applies to student-athletes from the original organization transferring to the new organization. Transfer exemptions for students from other ACEL members to the new organization shall not be considered. The formation of a new organization or the admittance of a new organization into the ACEL is NOT grounds for an exemption of the transfer rule. Only in situations in which an ACEL organization splits will an exemption to the transfer rule be considered.

Executive Board

- 3.12. The Executive Board shall be the governing body of the ACEL. It shall have the authority to adopt such policies and procedures as are necessary to administer the business of the Association and the interscholastic athletic activities of the Member Organizations.
- 3.13. The Executive Board is responsible for the adoption of the annual budget, which will provide financial basis for all necessary stipends, materials, awards, etc. to enable the ACEL to carry out its competitive and educational programs.
- 3.14. The Executive Board shall have the authority to assess penalties or invoke sanctions against Member Organizations for violation of any of the provisions of the Association Handbook in accordance with the provisions of the Association handbook.
- 3.15. A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of board actions.
- 3.16. All actions of the Executive Board are determined by majority vote unless specified differently in the Association Handbook.
 - 3.16.1. The most recent available emeritus board member may be called upon to break a tie vote of the Executive Board.
- 3.17. The Executive Board shall have a minimum of 5 members. Board seats will be filled from the Member Organizations or other persons whose service the board deems beneficial to the interests of the ACEL. New board members will be chosen by majority vote of the sitting board.
- 3.18. Every effort will be made to ensure the board represents organizations of varying types/sizes and locations. Three board members shall be from private schools, two board members shall be from homeschool organizations.
- 3.19. The Board Treasurer shall present a financial statement at each board meeting and to the membership at the annual membership meeting.
- 3.20. Executive Board Members shall attend all mandatory Board meetings to include: the ACEL Membership Meeting (August), fall sport planning meeting (November), winter sport planning meeting (March), and spring sport planning meeting (June).
- 3.21. Executive Board Members shall attend no less than seventy-five percent of all called meetings outside of the mandatory meetings.
- 3.22. Executive Board Members shall recuse themselves from Board discussion or action involving their own Organization.
- 3.23. An Executive Board Member shall be in attendance for All-State Meetings.

Executive Director

- 3.24. The Board shall appoint an Executive Director to serve as the chief executive officer of the ACEL. The Board shall delegate, in writing to the Executive Director, the executive and administrative duties and responsibilities necessary for carrying out its policies, and shall hold the Executive Director accountable.
- 3.25. The Executive Director shall develop administrative principles and procedures for implementing board policies.

- 3.26. The Executive Director shall provide a continuous appraisal of all policies originating with or approved by the board, and make recommendations to the board which, in his/her judgment, would clarify board policies.
- 3.27. The Executive Director, with the board, shall develop, implement, and assess progress toward annual goals for the ACEL.
- 3.28. The Executive Director shall report to the board on ACEL programs and operations and endeavor to keep the board fully informed of new plans and problems.
- 3.29. The Executive Director shall meet quarterly with the board to appraise the operation and effectiveness of the policies and procedures during the year and inform the board of the current status and future plans, needs and issues of the ACEL.
- 3.30. The Executive Director shall be the secretary of the ACEL, and shall manage all required paperwork from the participants, and collect all necessary information from participants for use by the board.
- 3.31. The Executive Director shall conduct visits to participants at the request of the board, and shall maintain open communication with participants.
- 3.32. The Executive Director shall perform other duties as assigned by the board.

Commissioners

- 3.33. The Executive Board may recruit and appoint Commissioners for each sport season and arts/academics.
- 3.34. Commissioners shall serve for one school year. Commissioners may be asked to serve consecutive years at the pleasure of the Executive Board.
- 3.35. Commissioners may be paid a stipend at the end of their sport season.
- 3.36. **Committees**—The Executive Board may appoint any committee they deem necessary.
- 3.37. **Non-Discrimination.** The ACEL does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, the appointment to and termination from its Executive Board, hiring and firing of staff or contractors, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services.
- 3.38. The ACEL Executive Board reserves the right to terminate an employee or to suspend or expel a Member Organization at any time for any reason, except an illegal one, or for no reason without incurring legal liability. (Likewise, an employee or Member Organization is free to leave the ACEL at any time for any or no reason with no adverse legal consequences. Commitment forfeiture fees and/or exit fees may apply.)

Failure to Comply with ACEL Guidelines and Rules

- 3.39. The Executive Director will examine each incident on a case-by-case basis and may administer any or all approved sanctions as he/she deems necessary.
- 3.40. A Member Organization may formally appeal sanctions administered by the Executive Director to the Executive Board within 7-days of notification of sanctions.

- 3.41. Prior to the Board's determination of an appeal, a Member Organization in violation of ACEL by-laws/guidelines may request a special meeting with the Executive Board to discuss the issues governing the alleged violations.
- 3.42. Approved sanctions include:
 - 3.42.1. Warning
 - 3.42.2. Censure
 - 3.42.3. Forfeit
 - 3.42.4. Fine not to exceed \$1000 per incident
 - 3.42.5. Interview with the Executive Board
 - 3.42.6. Probation for a period determined by the Executive Board
 - 3.42.7. Suspension for a period determined by the Executive Board
 - 3.42.8. Expulsion from the ACEL for a minimum of one year. The organization may then apply for readmission.

Grievances and Appeal Process

- 3.43. Member Organizations can appeal fines and league policy, rules and rulings once they have been handed down if the organization feels the need to so. Formal appeals must be submitted using the appeal form located on the league website within 7 days of official notification from the league.
- 3.44. Once a formal appeal has been submitted to the league, the Executive Board will review and conduct an investigation. The league will have 30 days upon completion of the investigation to report its findings to the appealing organization.

Fees and Penalties

- 3.45. Member Fees
 - 3.45.1. Annual membership fees are \$500 and are due in May for the following academic year
 - 3.45.2. Commitment Fees
 - 3.45.2.1. \$300 per Varsity team per sport
 - 3.45.2.2. \$150 per JV team per sport (Track JV team \$300)
- 3.46. Admission Fees for ACEL Sanctioned Contest
 - 3.46.1. The maximum admission price for football is \$8.00 per adult and \$2.00 per student.
 - 3.46.2. The maximum admission price for all other events, excluding state tournaments will be \$6.00 per adult and \$2.00 per student.
 - 3.46.3. State Tournament admission price is \$10 per adult per day and \$5 per student per day.
- 3.47. Penalties
 - 3.47.1. \$500 Annual Membership Meeting Absence
 - 3.47.2. Forfeit Fee—Minimum of \$300 varsity/ \$300 JV
 - 3.47.3. Roster Error Fine—\$600 varsity/\$300 JV
 - 3.47.4. Fines are capped at \$1250 for any one incident.

- 3.47.5. All fees and penalties must be paid before an organization may participate in the next sport season.

Meetings

- 3.48. Membership Meeting
 - 3.48.1. A meeting of participating organizations shall be held on the first Saturday in August annually.
 - 3.48.2. Attendance by the administrator or athletic director for each organization is mandatory.
 - 3.48.3. Absences will be fined \$500.
- ~~3.49.~~ Pre-Season Coach meetings— in-person or virtual, pre-season coaches' meetings are at the discretion of the sport's commissioner. Attendance is highly encouraged but not required.
 - 3.49.1. Pre-season coach meetings will be scheduled near the commitment deadline for each sport.
- 3.50. All-District/ All-State Voting Meetings
 - 3.50.1. All head coaches of participating, non-probationary teams are required to attend the all-district/ all-state voting meeting
 - 3.50.2. Absences will be fined \$500.

Social Media

- 3.51. ACEL has the right to post any image(s) from ACEL sanctioned events to the league website and/or social media accounts.
- 3.52. Any member organization that has a student-athlete that does not give consent to have their image(s) posted to the ACEL website or social media accounts (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, etc.) must submit a non-consent form which can be found on the Forms and Downloads page of the league website.

Section 4 —Sanctioned Sports

- 4.1. A sanctioned sport is one that is officially recognized by the Association with a post-season tournament championship.
- 4.2. There must be at least four (4) participating teams for each sanctioned sport.
- 4.3. All rules instituted by the Executive Board are to be included in the Association Handbook.
- 4.4. The Association defaults to current National Federation of High School Association (NFHS) rules in areas not covered in the Association Handbook.
- 4.5. Opening dates, closing dates, playoff dates, and championship dates shall be determined by the Executive Director.
- 4.6. The following sports are currently sanctioned by the ACEL:
 - 4.6.1. Boys' 8-Man Football
 - 4.6.2. Boys' and Girls' Volleyball
 - 4.6.3. Boys' and Girls' Cross-Country

- 4.6.4. Coed Soccer
- 4.6.5. Boys' and Girls' Basketball
- 4.6.6. Boys' and Girls' Track & Field
- 4.6.7. Baseball
- 4.6.8. Girls' Softball
- 4.6.9. Boys' and Girls' Tennis
- 4.6.10. Cheerleading
- 4.7. Non-Sanctioned Sports
 - 4.7.1. A non-sanctioned sport is one that is in active development by Member Organizations.
 - 4.7.2. The following sports are currently non-sanctioned by the ACEL:
 - 4.7.2.1. Golf

Division Classification

- 4.8. **Division Classification:** The purpose of the ACEL is to promote Christian competition and opportunity for ACEL members.
- 4.9. Divisions will be determined annually on a sport-by-sport basis depending on the number of participating organizations.
- 4.10. To be eligible for division classification, a sport must have at least 12 participating teams.
- 4.11. Divisions are determined by a team's previous season's powerpoint rankings per sport. Higher ranked teams will be Division 1, lower ranked teams will be Division 2.
- 4.12. Teams may appeal their assigned division to the Executive Director. Division appeals must be made prior to the commitment deadline.
- 4.13. Organizations are not required to compete in the same division for all sports of participation.

Co-oping

- 4.14. On a case-by-case basis, co-oping will be allowed in all sanctioned sports with the exception of cross country, track & field, and tennis.
- 4.15. Each member organization wishing to form a co-op team must ~~notify~~ petition the Executive Board with their request no later than 2-weeks prior to the commitment deadline for the sport. The petition must detail the co-op's organizational plans and a representative from both co-oping organizations must attend the board's review of the petition.
- 4.16. One of the co-oping organizations must be designated as the primary organization, responsible for the normal duties required by the ACEL for the team.
 - 4.16.1. The primary organization will submit the official ACEL roster with the name of the co-oping organization listed with the name of any co-oping athletes.
- 4.17. Co-oping teams must submit a plan for exiting the co-op and establishing two independent teams within 3 consecutive years of the formation of the co-op.
- 4.18. No new ACEL organization formed from a split from an existing ACEL organization shall be allowed to participate in a co-op in their first year.

Association Records

- 4.19. All association records are due by the date specified by the Executive Director.
- 4.20. Any organization failing to submit properly filled out rosters, birth certificates, or medical evaluations by the scheduled date will be subject to forfeit and/or fine at the discretion of the Executive Director for first scheduled league game and all other games until the proper documentation is submitted.

4.21. Rosters

- 4.21.1. All participating students must be listed on the official ACEL roster for each team.
 - 4.21.2. Rosters must contain the following information for all athletes:
 - 4.21.2.1. Student's name
 - 4.21.2.2. Age as of September 1
 - 4.21.2.3. Birth Date
 - 4.21.2.4. Grade
 - 4.21.2.5. Jersey Number
 - 4.21.2.6. Academic Eligibility
 - 4.21.3. Organizations allowing a non-rostered or inaccurately rostered student to participate will be subject to forfeit/ fine at the discretion of the Executive Director.
 - 4.21.4. Any athlete listed on the contest line-up is considered a participant whether he/she enters the game or not.
- 4.22. Birth Certificates (state certified or hospital certified) are required for all rostered athletes
- 4.22.1. Birth certificates must be submitted to the league prior to participation in an ACEL sanctioned contest.
 - 4.22.2. Organizations allowing participation by a student without a properly submitted birth certificate will be subject to forfeit/fine at the discretion of the Executive Director.

4.23. Transcripts/Grade Reports

- 4.23.1. Organizations are required to submit a transcript for any student transferring into their organization. Transcripts must show:
 - 4.23.1.1. Student's grade
 - 4.23.1.2. Student's academic eligibility.
- 4.23.2. Organizations are required to submit the most recent quarterly grade report for any newly rostered athlete.
- 4.23.3. Organizations are not required to submit routine quarterly grade reports for athletes rostered previously by the Organization.
- 4.23.4. Upon request of the ACEL, grade reports must be submitted within 24 hours for any rostered athlete.

4.24. Physicals

- 4.24.1. Medical evaluations must be done within the calendar year and must not be more than a year old at the end of the ACEL in-season sport in which the individual student-athlete is participating. Medical evaluations must be given and signed by a

medical doctor, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner and signed by the parent or guardian.

4.24.2. Medical evaluations do not have to be turned in to the league, but must be kept on file and made readily available upon request.

4.24.3. Administrators and/or Coaches must have medical evaluations on hand at all ACEL sanctioned events for all participating student-athletes.

4.25. Concussion Certificates

4.25.1. All coaches are required to take a concussion course annually and be able to provide evidence/certificate at the request of the Executive Board/Executive Director.

Participation of ACEL Member Organizations in Other Leagues

4.26. No ACEL Member Organization or varsity student-athlete can be a member of another athletic association having regular season games during the school year. This rule does not apply to JV student-athletes.

4.26.1. ACEL Member Organizations or student-athletes may participate in other athletic associations in sports not sanctioned by the ACEL.

4.26.2. Multi-league game participation for sanctioned scheduled sports is not allowed. This does not include scrimmage games and tournaments.

4.26.3. The ACEL defines a league as any group of teams playing each other over a determined period of time that culminates in a championship.

4.27. Member Organizations may have traveling tournament teams in addition to or in lieu of official ACEL teams in the same sport during the same season but may not mix players from one team to the other at any time during the ACEL league season, playoffs, or championships. This rule does not preclude tournament participation by official ACEL teams. This rule governs organizations that have multiple teams in the same sport during the same season.

4.28. Member Organizations having other teams playing in traveling tournament leagues in the same sport during the same season, must provide rosters from those traveling tournament teams to the ACEL along with their official ACEL rosters, and must immediately notify the ACEL with the names of players who are added or deleted from their non-ACEL teams.

Section 5—Behavior and Sportsmanship

Behavior

No ACEL administrator, athletic director, coach, student or parent shall:

5.1. Use profanity (use the Lord's name in vain)

5.2. Use obscenities, racial slurs, or make obscene gestures

- 5.3. Disrespectfully address, bait, or taunt an opponent. Any form of speech that is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin, or personal distinguishing characteristics is taunting.
- 5.4. Disrespectfully address an official
 - 5.4.1. Officials are considered guests at ACEL events and will be treated with respect.
 - 5.4.2. Officials shall not be continually addressed with the intention to intimate, or sway the judgement of the official.
 - 5.4.3. No action or inaction of officials warrants disrespect.
- 5.5. Follow an official leaving the game area.
- 5.6. Sanctions
 - 5.6.1. It is the responsibility of Administrator on Duty for both teams to report violations that occur at ACEL events to the ACEL.
 - 5.6.2. Violations witnessed by the Administrator on Duty shall be reported to the Administrator on Duty for the offending coach, student or parent. It is the responsibility of the Administrator on Duty to diffuse/calm tense or volatile situations. Both Administrators on Duty must submit an incident report for violations, including the facts and circumstances of the incident and the corrective actions or sanctions imposed.
 - 5.6.3. The minimum sanction required for a player or spectator in violation will be left to the discretion of the Member Organization for a first offense.
 - 5.6.4. The minimum sanction required for a player or spectator in violation a second time in the sports season will be a one-game suspension from the next scheduled contest.
 - 5.6.5. The minimum sanction required for a player or spectator in violation for a third time in a sports season is will be immediate suspension until reinstated by the Executive Board.
 - 5.6.6. Because coaches play such a key role as role models, the ACEL's position is that their violation of ACEL behavioral guidelines should result in more serious consequences. Additionally, care must also be taken the ensure that coaches are not abused for competitive advantage. Therefore, the sanctions for coaches in violation are dependent on the coach's denial or confirmation of the incident as follows:
 - 5.6.6.1. First reported offense
 - 5.6.6.1.1. If coach denies the incident occurred, the report is kept on file with the ACEL.
 - 5.6.6.1.2. If the coach confirms the incident, minimum sanction for the coach is warning by the ACEL.
 - 5.6.6.2. Second reported offense by the same organization
 - 5.6.6.2.1. If coach denies the incident occurred, the report is kept on file with the ACEL.
 - 5.6.6.2.2. If the coach confirms the incident, the coach will receive a warning if this is the first confirmed offense, or the coach will receive censure from the ACEL if it is the second confirmed offense.

- 5.6.6.3. Second reported offense reported by a different organization
 - 5.6.6.3.1.1. If the coach denies the incident, the minimum sanction is a warning.
 - 5.6.6.3.1.2. If the coach confirms the incident, the minimum sanction is a warning if the first confirmed offense or censure if it is the second confirmed offense.
- 5.6.6.4. Third reported offense either denied or confirmed by the coach will result in an interview with the Executive Board to include the coach's administrator.
- 5.6.7. In all of the above situations, Member Organizations are free to impose more stringent sanctions as they see fit.
- 5.6.8. If an individual comes off the bench into the court or the field, the player(s) shall be suspended and ruled ineligible to participate in the next game of participation. Individuals are required to complete the NFHS *Learn Sportsmanship Course* before returning to play.

To be as clear as possible, actions that are considered customary during game play for each sport are not considered unsportsmanlike by the ACEL. For example, noise and distraction during a free throw attempt in basketball are a customary part of the game and, therefore, not unsportsmanlike. Conversely, it is customary to remain silent during a volleyball serve so making noise in that instance is unsportsmanlike. Songs/chants that do not violate profanity/cursing rules are allowed as long as they do not single out an individual athlete by name, number or distinguishing characteristic. A song/chant used when an opposing player fouls out is allowed as long as it does not reference the player individually. Good natured "trash talk" and ribbing, friendly banter and even *respectfully* challenging an official's call are all acceptable. It is not considered unsportsmanlike to cheer when the other team fumbles.

The only acceptable action, however, at the end of a game, is for each team to treat each other with dignity and respect, being gracious in victory and gracious in defeat. Celebrating your team **does not** include disparaging the other team.

Sportsmanship

5.7. Running up the Score in a Lopsided Contest

- 5.7.1. As an organization based on Christian principles, the ACEL believes that running up the score in a lopsided contest is not good for the winner or the loser of such contests. Head coaches are expected to use wisdom to avoid this if at all possible.
- 5.7.2. Should head coaches not have the will or ability to control their teams in such matters, the Executive Board will invoke "Mercy Rules" appropriate to rectify the situation with appropriate penalties including technical fouls, ejections, suspensions, forfeits, fines, and removal from the league as necessary.
 - 5.7.2.1. Basketball
 - 5.7.2.1.1. Should the difference in the score of a basketball game reach 35 or more points at any time after the half, the clock shall be run non-stop until the game is over. Exception: The clock shall not be run during time-outs. This will be applied regardless of agreement by the coaches

- 5.7.2.1.2. Should the score drop below the 35-point mark during the second half, the decision to run the clock shall not be reversed.
- 5.7.2.1.3. The decision to apply the rule will be made by the referee when he/she has been made aware that the 35-point differential is reached in the second half. This notification should be made during a dead ball situation. Under no circumstances should the game be stopped to notify the officials.
- 5.7.2.1.4. The referee upon confirming that the differential exists will inform both coaches, and then instruct the clock keeper to run the clock in accordance with the rule.
- 5.7.2.1.5. Any basketball team that beats an opponent by 50 points or more is required to submit a report to the ACEL outlining methods used by the coach to mitigate the point differential for that game.
- 5.7.2.2. Football. Running clock will be applied when there is a 30-point differential at start of 3rd Quarter. This will be applied regardless of agreement by the coaches.
- 5.8. A player may not remove a uniform jersey or pants within the visual confines of the playing area. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in sitting out the remainder of the game in which the infraction occurs and the next regularly scheduled game. This shall be in addition to any game suspension resulting from being ejected from the game.
- 5.9. A player may not leave the visual confines of the playing area during a contest unless ejected from the game or with the express permission of the coach. Any player leaving the facility may not return. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in sitting out the remainder of the game in which the infraction occurs and the next regularly scheduled game. This shall be in addition to any game suspension resulting from being ejected from the game.
- 5.10. The following penalties must be reported on the score report:
 - 5.10.1. Ejections for all sports
 - 5.10.2. Football: Unsportsmanlike conduct
 - 5.10.3. Basketball: Technical fouls
 - 5.10.4. Soccer: Yellow cards
- 5.11. The minimum sanction required for a player ejection is a one game suspension. That suspension is to be the next contest scheduled or the next sport of participation if during the state championship.
- 5.12. The accumulation of 3 unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, technical fouls, or yellow cards within a season shall result in a minimum sanction of a one game suspension. That suspension is to be the next contest scheduled or the next sport of participation if during the state championship.

Section 6 & 7—Homeschool and Private School Definitions

Terms Defined:

A **Traditional Homeschool Student** is defined to mean that a student's education is parent-directed. As such, the parents have authority over their child's education by assuming the role of principal or headmaster, thereby (1) setting the date and requirements for high school graduation; (2) selecting and approving course materials and study schedules; and (3) selecting tutors, correspondence courses, videos, computer courses, and similar resources for their child's education. Any student taking classes through a state approved private school, public school, virtual school, charter school, or any blending of such that will result in the student receiving a diploma from such school, does not meet the definition of an ACEL Traditional Homeschooled Student.

A **Traditional Private School Student** is defined to mean that a student is enrolled full-time at brick-and-mortar school. The institution has authority over curriculum, accountability, and assessment and provides grade reports, transcripts and diplomas for the student.

A **Private School at Home Student** is defined to mean that the student's education is done at home but under the authority of a private institution in which the institution assumes the role of principal or headmaster, thereby setting the date and requirements for high school graduation and course curriculum. The institution provides grade reports, transcripts, and diplomas for the student. Any student taking classes through a state approved public school, public virtual school, charter school, or any blending of such does not meet the definition of a Private School at Home Student.

A **Hybrid Educational Student** is defined to mean that the student's education blends aspects of a Traditional Homeschool Student, a Traditional Private School, and/or a Private School at Home Student.

A **Public School Student** is defined to mean that the student's education is under the authority of the state.

A **Transcript** is an official document that shows the courses taken, the grades earned and a cumulative grade point average.

A **Diploma** is an official document that certifies successful completion of a high school course of study.

A **Full-Time Student** is actively enrolled in at least 6 courses at a time. Seniors must be actively enrolled in at least 2 courses at a time to be considered Full-Time Students.

Educational Methods Allowed Within ACEL Member Organizations:

ACEL Homeschool Organizations

Full-Time Traditional Homeschool Students may participate on homeschool teams. In addition, Hybrid Educational Students may also participate if at least 3 courses taken at one time (or 2 courses for seniors) qualify under the Traditional Homeschool Student definition. Private School at Home Students enrolled at a Christian online academy may participate on homeschool teams if the institution is an online only institution or if the physical location is not in Louisiana.

- 6.1. Private School at Home Students are not allowed on homeschool teams if the institution has a physical location within Louisiana or within an 75-mile radius of an ACEL homeschool organization located outside Louisiana.
- 6.2. Traditional Private School Students are not allowed on homeschool teams.
- 6.3. Public School Students are not allowed on homeschool teams.

ACEL Private School Organizations

Traditional Private School Students may participate on private school teams if enrolled Full-Time with the school. In addition, Private School at Home Students enrolled Full-Time with the private school are eligible. Hybrid Educational Students may also participate if the student is enrolled in at least-3 courses at one time (or 2 courses for seniors) with the private school.

- 7.1. Traditional homeschool students may not participate on private school teams.
- 7.2. Public School Students are not allowed on private school teams.

Section 8—Student Participation

Eligibility

- 8.1. A player is only eligible to play in the gender division that the player was born, as recorded on their original birth certificate.
- 8.2. Minimum varsity age restriction. A varsity student must be in at least the 7th grade and 12 years of age as of September 1 of the current academic year to participate in varsity athletics.
- 8.3. A student has four (4) consecutive calendar years of eligibility upon entering the 9th grade regardless of which school or homeschool he/she attended upon entering the 9th grade, given they meet the rest of the eligibility requirements listed herein.
- 8.4. A student may not attain the age of 19 years old prior to September 1st of the current school year of competition to be eligible.
- 8.5. Seniors must take at least two (2) courses at a time from their private school or homeschool during their senior year.
- 8.6. A student graduating from any one school/organization concludes any eligibility in the league.
- 8.7. All participating athletes must be listed on an official ACEL team roster for the sport of participation.
- 8.8. All students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
- 8.9. Students playing on an official ACEL **varsity** team may not participate in more than one league per sport at one time.
- 8.10. All student/athletes participating in sanctioned league competition are required to take and pass a physical examination. These physicals are good for one calendar

year. Physicals must be kept on-hand by athletic directors and coaches at all ACEL events and must be presented immediately upon request.

- 8.11. Student-athletes must live within a 75-mile radius of their team's practice facility/field.
- 8.12. The use of an ineligible player will result in the forfeiture with assessment of forfeiture fees at the Executive Director/ Executive Board's discretion for any or all games in which that player participates.

Transfers

- 8.13. A student shall be considered a transfer student if he/she, after establishing eligibility in an organization, changes attendance to another organization for any reason. A student is considered to have transferred whenever the student changes from that organization in which the student was enrolled to any other organization regardless of whether the organization in which the student transferred or to which the student transfers is public, non-public, or homeschool, member or non-member. A transfer student must have been eligible to represent his/her former organization academically as well as eligible under any district, organizational or athletic policy that was in place when the student transferred to be considered for athletic eligibility.
- 8.14. Member Organizations are required to submit a transcript to the ACEL for any student-athlete transferring into their organization.
- 8.15. If a student-athlete transfers organizations, he/she shall be ineligible to participate in athletic competition at any level of play in all sports at the receiving organization until he/she has officially withdrawn from the latter organization.
- 8.16. If a transfer takes place during the sport season in which the student has participated in at least one regular season contest at the sending organization, the student shall be ineligible in that sport for the remainder of that sport's season in the receiving organization. This rule would not apply to a student who has been deemed to have made a bona-fide move.
- 8.17. Non-Member Organization Transfers. A student-athlete transferring from a non-member organization to a member organization will be eligible when he/she enrolls provided all other eligibility requirements are met.
- 8.18. Member-Member Transfers. Any student-athlete who transfers from one-member organization to another member organization shall be ineligible to participate for a period of one (1) year (365 days). (Example exceptions upon appeal include: Bona-fide Move of at least fifty (50) miles, custody situations when parents live separate and apart, military transfers, etc.). This rule does not apply to students that did not participate in athletics at the sending organization. **Participation is only allowed with one ACEL organization within a 365-day period.**
 - 8.18.1. Student-athletes withdrawing from a Homeschool Member Organization with the intent to transfer to another ACEL Member Organization must complete a notice of withdrawal form to be submitted to the ACEL. The official withdrawal date for the student-athlete shall be the date the withdrawal notice is received by the ACEL.

Junior Varsity Competition

- 8.19. ACEL will sanction Junior Varsity competition in all sports where participation allows adequate competition.
- 8.20. Games shall be played in conjunction with varsity matches whenever possible.
- 8.21. JV divisions, if applicable, will be the same as that of the varsity team.
- 8.22. State championship games for JV will be played during the varsity state tournament.
- 8.23. Students eligible to compete in Junior Varsity competition shall not have reached his/her 16th birthday before September 1st of the current academic year.
- 8.24. JV Only commitments will not be allowed. To commit a JV team, an organization must also commit a varsity team. (Rule takes effect 2025-26.)
- ~~8.25. The Executive Board, upon request from member organizations for cause, or at their own discretion, may adjust the eligibility age for Junior Varsity to allow for more students to be able to play sports.~~

Section 9—General Rules

- 9.1. The ACEL defaults to current NFHS (National Federation of High School Associations) for situations not covered in the ACEL Handbook or the current year Sport Plan for each sport.

Official ACEL League Schedule

- 9.2. The official ACEL schedule is produced by the ACEL and is binding as to date, time, and location of games. Schedule change requests must be submitted through the website by both the home and away team. The opponent may not be changed under any circumstances.
- 9.3. Opening dates, closing date, playoff dates and championship dates shall be determined by the ACEL Executive Director.
- 9.4. Any varsity team dropping out after the commitment date will be assessed a \$500.00 fine. Any JV team will be assessed a \$300 fine.
- 9.5. Failure for a team to show up for a league scheduled game without making prior arrangement to reschedule shall result in a forfeit by that team and they shall be assessed a forfeit fee of no less than \$500.00 varsity/ \$300 JV (the total amount to be determined by the Executive Director/ Executive Board).

Scheduled Game Times

- 9.6. Game times should not be scheduled earlier than 5:00 pm during basketball and volleyball season, and 4:00 pm during football, soccer, baseball, and softball season, unless mutually agreed upon by both teams. The Executive Board/Executive Director will have the final say so in case of a disagreement.

Reporting Scores

- 9.7. Both home and visiting teams are responsible for reporting scores of each game no later than noon on the following day. Failure to report will result in a penalty to be determined by the Executive Board/Executive Director. First offense – forgiven; Second offense – \$250; Third offense – \$500; Fourth offense – forfeiture of next regularly scheduled league game, with regular forfeiture fine and charges for loss of revenue applicable to be determined by Executive Director/Executive Board.
- 9.8. Any player, coach or fan ejected and description of the incident, must be communicated on the score report. Failure to report will result in a penalty of suspension of non-reporting coach and/or fine at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- 9.9. The Administrator on Duty for your Organization at each game must be reported on the score report.
- 9.10. The Executive Director must be informed of all rescheduled, cancelled, or postponed games by both the home and away teams.
- 9.11. Both teams are responsible for keeping legible copies of their book (both home and visiting team pages) of each game and be able to turn in to the Executive Director no later than noon of the following day if requested. These copies may be scanned and emailed, mailed or submitted through the league website. Failure to report upon request will result in a penalty to be determined by the Executive Board/Executive Director.

Officials

- 9.12. No official or referee is to be used if that individual is a parent, staff member, or church member with the organizations involved in the contest.
- 9.13. Home teams are responsible for furnishing two qualified, patched officials (unless specified otherwise in section 10). All officials must be members of the LHSAA/AOA (Arkansas Officials Association)/MIAS (Mississippi Association of Independent Schools) and must be assigned by the official LHSAA/AOA/MIAS assignment secretary for the local LHSAA/AOA/MIAS area of the home team. All officials must be current LHSAA/AOA/MIAS members patched in the sport they are calling.
- 9.14. If a home team is located in an area where there is a recognized shortage of current LHSAA/AOA/MIAS member patched officials in a given sport, the home team may request an exemption from using LHSAA/AOA/MIAS officials in a particular sport. Upon investigation the ACEL board may recognize such shortage and allow the home team requesting the exemption to use another recognized officials' association in their area approved by the ACEL board. The request for exemption must be made in

writing before the start of the season and any exemption given by the ACEL board will be valid for only one season at a time. If such exemption is given, officials from that association must be current members of that association, recognized by that association as competent to call the sport they are assigned to and must be assigned by that association's assignment secretary.

9.15. It is the home team scorer's responsibility to have each official sign and print their name on the official book for the game prior to the start of the game. A copy of the official book of the game must be available to the ACEL Executive Director by noon of the following day upon request.

9.16. Failure of officials to show up for a game:

9.16.1. Official's fault – game rescheduled by the Executive Director at the visiting team's home.

9.16.2. Home organization's fault – game forfeited, \$500.00 assessment, and the essential expenses of the visiting organization as determined by the Executive Board.

The Official Timer, Scorer, and Line Judges

9.17. The official clock, scorebook and volleyball line judges must be manned by an adult 18 years or older (it may not be a student of host organization).

9.18. The official scorer and timer shall conduct their duties in accordance with the current NFHS rules for official scorer and timer in their sport.

Forfeiture of ACEL sanctioned contests

9.19. All forfeits shall be of the score 15-0, with the team that is forfeiting receiving the lower score and also paying a forfeit fee to the Executive Director within seven (7) days from the scheduled game date.

Suspension of Game Rules

9.20. No-Fault suspended game is when officials or Member Administrators on Duty suspend a game in progress because of a reasonable unforeseen circumstance such as a power failure or like occurrence. If less than ½ of the game is complete or the game is tied, the game is to be rescheduled at the home facility. If ½ or more of the game is completed, the game is ended.

9.21. At-Fault suspended game is when the actions or in-actions of a team results in the suspension of a game. Games suspended due to at-fault causes shall be forfeited by the at-fault team. The at-fault team shall also be assessed a \$500 fine and will reimburse the essential expenses of the other team in an amount determined by the executive board.

Facilities

9.22. Facilities used for ACEL competition must be adequate to high school competition per NFHS rules and guidelines. A gym diagram must be submitted for

teams participating in basketball and volleyball for all courts on which a team regularly hosts league games.

Uniforms

- 9.23. Multiple styles of uniform bottoms may be worn by teammates and may include: shorts, pants or skirts.
- 9.24. Uniform bottoms must have at least a 4" inseam.

Section 10—Athletic Rules

The ACEL adopts the NFHS rulebook for all sports unless specifically addressed in the ACEL Handbook or Sport Plans.

Game Day Rosters.

- 10.1. Game Day Rosters will be supplied to the opposing team from each team that exceeds the following number of players on their official roster: 8-man football 24 players, varsity volleyball 18 players, varsity soccer 27 players, varsity basketball 15 players, baseball 27 players, softball 27 players. Only players that appear on a team's official roster may be used on the game day roster. Only players listed on the game day roster are eligible.
- 10.2. Baseball.**
 - 10.2.1. The maximum number of baseball pitches allowed in a game is 110. 1-35 no rest required; 36-60 pitches, 1 day of rest is required; 61-85 pitches, 2 days of rest; 86-110, 3 days of rest. The maximum 110 pitch count limit will be allowed after completion of rest periods. Pitch count limits are the same for playoffs and the state championship tournament. During the state tournament, pitch count limit can be divided into separate appearances not to exceed 110 pitches over both days. (ex. Pitcher throws 60 pitches on day 1. Pitcher is eligible to throw 50 pitches on day 2.)
- 10.3. Basketball.**
 - 10.3.1. Basketball size for boys' basketball shall be 29.5"-30" circumference, 20-22 ounces and 28.5"-29" circumference, 18-20 ounces for girls' basketball.
- 10.4. Cheerleading & Dance Teams.**
 - 10.4.1. Cheerleaders and Dance Teams members are considered athletes in the ACEL.
 - 10.4.2. The ACEL shall officially recognize Cheerleading Squads and Dance Teams that meet the following qualifications:
 - 10.4.3. They must be recognized on and included in the Member Organization's general liability and accidental injury insurances.
 - 10.4.4. They must have a recognizable uniform.

- 10.4.5. They must have a coach that has been officially recognized and appointed by the member organization. Cheer/Dance coaches must complete a concussion course annually.
- 10.4.6. They must practice on a regular basis under the supervision of the coach.
18.3.2.5.
- 10.4.7. Rosters for Cheerleading Squads and Dance Teams must be submitted to the ACEL prior to participation by the commitment deadline of the sport of participation. Rosters submitted after the commitment deadline will be assessed a \$50 late fee. Birth Certificates and transcripts/ grade report are not required.
- 10.4.8. Cheerleading cheers shall not promote physical violence against the opposing team.
- 10.4.9. Visiting Cheerleading squads and Dance Teams must coordinate where to stand and gain permission to do half-time routines from and coordinate the length of routines with the home team's Administrator on Duty.
- 10.4.10. Cheerleading and Dance routines, both for the home cheerleaders and visiting cheerleaders (if permitted), shall take no more than 50% of the time allotted for half-time. These routines must take place in the first half of the total time allotted for half-time.
- 10.4.11. Cheerleading and Dance routines shall not be performed directly in front of the opposing team's bench.
- 10.4.12. Cheerleading and Dance routines shall not be performed on the playing floor during the State Championships at any time during any game. This is to facilitate warm-up of teams for the next game as well as for warm-up of teams for the second half.
- 10.4.13. Routines shall not involve stacking of more than two levels. The first level shall be considered the level standing on or in contact with the floor or ground.
- 10.4.14. Routines that involve flyers shall have adequate base crews and spotters as defined by the AACCA (American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators)
- 10.4.15. Cheer teams
- 10.4.16. Male student-athletes may participate on cheerleading and dance teams but must conform to traditionally understood male and female cheer roles and dress as dictated by their sex as specified on their original birth certificate.
- 10.5. **8-Man Football.**
- 10.5.1. Quarter length for 8-Man Football shall be 10 minutes in length.
- 10.5.2. A football chain-crew shall be a 3-person crew supplied by the host team in which each member of the crew is at least 18 years of age.
- 10.5.3. A football officiating crew shall consist of no less than 4 field and 1 box official.
- 10.6. **Coed Soccer**
- 10.6.1. Coed Soccer teams must have both home and away jerseys. The visiting team shall wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks, and home team shall wear dark jerseys and socks (dark is defined as any color which contrasts with white).
- 10.6.2. Coed soccer is 11v11 with 2 girls on the field at all times.
- 10.6.3. Regular season Coed Soccer games ending in a tie shall be recorded as ties.

10.6.4. Playoff Coed Soccer games ending in a tie shall be decided by a 5-minute “Golden Goal Period” in which the first team to score is declared the winner. Should a tie persist after the golden goal period, a PK shoot-out shall be used to break the tie.

10.7. Track & Field.

10.7.1. See the Track & Field Manual available for download from the ACEL website for specific Track & field rules and requirements.

10.8. Volleyball.

10.8.1. Varsity volleyball matches between Member Organizations shall be decided by winning 3 out of 5 possible games. Jr. Varsity matches shall be decided by winning 2 out of 3 possible games.

10.8.2. An official’s stand, antennas, and pole pads are required equipment in volleyball.

Section 11—All-District/ All-State Selection

Participation

11.1. No ACEL Member Organization will be allowed to participate in voting for or to place players on All-District or All-State teams if that Member Organization is in violation of any league rule with regard to reporting or in arrears on any league fee, penalty fee, or forfeiture fee.

11.2. Coaches from each Member Organization participating in each sport shall nominate and select First Team, Second Team, and Third Team players depending on participation for that sport according to the following guidelines:

11.2.1. 8-Man Tackle Football Selections

Any ACEL football student-athlete may be voted onto the All-State Team in up to one offensive and one defensive position.

11.2.1.1. Offensive Players

11.2.1.1.1. 3 Offensive Linemen

11.2.1.1.2. 1 Quarterbacks

11.2.1.1.3. 2 Running Backs

11.2.1.1.4. 2 Wide Receivers/TE

11.2.1.1.5. 1 Kicker

11.2.1.2. Defensive Players

11.2.1.2.1. 3 Defensive Linemen

11.2.1.2.2. 2 Linebackers

11.2.1.2.3. 2 Defensive Backs

11.2.1.2.4. Defensive Athlete (any category)

11.2.1.3. 1 MVP

11.2.2. Volleyball Division 1 may nominate and select 6 First Team, 6 Second Team and 6 Third Team All-State players depending on current year participation and divisions. First, Second, and Third Team All-State players for varsity will be

selected from the All-District teams which will consist of up to 10 players from each district. Division 1 shall select a #1 setter and a #1 libero in addition to First Team Selections. Division 2 may nominate and select 1 all-state team.

11.2.3. **Soccer** shall nominate and select 11 First Team and 11 Second Team All-State players depending on current year participation and divisions. Each all-state team shall have 2 girls and 1 goalie.

11.2.4. **Basketball** Division 1 shall nominate and select 5 First Team, 5 Second Team, and 5 Third Team All-State depending on participation and divisions. First, Second, and Third Team All-State players will be selected from the All-District teams which will consist of up to 10 players from each district depending on participation. Division 2 may nominate and select 1 all-state team.

11.2.5. **Baseball and Softball** shall each nominate and select 9 First Team and 9 Second Team All-State players depending on participation and divisions. Baseball and softball shall select a #1 pitcher and a #1 catcher in addition to First team Selections.

All-District/ State Selection Process

11.3. One coach from each organization participating in the regular season must attend the All-District/All-State Voting meeting for that sport. Athletes from any organization without representation at the All-State Voting meeting will not be eligible for All-State consideration and a \$500 fine will be assessed to the organization.

11.4. Prior to the All-District Meeting each organization shall rank their players for consideration.

11.4.1. Coaches are allowed to nominate UP TO the following number of nominees based on district winning percentage, but are NOT required to nominate that many players. (All sports except football.). Winning percentage/ # nominees:

- 11.4.1.1. 0 %– 20% One Nominee
- 11.4.1.2. 20.1% – 40% Two Nominees
- 11.4.1.3. 40.1% – 60 % Three Nominees
- 11.4.1.4. 60.1 %– 80% Four Nominees
- 11.4.1.5. 80.1% – 100% Five Nominees

11.4.2. Each organization shall present student information for consideration

- 11.4.2.1. Statistics via MaxPreps
- 11.4.2.2. Other information

11.5. All-District Selection Process (In-person voting at all-district/ all-state selection meeting)

11.5.1. Each School shall have only one vote towards All-district selection and may be represented by only one person at the All-District/All-State selection meeting.

11.5.2. The top ranked player from each organization shall be placed in consideration for the All-District Team

11.5.3. District coaches shall vote to determine the number one player in the district.

11.5.4. The number two player from that school will now be elevated for consideration with the remaining top ranked players from the other organizations.

11.5.5. The committee shall vote to determine the number two player in the District.

- 11.5.6. The next player from that school will be elevated to be considered with the remaining player pool.
 - 11.5.7. Coaches shall vote to determine the number three player in the District.
 - 11.5.8. The process shall continue in this manner until the All-District Team is complete.
 - 11.5.9. Districts should not predetermine player rankings based on the order of team finish in the district. (i.e. District champion receives first two places, runner up next two places, etc.)
 - 11.5.10. When particular positions must be represented on All-District and/or All-State teams, those positions will be voted on first.
- 11.6. All-State Selection Process (following all-district voting at the all-district/ all-state selection meeting)
- 11.6.1. Each school shall have only one vote in All-State voting and may be represented by only one person.
 - 11.6.2. The top ranked player from each DISTRICT shall be placed in consideration for the All-State Team
 - 11.6.3. Coaches shall vote to determine the number one player in the STATE.
 - 11.6.4. The number two player from that DISTRICT will now be elevated for consideration with the remaining top ranked players from the other organizations.
 - 11.6.5. The committee shall vote to determine the number two player in the STATE.
 - 11.6.6. The next player from that DISTRICT will be elevated to be considered with the remaining player pool.
 - 11.6.7. The committee shall vote to determine the number three player in the STATE.
 - 11.6.8. The process shall continue in this manner until the All-State Teams are complete.
 - 11.6.9. Coaches should not predetermine player rankings based on the order of team finish in the district.
 - 11.6.10. When particular positions must be represented on All-State teams, those positions will be voted on first.
- 11.7. MVP**
- 11.7.1. If particular positions are NOT required on the All-State team, then the MVP is the first player chosen for 1st team All-State
 - 11.7.2. If particular positions are required, positions are selected first followed by the selection of the first general player for 1st team All-State. MVP will then be selected between the particular position players and the first general player chosen.
 - 11.7.3. Co-MVP's may be awarded in the event a tie for MVP cannot be resolved.
- 11.8. Coaches may vote for their own players in All-District and All-State voting.
 - 11.9. Coaches must vote in each round of All-District and All-State voting. Failure to vote will result in the disqualification of all players from All-District, All-State considerations from that coaches' organization and a \$500 fine. Abstaining is not considered a vote.
 - 11.10. Players selected to the All-State Team, must be selected from the pool of players on the All-District Team.
- 11.11. Awards**

- 11.11.1. Each First Team All-State player in each sport will receive a 7" x 9" engraved walnut plaque and a t-shirt.
- 11.11.2. Each Second and Third Team All-State player in each sport will receive a certificate and a t-shirt.
- 11.12. Selections of First, Second and Third Team All-State players will be based on the votes obtained from a meeting of the coaches of each sport. Said meeting to be arranged by the Sports Commissioner/Executive Director. The league meeting should take place at least one week prior to the state championship.
- 11.13. **Statistics.** For any player to be nominated for consideration for an All-State Team, statistics chosen by the Executive Board should be provided.
 - 11.13.1. The following statistics should be provided on MaxPreps for any player to be considered for All-State recognition. No player will be eligible for all-district/ all-state without stats reported by MaxPreps:
 - 11.13.1.1. **Football**
 - 11.13.1.1.1. Quarterback – Attempts, Completions, Passing yards, Rushing yards, TD's, Interceptions
 - 11.13.1.1.2. Running Back – Carries, Rushing Yards, Rushing TDs', Fumbles, Receptions, Receiving yards, Receiving TD's
 - 11.13.1.1.3. Wide Receiver/Tight End – Carries, Rushing Yards, Rushing TD's, Fumbles, Receptions, Receiving yards, Receiving TD's
 - 11.13.1.1.4. Offensive Lineman – Coaches choice
 - 11.13.1.1.5. Defensive Lineman – Tackles, Sacks, Caused fumbles, Recovered fumbles, Interceptions, TD's
 - 11.13.1.1.6. Defensive Back – Tackles, Sacks, Caused fumbles, Recovered fumbles, Interceptions, TD's, Pass break-ups
 - 11.13.1.1.7. Punter – Average yards per kick
 - 11.13.1.1.8. Kicker – FG attempted, FG made, Extra points attempted, Extra points made
 - 11.13.1.2. **Volleyball** – Assists, Digs, Blocks, Kills, Aces
 - 11.13.1.3. **Basketball** – FGA, FGM, 3FGA, 3FGM, FTA, FTM, Points, Rebounds, Steals, Assists, Blocks
 - 11.13.1.4. **Baseball/Softball**
 - 11.13.1.4.1. Offense – AB, H, Avg, Runs Scored, RBI, Sacrifices, OBP
 - 11.13.1.4.2. Defense – Put outs, Assists, Errors
 - 11.13.1.4.3. Pitchers – Innings pitched, Ks, Base on balls, Runs allowed, W/L record
 - 11.13.1.4.4. **Soccer** - Goals, Assists, Shots on goal, Saves.
 - 11.13.2. Nomination forms will not be accepted unless all required stats are recorded.
 - 11.13.3. **The Coach of the Year** for each sport will be voted on at the same meeting. Coaches may not vote for themselves for Coach of the Year.

Section 12—State Playoffs and Championship

- 12.1. No team will be allowed to participate in any playoff or championship game if that team is in violation of any league rule with regard to reporting or in arrears on any league fee, penalty fee, or forfeiture fee.
- 12.2. Athletes are eligible to participate in the playoffs and championship of any sport per the official ACEL Athletic Calendar for the year.
- 12.3. Any varsity team choosing to not make a road trip to a league game or a playoff game, regardless of the reason, will be assessed a forfeit fee of no less than \$500.00 for league games and \$1000.00 for playoff games (the total amount to be determined by the Executive Director/Executive Board), and assessed a charge to reimburse the playoff home team for expenses and lost revenue (the total amount to be determined by the Executive Director/Executive Board).
 - 12.3.1. JV teams may forfeit playoff games without penalty if forfeited by the posted deadline. Any forfeited game will be considered a loss with the “winning” team advancing in the bracket. The next ranked team will not be elevated to take the place of the forfeiting team.
- 12.4. Championship trophies shall be awarded by the Association in official sports for all Division 1 first-place winners where there is participation of four (4) or more teams. Junior Varsity awards and all other Varsity awards will consist of plaques and will be awarded to first and second place. Division 1 third and fourth place teams that compete at the state tournament will be awarded state semi-finalist plaques.
- 12.5. The Association will present t-shirts to the first place varsity team in the following numbers: football – one shirt for each member, up to 30 shirts; soccer – one shirt for each member, up to 30 shirts; basketball – one shirt for each member, up to 15 shirts for boys and girls; volleyball – one shirt for each member, up to 15 shirts for boys and girls; track and field – one shirt for each member, up to 15 shirts for boys and girls; softball and baseball – one shirt for each member, up to 20 shirts. The first-place team will also be presented with up to 2 coaches’ shirts.
- 12.6. Powerpoints shall be used for season rankings and playoff seedings. Points will be awarded on the following basis: A team’s official power points will be the sum of a team’s total number of wins divided by the total number of games played multiplied by 110 and of a team’s opponents’ wins divided by the total number of opponents’ games multiplied by 100.
- 12.7. In the event of a season ending tie, tie breakers will be decided based on the following factors:
 - 1.) Head-to-head competition
 - 2.) Point differential against that opponent:
 - Football - 30-point cap
 - Soccer - 5-point cap
 - Basketball - 30-point cap
 - Baseball - 15-point cap

Softball - 15-point cap

3.) Fewest points given up on that opponent's home court/field

- 12.8. In instances where districts are used for a sport the district winner will be decided by the district record.

END

2024-25 Rule Changes

All rule changes/ amendments and additions are highlighted in the text of the rules.

Changes or amendments to existing rules:

3.45.1

3.45.2.1

4.24.1

4.26

4.27

5.10

8.9

8.18

8.24

10.4.5

10.4.7

10.6.2

11.2.2

11.2.3

11.2.5

8.25 removed

New Rules for 2023-24:

1.7

3.8.1

3.11

3.16.1

4.18

5.7.2.1.5

5.12

11.7.3

11.9

11.13

8.24