



DECEMBER LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AGENDA

December 11, 2025

1980 Providence Parkway
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

- I. **Litigation Report**
- II. **Call to Order**
- III. **Roll Call**
- IV. **Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting**
- V. **Election of Officers**

- A. President
- B. Vice President

- VI. **Regional Meetings**

Regional Meetings in West, Middle, and East TN were held on November 10, 12, and 13. There were 6 proposals for changes to the TSSAA Bylaws on the agenda for consideration. Attached are all of the full proposals as well as a summary from the meetings.

- A. Transfer Rule Discussion

The staff would like to update the Legislative Council on discussions with members of the state legislature regarding a provision for a one-time transfer between school years and its potential impact on any decisions regarding transfer exceptions under consideration.

- B. Proposed Change to Article I Section 10 (Coaches Education Requirements) - submitted by Arlington High School

This proposal would remove the requirement for classified employees to take the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching and NFHS Sport First Aid Courses.

- C. Proposed Change to Article IV Section 8 (TSSAA Sports Calendar) - submitted by Lebanon High School

This proposal would adjust the practice calendar for high school basketball programs to ensure they have at least three weeks of practice before Hall of Champions contests.

- D. Proposed Change to Article II, Section 13 (Eligible Transfer Students) of the TSSAA Bylaws - submitted by Loretto High School



This proposal would allow students to transfer schools without loss of varsity eligibility after failing to make the team at the school in which they are attending and tried out for.

- E. Proposed Change to Article IV, Section 8 (TSSAA Sports Calendar) of the TSSAA Bylaws - submitted by Van Buren County High School

This proposal would increase the number of students who can receive individual instruction from their coaches in a given day. The proposal would keep the current numbers assigned to each sport, but would allow a coach to have multiple sessions in a day as long as the sessions were occurring at different times. The proposal would also allow multiple coaches to work with different groups of students on the same day, as long as the sessions take place in separate locations or in multiple sessions that take place at different times.

- F. Proposed Changes to Article II, Section 2 (Academic Rule) - submitted by Westview High School

This proposal would allow students who are academically ineligible in the first semester to participate in athletics once final grades have been posted or when school resumes on or after January 1st, whichever occurs first, provided they have passed five classes/three blocks or the equivalent during the first semester.

- G. Proposed Change to Article IV Section 8 (TSSAA Sports Calendar) - submitted by Siegel High School

This proposal would allow coaches to coach their own children during times when the TSSAA Sports Calendar does not permit them to coach students from their own school, provided no other students from the coach's school are involved in the activity.

VII. **New Business**

- A. Discussion of Pre-Season Events: Article I Section 8 TSSAA Sports Calendar (Scrimmage Rule) and Article IV Section 10 (Jamborees)

The staff would like to discuss some issues that arise from the terminology and application of the Scrimmage Rule and Jamborees as they currently appear in the TSSAA Bylaws

Current Language:

Scrimmage Rule - After the TSSAA first official day of practice in all sports, a school cannot practice with or scrimmage another school until both schools have practiced a minimum of three days. No tournament format of any type may be used. Scrimmages should look more like practice than games. Once a school has played their first game, there can be no more scrimmages. (Applies to High School & Middle School



Division) In the high school division a school may have a maximum of four scrimmages or two scrimmage dates or one scrimmage date and two scrimmages (A scrimmage date is defined as more than two schools scrimmaging on the same day).

Jamborees - A member school may participate in one jamboree per sport provided

(a) the jamboree is held before any of the participating schools play their first game;

(b) the jamboree is sponsored by the participating schools and all proceeds go to the participating schools;

(c) the jamboree is conducted in accordance with the following regulations:

A. No team or participant shall play more than the equivalent of half of a game or contest.

B. Registered TSSAA officials must be used.

C. Schools must hold membership in TSSAA or membership in a Tennessee conference in order to be eligible to participate in a jamboree. (Out-of-state schools must obtain approval from their state association before participating.)

D. In the high school division, football schools may participate in a jamboree as early as Thursday of the week preceding the opening of football season.

E. In the high school division, basketball schools may participate in a jamboree one week preceding the opening of basketball season.

Participation in such a jamboree shall not count as a regular-season contest or pre-season scrimmage provided the jamboree meets the above regulations.

B. Proposed Change to Article II Section 13 (School Closing)

The staff would like to discuss adding a transfer provision to allow students who transfer due to a school closing to be eligible immediately.

C. Proposed Change to Article I, Section 7 (Cooperative Programs)

Proposed change to allow DI schools to host DII schools in approved cooperative programs

D. Proposed Changes to Article I, Section 2 (Membership) of the TSSAA Bylaws

E. Proposed Change to Article II, Section 16 (Tuition and Financial Aid)

The proposed changes update language that is no longer applicable to the way financial aid reports are evaluated and adds a fine for schools that are not in compliance with the reporting requirements.



F. Proposed Addition to Article II, Section 10 (Physical Examination & Parental Consent) of the TSSAA Bylaws

The proposed addition is in bold below:

Section 10. It is required that no student be permitted to participate in practice sessions or in athletic contests until there is on file with the principal a preparticipation medical evaluation form signed by a doctor of medicine, osteopathic physician, physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner stating that the student has passed a physical examination, not prior to April 15, and that in their opinion the student is physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics. In lieu of the form, the principal may accept a signed statement from the health care provider certifying that the student has passed a physical examination that encompasses all elements on the preparticipation medical evaluation form and attesting that in their opinion the student is physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics.

No student shall be required to submit to a physical exam if his/her parent(s) or legal guardian shall file with the principal a signed, written statement (affirmed under the penalties of perjury) declining such physical examination on grounds of sincerely held beliefs or practices.

It is required that no student be permitted to participate in practice sessions or in athletic contests until there is on file a parental consent certificate signed by a parent or legal guardian stating that the student has the consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian to participate **and for TSSAA, its physicians, athletic trainers, and/or EMT to render aid, treatment, medical, or surgical care deemed reasonably necessary to the health and well being of the student during or resulting from participation in athletics.**

G. Proposed Change to Article II, Section 12d (Athletic Coaching Link) of the TSSAA Bylaws

The attached proposal was submitted by Lipscomb Academy.



Chris Davis
Principal
Arlington High School

12060 Arlington Trail * Arlington, TN 38002 * 901.389.2497 * 901.389-2498 Fax * www.acsk-12.org

August 20, 2025

Dear Members of the TSSAA Board of Control,

I am writing on behalf of Arlington High School to respectfully request consideration for a revision to the TSSAA bylaws. Article I, Section 10 A. 3. of the TSSAA Bylaws requires that all classified (non-certified) employee coaches must complete both the **NFHS First Aid** and **NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching** courses prior to assuming coaching responsibilities. (Said section of the Bylaws states that the fee for high school division Non-Faculty Coaches is \$75.00; however, it is our understanding that the fee is now \$100.00.)

Proposal:

We propose that **full-time classified employees** who serve in coaching roles be classified the same as **full-time certified teachers** for the purposes of required training. Under this change, **only non-faculty coaches** would be required to complete the **NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety** course and the **NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching** online course.

Rationale:

- 1. Redundancy with District Training Requirements:**
Many districts already require all full-time employees—including classified personnel—to undergo regular training in basic first aid, CPR, and student safety protocols. Requiring completion of the NFHS First Aid course in addition to district-mandated training often results in unnecessary redundancy and administrative burden and lessen the cost of already cash-strapped athletic programs.
- 2. Support for Understaffed Athletic Programs:**
As schools face increasing challenges in filling coaching vacancies, particularly in smaller or rural districts, relaxing this requirement for classified employees would enable schools to better utilize internal personnel who are already familiar with school procedures, students, and the community.
- 3. Encouraging Broader Participation in School Athletics:**
Amending this Bylaw would encourage broader participation from support staff in athletic programs, helping schools provide more diverse and well-rounded extracurricular opportunities for students.

Proposed Amendment to TSSAA Bylaw Article I, Section 10 A. 3. (Draft):

Non-faculty Coaches must complete the NFHS "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches" courses prior to assuming the position. Coaches who have successfully completed the ASEP Coaches Education Course prior to May 15, 2013, will not be required to take the NFHS courses. Member schools must pay an annual registration fee per Non-faculty Coach. The fee for high school division Non-Faculty Coaches is \$75.00. The fee for middle school division Non-Faculty Coaches is \$50.

Proposed Amendment to TSSAA Bylaw Article I, Section 10 (1) and (4) (Draft):

A Full-Time School Employee is defined as an individual who meets either of the following criteria:

- *Holds a Tennessee teaching license or the equivalent and is employed as a full-time certified teacher by a board of education for a minimum of 100 school days. OR*
- *Is employed by a member school or school system in a non-licensed position, working 30 hours or more per week in a non-coaching role. This individual must be a direct employee of the school or school system and not an independent contractor or employed by an independent contractor.*

We greatly appreciate the leadership and oversight the TSSAA provides in maintaining the safety, professionalism, and educational integrity of interscholastic athletics in Tennessee. We believe this proposed amendment would support schools in building sustainable coaching staff models while maintaining student safety and competitive fairness.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal further or provide supporting documentation if needed.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Davis
Principal
Arlington High School

Lebanon High School
Dr. M. Scott Walters
Executive Principal



500 Blue Devil Boulevard
Lebanon TN 37087
Tel: (615) 444-9610
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Proposal to TSSAA: 3 weeks of practice for High School Basketball Teams prior to Hall of Champions games

We respectfully request that the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) extend the practice calendar for high school basketball teams to three weeks prior to Hall of Champions games for the 2026-2027 school year. This proposal aims to align basketball with the practice standards already established for all other TSSAA sports.

Existing Practice Standards

- **Other TSSAA Sports:** All other TSSAA sports currently receive at least 3 weeks of practice time before their first contest
- **Basketball:** Limited to a shorter practice period before Hall of Champions games. Basketball teams currently are allowed two weeks of practice prior to Hall of Champions contests.

Justification for Extended Practice Period

- The additional week of practice would put basketball on par with all other TSSAA sports in giving coaches and players three weeks of practice and preparation before the Hall of Champions contests.
- The additional practice time could potentially enable more teams to be able to participate in Hall of Champions games. This could potentially allow teams to utilize more or all of the 3 dates allotted by the TSSAA during the Hall of Champions week.

Conclusion

Extending basketball practice time to three weeks before the Hall of Champions games aligns with TSSAA standards for other sports while prioritizing student-athlete safety and competitive excellence. We urge TSSAA to review this proposal and implement changes for the 2026-2027 academic/athletic year.

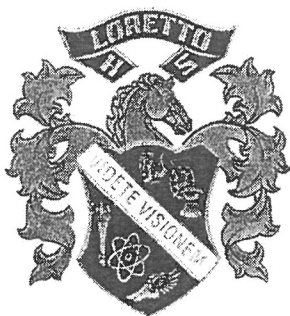
This proposal is sponsored by Lebanon High School and endorsed by the Basketball Coaches Association of Tennessee (BCAT).

Respectfully,

Dr. Scott Walters/ Principal Lebanon High School

Jim McDowell/ Boys Basketball Coach

"Excellence in all we do!"



Loretto High School

525 2nd Avenue South
Loretto, Tennessee 38469
931-231-8850
Fax: 931-853-4340

Jennifer Littleton, Ed.D.
Principal

Harley Simbeck, M.Ed.
Assistant Principal

Bryan True, M.Ed.
Assistant Principal

October 15, 2025

Proposed change to Article II, Section 13 (Eligible Transfer Students) of the TMSAATSSAA Bylaws, which would allow students to transfer schools after failing to make the team of the school where they originally attended and tried out for. (proposal submitted by Loretto High School)

This proposal is regarding student-athletes eligibility after failing to make the team at the school in which they are attending and tried out for.

Proposal Overview:

If a student-athlete does not make the roster of the team for the sport in which they have tried out for at their current school, the student-athlete shall be eligible to transfer to another TSSAA member school of their choice and be immediately eligible to participate in the sport from which they were cut. The student-athlete must also be in good academic and behavioral standing at their current (previous) school.

Rationale:

This proposal aims to ensure that student-athletes who are not afforded the opportunity to participate in their chosen sport at their current school are not unfairly restricted from seeking such opportunities elsewhere.

This proposal promotes fairness, supports student development, and removes barriers to athletic participation that result from local team selection outcomes rather than student choice. This proposal eliminates a school from removing a player from their program and not allowing a student in good standing at the current(previous) school from finding opportunities elsewhere in that sport without causing hardships such as moving.

Conclusion:

Allowing a member school to deny a transfer to another school due to an athletic move that their school created the need for is simply not fair. This should not exemplify what current transfer guidelines are meant for.

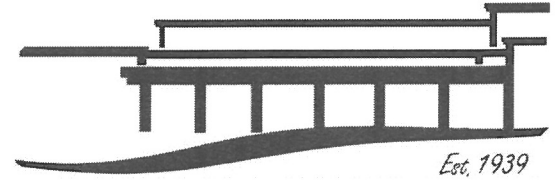
Respectfully,

Greg Tipps
Head Boys Basketball Coach
Loretto High School

Dr. Jennifer Littleton
Principal
Loretto High School

VAN BUREN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

337 Sparta Street • Spencer, Tennessee 38585
Telephone (931) 946-2442 • Fax (931) 946-2265



Drew Campbell, *Principal* • Amanda Cronin, *Assistant Principal* • Sahara Hall, *School Counselor*

Proposed Change to Article IV, Section 8 (TSSAA Sports Calendar)

This proposal would change the language of the Pre-Season & Off-Season Definitions so that coaches can give individual instruction to more groups of students per day (not at the same time or in the same facility).

Current language:

*Off-Season – Begins with the school's elimination from postseason tournament play in a particular sport and concludes with the end of the school year. In team sports, individual instruction may be given to **no more than the following number of students per day:** football, lacrosse, & soccer - 6; baseball & softball - 5; girls flag football - 4; basketball & volleyball - 3. (Applies to High School & Middle School Division)*

*Pre-Season – Begins the first day of school until the first official day of practice in that particular sport. In team sports, individual instruction may be given to **no more than the following number of students per day:** football, lacrosse, & soccer - 6; baseball & softball - 5; girls flag football - 4; basketball & volleyball - 3. (Applies to High School & Middle School Division)*

Change:

"In team sports, individual instruction may be given to no more than the following number of students per day"

To:

"In team sports, individual instruction may be given to no more than the following number of students **per session, coach, & location**; a coach may have multiple group sessions per day, but can only work with the designated number students at a time; multiple coaches can work different groups the same day, but these workouts must be held at different times or different facilities."

I.E. Coach A can have 3 different groups in for individual workouts in the same day, but each group must adhere to the number rule and cannot be at the same time; or Coach A & Coach B both can work out groups at the same time, but these must happen at different facilities.

My goal is to make it easier for staff to work out their players within the individual instruction groups framework at least once per week. Currently basketball teams with more than 21 players cannot fit in all of their players into individual instruction in a week. Likewise baseball/softball teams with 35+ players, football with 42+ players, etc.

We would like to see it where one coach could be doing a session, while another coach is doing a workout in a separate location with another group; or one coach could hold multiple sessions in the afternoons, but not at the same time, etc. We want to be able to more efficiently give every player on a team a chance at individual instruction once per week while also giving more flexibility to the staff in organizing these groups.

WESTVIEW Athletics

Academic Rule: TSSAA Constitution (Article II, Section 2)

Proposal:

Current Language: Academic Rules (Varsity, JV) Section 2 . (High School Division) To be eligible to participate in athletic contests during any school year, the student must earn five credits the preceding school year if less than 24 credits are required for graduation or six credits the preceding school year if 24 or more credits are required for graduation. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year. Students who are in the ninth grade must have been academically promoted to the next higher grade in order to be eligible. Academic eligibility for a student is based on the requirements of the school the student was attending at the conclusion of the previous school year. Students who are ineligible the first semester may gain eligibility the second semester by earning a passing grade in five classes or three blocks or the equivalent by the end of the first semester. These students will be eligible to participate in athletics when school resumes on or after January 1 of that school year.

Change to: Academic Rules (Varsity, JV) Section 2 . (High School Division) To be eligible to participate in athletic contests during any school year, the student must earn five credits the preceding school year if less than 24 credits are required for graduation or six credits the preceding school year if 24 or more credits are required for graduation. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year. Students who are in the ninth grade must have been academically promoted to the next higher grade in order to be eligible. Academic eligibility for a student is based on the requirements of the school the student was attending at the conclusion of the previous school year. Students who are ineligible the first semester may gain eligibility for the second semester by earning a passing grade in five classes or three blocks or the equivalent by the end of the first semester. These students will be eligible to participate in athletics once final grades are posted or when school resumes on or after January 1* of that school year, whichever comes first.

Rationale: As an example, in Basketball, a student that has passed 5 classes the first semester could miss up to 3-4 additional weeks of contests. Although the classes are completed with a passing grade, the student athletes are still made to sit out of games, with no work to be done. It's a holding period, with the punishment already served. If students fulfill the requirements set by the TSSAA, the students should be able to return to play with sitting out any additional time.



Larry Creasy
Principal

Richard Delbridge
Tarron Huddleston
Sharon Miller
Trey Ondrus
Dr. Pamela Perkins
Assistant Principals

TSSAA Legislative Proposal: Exception for Coaching One's Own Child in Non-School Competition

Submitted by: Siegel High School

Date: 10/1/2025

Proposal Title:

Exception Allowing High School Coaches to Coach Their Own Child in Non-School Athletic Participation

Proposed Language to Add to the TSSAA Bylaws:

"High school coaches may coach their own biological, adopted, or legal guardian child(ren) in non-school athletic programs (such as AAU, travel ball, or club teams), provided that no other student-athletes currently enrolled at the coach's school and listed on that sport's TSSAA eligibility report participate on the same non-school team or are coached by that individual in the same non-school setting."

Purpose and Rationale:

- This proposal seeks to create a narrow and reasonable exception in the TSSAA bylaws allowing coaches to coach their own children in non-school athletic events, such as travel basketball or AAU.
- Currently, TSSAA guidelines and interpretations regarding off-season or non-school coaching create uncertainty around whether a coach can legally work with their child if that child is also a student-athlete at their school. While this restriction helps prevent recruiting, undue influence, and unfair advantages in team dynamics, it unintentionally penalizes coaches who simply wish to remain active in their child's development outside the school season.

This change would allow:

- High school coaches to maintain their parental role in guiding their child's athletic journey.
- Clarity and peace of mind regarding TSSAA compliance for coaches involved in club sports with their own family members.
- Continued enforcement of the intent of existing rules that prevent coaches from working with multiple current players during the off-season or club ball, thus avoiding competitive advantages or recruiting concerns.
- This proposal would not allow coaches to coach any other student-athlete from their school in an independent/non-school setting — only their own child(ren).

Impact:

- Maintains the spirit of TSSAA's amateurism and recruiting protections.
- Supports coaches who are also parents and wish to stay involved in their child's development in travel/club athletics.
- Minimizes enforcement confusion by providing a clear, common-sense exemption for a specific and limited case.

Larry Creasy

Principal
Siegel High School

Siegel High School

3300 Siegel Road

Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129

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2025 TSSAA REGIONAL MEETINGS SUMMARY

Mon., Nov. 10, 2025 10:00 a.m. CST Liberty Technology Magnet High School

Wed., Nov. 12, 2025 10:00 a.m. CST Ensworth High School

Thurs., Nov. 13, 2025 11:00 a.m. EST Hardin Valley Academy

1. Call to order by Board of Control Representative:

Liberty Tech High School (Jackson) – Scott Vogel
Ensworth High School (Nashville) – Dennis Goodwin
Hardin Valley Academy (Knoxville) – Patrick Spangler

2. Presentation of A. F. Bridges Awards

3. Election of Board of Control and Legislative Council Members

West TN Elections:

Board of Control

Athletic District 7 Current Representative: Dexter Williams, Trinity Christian Academy

Dexter Williams, Trinity Christian Academy, was reelected to represent Athletic District 7 on the Board of Control.

Athletic District 8 - (Vacancy - 1-year term) - Greg Scott has recently resigned. His term was set to expire in 2026.

Mark Dunn, South Gibson County High School, was elected to represent Athletic District 8 on the Board of Control.

Legislative Council

Athletic District 9 – Current Representative: Bo Griffin, Millington Municipal Schools

Bo Griffin, Millington Municipal Schools, was reelected to represent Athletic District 9 on the Legislative Council.

West Independent - Current Representative: Catherine Chubb, Hutchison School

McKee Humphreys, Memphis University School, was elected to represent the West TN Independent Schools on the Legislative Council.

Middle TN Elections:

Board of Control

Athletic District 6 – Current Representative: Bryan True, Loretto High School

Bryan True, Loretto High School, was reelected to represent Athletic District 6 on the Board of Control.

Legislative Council

Athletic District 6 - Current Representative: Les Trotter, Waverly High School

Les Trotter, Waverly Central High School, was reelected to represent Athletic District 6 on the Legislative Council.

East TN Elections:

Board of Control

Athletic District 1 – Current Representative: Mike Reed, Morristown West High School

Mike Reed, Morristown-Hamblen High School West, was reelected to represent Athletic District 1 on the Board of Control.

East Independent - Current Representative: Mark Price, Baylor

Mark Price, Baylor School, was reelected to represent the East TN Independent Schools on the Board of Control.

Legislative Council

Athletic District 2 - Current Representative: Joe Gaddis, Oak Ridge High School

Joe Gaddis, Oak Ridge High School was reelected to represent Athletic District 2 on the Legislative Council.

4. Proposals for Changes in TSSAA/TMSAA Constitution and Bylaws

Documents containing each proposal and full rationale can be found [here](#).

A brief summary of each proposal is listed below.

a. Proposed Change to Article I Section 10 (Coaches Education Requirements) - submitted by Arlington High School

This proposal would remove the requirement for classified employees to take the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching and NFHS Sport First Aid Courses.

Change to Article I - Coaches Education Requirements	East	96	79%	26	21%	122	100%
	Middle	112	78%	31	22%	143	100%
	West	66	67%	32	33%	98	100%
Change to Article I - Coaches Education Requirements Total		274	75%	89	25%	363	100%

b. Proposed Change to Article IV Section 8 (TSSAA Sports Calendar) - submitted by Lebanon High School

This proposal would adjust the practice calendar for high school basketball programs to ensure they have at least three weeks of practice before Hall of Champions contests.

Change to Article IV - Basketball Practice	East	102	84%	20	16%	122	100%
	Middle	123	86%	20	14%	143	100%
	West	87	89%	11	11%	98	100%
Change to Article IV - Basketball Practice Total		312	86%	51	14%	363	100%

c. Proposed Change to Article II, Section 13 (Eligible Transfer Students) of the TSSAA Bylaws - submitted by Loretto High School

This proposal would allow students to transfer schools without loss of varsity eligibility after failing to make the team at the school in which they are attending and tried out for.

Change to Article II - Eligible Transfer Students	East	39	32%	82	68%	121	100%
	Middle	44	31%	98	69%	142	100%
	West	40	42%	56	58%	96	100%
Change to Article II - Eligible Transfer Students Total		123	34%	236	66%	359	100%

d. Proposed Change to Article IV, Section 8 (TSSAA Sports Calendar) of the TSSAA Bylaws - submitted by Van Buren County High School

This proposal would increase the number of students who can receive individual instruction from their coaches in a given day. The proposal would keep the current numbers assigned to each sport, but would allow a coach to have multiple sessions in a day as long as the sessions were occurring at different times. The proposal would also allow multiple coaches to work with different groups of students on the same day, as long as the sessions take place in separate locations or in multiple sessions that take place at different times.

Change to Article IV - Individual Instruction	East	101	83%	21	17%	122	100%
	Middle	98	69%	44	31%	142	100%
	West	75	77%	23	23%	98	100%
Change to Article IV - Individual Instruction Total		274	76%	88	24%	362	100%

e. Proposed Changes to Article II, Section 2 (Academic Rule) - submitted by Westview High School

This proposal would allow students who are academically ineligible in the first semester to participate in athletics once final grades have been posted or when school resumes on or after January 1st, whichever occurs first, provided they have passed five classes/three blocks or the equivalent during the first semester.

Changes to Article II - Academic Rule	East	94	77%	28	23%	122	100%
	Middle	116	81%	27	19%	143	100%
	West	74	76%	24	24%	98	100%
Changes to Article II - Academic Rule Total		284	78%	79	22%	363	100%

f. Proposed Change to Article IV Section 8 (TSSAA Sports Calendar) - submitted by Siegel High School

This proposal would allow coaches to coach their own children during times when the TSSAA Sports Calendar does not permit them to coach students from their own school, provided no other students from the coach's school are involved in the activity.

Change to Article IV - Coaching of School Students	East	100	82%	22	18%	122	100%
	Middle	124	88%	17	12%	141	100%
	West	82	85%	15	15%	97	100%
Change to Article IV - Coaching of School Students Total		306	85%	54	15%	360	100%

5. Transfer Rule Update/Discussion

Discussion regarding current transfer rule statistics and legislative updates.

Course Completions by School Year

Course Completed School Year	HIGH			MIDDLE			Grand Total
	Classified	Non-faculty	Total	Classified	Non-faculty	Total	
2025	85	503	588	75	297	372	960
2024	188	1,396	1,584	155	686	841	2,425
2023	222	1,358	1,580	186	646	832	2,412
2022	209	1,354	1,563	200	552	752	2,315
2021	180	1,099	1,279	165	545	710	1,989
2020	150	941	1,091	67	323	390	1,481
2019	174	915	1,089	24	313	337	1,426
2018	158	1,042	1,200	11	368	379	1,579
2017	159	1,016	1,175	11	281	292	1,467
2016	144	969	1,113	8	301	309	1,422
2015	169	901	1,070	7	298	305	1,375
2014	178	959	1,137	8	350	358	1,495
2013	168	834	1,002	7	286	293	1,295
Grand Total	2,184	13,287	15,471	924	5,246	6,170	21,641



Article I Section 7 (Proposed Language)

Cooperative Programs

Two member high schools in the same Division may petition TSSAA annually for permission to have a cooperative program in any sport if one of the schools does not have that program and has not had that program for the last two years. **DI public schools may host other DI schools or DII independent schools. DII independent schools may only host other DII schools.** The Executive Director of TSSAA may approve such cooperative programs subject to approval by the principals of the schools involved. A request for a cooperative program ~~between two schools in different Divisions or~~ between more than two schools shall require Board of Control approval. Member middle schools may petition TSSAA annually for permission to have a cooperative program in any sport if one of the schools does not have that program. The Executive Director of TSSAA may approve such cooperative programs subject to approval by the principal of the schools involved.

TSSAA Bylaws
Article I, Section 2

Section 2. The annual membership dues will be \$1.50 per student (based on ADM for the current classification period). The minimum total membership fee for a school shall be \$300. High schools that include both middle school and high school grade configurations (i.e. grades 6-12 or K-12) will pay the high school membership fee and may choose to join at the middle school level for an additional membership fee of \$150. The maximum membership fee for a high school shall be \$2,500. The maximum membership fee for a middle school shall be \$1,500.

Membership contracts shall be submitted by August 4 15 for the subsequent school year. Membership dues shall be paid no later than September 4 15 and shall be for the school year (August 1 – July 31). There shall be a five dollar (\$5.00) per business day late fee charged to any school that fails to remit its membership dues by September 1. Schools failing to renew their membership by January 1 shall be notified by a registered letter from the Executive Director to the Principal advising them that unless the membership fee and penalty are paid immediately the school will be dropped from the list of member schools.

Tuition and Financial Aid (Varsity) (NOTE: Does not apply to the Middle School Division.)

Section 16. If tuition is charged, it must be paid by parent, bona fide guardian or other family member. If a parent, guardian or other family member secures a loan for payment of tuition, it must remain an obligation of the parents, guardian or other family member to repay the principle and interest in full with no exceptions. Any loan program, grant program, educational foundation or similar program that is established and/or administered, in whole or in part, by a school or official of a school is considered financial aid. Financial aid will be allowed under the following condition:

Financial aid may be awarded on the basis of need, but proof of such need must be filed in the TSSAA office on forms approved by the Executive Director. In order to determine the basis for need, all schools awarding financial aid shall use one of the following services: FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment (FACTS), Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST), School and Student Scholastic Service for Financial Aid (SSS), Family Financial Needs Assessment (FFNA), Private School Aid Services, Blackbaud Tuition Management, Tuition Aid Data Services (TADS), or Clarity. Schools must ~~choose one of the companies~~ **use the same service** for all student-athletes. ~~A committee consisting of School Heads from Division II schools and one exofficio, non-voting member from the Board of Control and Legislative Council will meet and make recommendations to the Board of Control on each student submitted. In addition, this committee will collect information from schools regarding financial aid statistics, grant procedures, and the overall financial aid program within the school. The Board of Control will then rule on all cases at the November meeting.~~

The Board of Control shall have authority to reject the basis of need for students when in its opinion, ~~or in the opinion of the school committee~~, the amount of need stated by the financial service cannot be justified.

Failure to submit the required financial aid forms by the due dates specified by the TSSAA office will result in a \$100 fine.

Schools shall remove any student from athletic eligibility whose accounts with the school are 60 days overdue.

All records pertaining to financial aid or tuition assistance shall be open to TSSAA upon its request. Each school shall be responsible for securing necessary authorization to allow TSSAA to review or audit such records.

TSSAA Legislative Proposal - Summer Workout Coaching Link

Dear Mr, Reeves and Members of the TSSAA Legislative Council,

Lipscomb Academy respectfully submits the following proposal to Article II, Section 12 d. of the TSSAA Bylaws which describes the type of activity constituting a “coaching link.”

Current Bylaw: Article II. Section 12. Ineligible Transfer Students.

The following transfer students are ineligible for a period of twelve months from the student's last participation date, unless a different period of ineligibility is specified:

- d. (Varsity, JV) If a student with an athletic record transfers to a new school where an “athletic coaching link” existed in the past 12 months, that student is ineligible for 12 months past their first date of enrollment at the new school at all levels in the specific sports where a linkage was present. Links may include (1) attendance at an individual camp (and then transferring); (2) playing on non-school (independent) teams where the school coach is the coach or served as an administrator for the independent team/league (and then transferring to that coach’s school); (3) transferring into a school where a former coach has been hired; and (4) transferring to a school where a former or current personal trainer or strength and conditioning coach is employed.*

Proposed Edition: Article II. Section 12. Ineligible Transfer Students.

- d. (Varsity, JV) If a student with an athletic record transfers to a new school where an “athletic coaching link” existed in the past 12 months, that student is ineligible for 12 months past their first date of enrollment at the new school at all levels in the specific sports where a linkage was present. Links may include (1) attendance at an individual camp (and then transferring); (2) playing on non-school (independent) teams where the school coach is the coach or served as an administrator for the independent team/league (and then transferring to that coach’s school); (3) transferring into a school where a former coach has been hired; **and** (4) transferring to a school where a former or current personal trainer or strength and conditioning coach is employed; **and (5) participating in voluntary summer workouts with any member of a schools coaching staff (and then transferring to that school).***

Rationale

While the current “coaching link” bylaw discourages coaches from using auxiliary means (club, camps and individual training) to draw athletes to their school, it allows (by exclusion) the use of voluntary summer workouts for, effectively, the same purpose.

Currently, a student may participate in voluntary summer workouts at multiple schools, evaluating different teams, coaches and facilities, and then transfer to one of those schools without consequence, as long as no recruiting conversations are reported and proven.

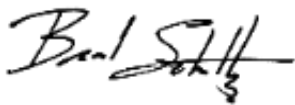
Utilizing summer workouts in this manner was not attractive prior to the adoption of the first time transfer exception (Article II, Section 13, subsection m), which all but eliminated eligibility consequences for transferring. Now that the likelihood of ineligibility tied to transferring is greatly reduced - nearly 90% approval for transfers (based on early 20205-2026 data) - using summer workouts as an admissions/athletics funnel is significantly more attractive.

This type of activity at any other point of the year would be a violation of both the spirit and letter of the TSSAA Bylaws. Two examples:

- The Practice rule (*Article II, Section 14*), restricts participation to only enrolled students in regular attendance.
- The Coaching Link (*Article II, Section 12. d.*), enforces a 12 month period of ineligibility should a student transfer to a school after working with one of the schools coaches in the previous 12 months.

If a student is subject to a period of ineligibility for transferring to a school after working with one of the schools coaches in club, private training, individual camp, or a previous school environment within the last 12 months, the same rule should apply to a student who participates in summer workouts with a schools staff prior to enrolling at that school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Schultz". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "B" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brad Schultz
Lipscomb Academy
Head of School