

PALMETTO ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2019-2020 Constitution

11/18/2019



PAA CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be The Palmetto Athletic Association (PAA).

ARTICLE II – MISSION STATEMENT

PAA is composed of 501 C(7) sports organizations (Member Organizations) that provide the opportunity for student athletes to compete at the highest level possible. Our Member Organizations follow nationally accepted rules of play and our athletes are expected to exhibit exemplary sportsmanship and hard work while striving for success in educational endeavors, on the fields of competition and in life. The PAA provides oversight to Member Organizations for inter-league and intra-league contests, tournaments, and events, and promotes uniformity of standards on a level playing field. PAA's oversight is limited to those areas expressly addressed in this document (Constitution).

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I: Member Organizations are those that agree to abide by the rules of the Constitution, have a governing board of directors, and are made up of one or more sports teams.

SECTION II: All Member Organizations shall pay annual dues in the amount of \$100 per team to PAA, A \$25 deposit will be due when application is submitted and remaining balance must be paid by May 31. All **Affiliate Member Organizations** shall pay annual dues in the amount of \$25 to PAA

SECTION III: All Member Organization's sport teams must participate in PAA, unless PAA does not offer that sport.

SECTION IV: Sports teams (also referred to as teams) are comprised of boys and girls and JV and Varsity for each sport. They are categorized as follows:

Football	7on7 Football	Boys Basketball	Boys Track
Volleyball	Girls Flag Football	Girls Basketball	Girls Track

SECTION V: All new organization will become an at-large member, and will not be assigned to a region for a period of one calendar year, but that at-large member may participate against other member schools. The at-large member school may participate for a state championship if it does not require qualifying through the region.

SECTION VI: Teams put on probation for deficiencies by PAA shall not be eligible to participate in the activities governed by this Constitution.

SECTION VII: Each Member Organization shall establish one specific county as their base county. Member Organizations shall limit their student athletes to those residing in their base county and any county that borders their base county. Students residing in a base county with a Member Organization that offers the sport that they participate in must compete for that Member Organization unless they fall under one of the following exceptions:

- a) Students or their sibling(s) had already joined a different Member Organization prior to the establishment of this constitution.
- b) Students or their sibling(s) had already joined a different Member Organization prior to the establishment of a new Member Organization in their county or establishment of a new team under an existing Member Organization in their county.
- c) The Member Organization in the student's county expressly (in writing) releases that student to join a different Member Organization.

Exceptions shall be made for students who reside in counties that have no PAA Member Organizations that offer the sport they wish to play in their county or in a bordering county.

SECTION VIII: Application for membership shall be made in writing to the President of the Competition Committee.

The applying athletic organization must complete the "PAA New Member Application Form" and provide information requested as described on that form.

Before being admitted, the application must be approved by 2/3 vote of the Competition Committee.

Membership is granted if approved by the Competition Committee and upon payment of dues.

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNING BODY

SECTION I: The governing body of PAA shall be the Competition Committee as provided for in Article XVII.

SECTION II: The Competition Committee shall meet as necessary. A meeting may be called at any time by the chairman or by a majority of the Competition Committee. Meetings shall occur quarterly at a minimum with exact dates being set by the Competition Committee.

SECTION III: Grievances or recommendations from Member Organizations shall be made through their organization's Board of Directors.

SECTION IV: The Competition Committee may revoke a student's eligibility at any time the evidence so warrants and it will be incumbent upon the Member Organization to provide proof of eligibility.

SECTION V: Any Member Organization or individual that brings legal action against PAA will be responsible for PAA's legal fees.

SECTION VI: The Competition Committee has the authority to rule on any matter not specifically covered by a rule, acting in the spirit and intent of PAA rules, policies, and procedures.

ARTICLE V - REGIONS AND DIVISIONS

SECTION I: The Competition Committee shall determine region and divisions and will alter/change them from time to time for approval of the Member Organizations.

ARTICLE VI - ELIGIBILITY RULES: STUDENT

SECTION I: Student eligibility is determined by each Member Organization. Member Organizations shall choose from one of the following categories:

Group A

Students educated per the South Carolina Code of Laws 59-65-40, 59-65-45, 59-65-46, or 59-65-47 or via the virtual school method per the South Carolina Code of Laws 59-16

Group B

- Students educated per the South Carolina Code of Laws 59-65-40, 59-65-45, 59-65-46, or 59-65-47 or via the virtual school method per the South Carolina Code of Laws 59-16
- Students educated per the South Carolina Code of Laws 59-40 (Charter Schools) provided their athletic director or principle provides documentation certifying the school does not offer the sport in question and gives permission for the child to participate
- Students educated in a private school provided their athletic director or principle provides documentation certifying the school does not offer the sport in question and gives permission for the child to participate
- Students educated in a public school provided their athletic director or principle provides documentation certifying the school gives permission for the child to participate

For Students in counties that border South Carolina, the above eligibility rules would apply as appropriate for their home state.

An academically ineligible player may not take part in practice sessions. Once a student has enrolled as a full time student (more than twelve hours) at a post-secondary institution, he or she is no longer eligible to participate in a Member Organization. A public or private school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility is ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities as a student in a Member Organization for the following semester.

SECTION II: ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION:

- A. A student must be educated in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws. Parents or Guardians are responsible for ensuring that their student is making satisfactory academic progress in order to participate in interscholastic activities.
- B. Each Member Organization's sports team shall require and maintain a signed statement from Parents or Guardians that their student is academically eligible to participate in interscholastic activities.

SECTION III: AGE REQUIREMENTS/RESTRICTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION:

- A. A student is INELIGIBLE to participate in athletics if his/her 19th birthday is on or before July 1, of the current school year. The Competition Committee shall not grant a waiver of the age requirements.
- B. Junior Varsity and B Team age requirements shall be set by each sport. Note: To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students prior to placing them on a team.

SECTION IV: GRADE LEVEL REQUIREMENTS/RESTRICTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION:

When competing against SCHSL and SCISA teams, PAA teams shall adhere to the applicable grade level eligibility requirements.

SECTION V: FOUR YEAR RULE

- A. Once an athlete reaches age 15 on or before July 1, he/she will have Four (4) Consecutive Years of Eligibility.
- B. Players must not have graduated from homeschool, private or public high school.
- C. Participation on a college team terminates all high school eligibility.

SECTION VI: AMATEUR STATUS

- A. A student-athlete must maintain an amateur status. A student may not have competed for money or valuable consideration other than prizes with symbolic value. Symbolic value is used to mean that the award must have some relationship to the sport being played. Some examples are but not limited to: miniature gold and silver footballs, basketballs..., plaques, trophies, cups, ribbons, banners, sweaters and jackets. Allowable travel, meals, and lodging expenses are acceptable.
- B. Accepting a fee for instructing, supervising or officiating in organized youth sports programs, camps or playground activities shall not jeopardize amateur status. Coaches are responsible for making this known to his/her players.

SECTION VII: ANTI-RECRUITMENT and TRANSFERS

- A. Coaches, tutors, athletic organization personnel or other persons associated with a Member Organization (including parents or third persons acting on their behalf), may not initiate contact with a student athlete who played on another PAA, SCISA or SCHSL team in their sport in the previous 12 months to encourage him or her to play or practice with their team in that sport. If a parent of the athlete or student-athlete has made the initial contact with the Member Organization coach or administrative personnel, then coaches or other representatives of the Member Organization may approach the student about the program.

The following are examples of inappropriate student contact:

- a. Coaches, tutors, athletic organization personnel or other persons known to be associated with the Member Organization (parents or third persons acting on their behalf), approaching any student athlete before, during or after any athletic contest for the purpose of interesting that student in their program.
- b. Coaches or athletic organization personnel talking with a student-athlete from another PAA Member Organization, SCHSL or SCISA about switching from another organization's team to their team. If such contact is initiated by the athlete or athlete's parent (or other representative), it is the responsibility of the athletic program's personnel to refer them to the PAA rules on organization changes.
- B. No athlete may leave one Member Organization's team to play on another Member Organization's team in the same sport without the permission of their current organization's ruling authority. A team is defined as all age eligible players from middle school through high school. An athlete is considered committed to a team once they initially register with the team/sport. If the program authority does not grant permission, the athlete may appeal to the PAA Competition Committee, whose decisions are final. In the appeal process, the ruling authority of the Member Organization denying the transfer must have valid reason for so doing. If the player does not make such an appeal or the appeal denied, the athlete must either stay on their organization's team or sit out one season. This rule applies to Member Organizations and other sports organizations that compete against PAA teams. This rule shall preclude the athlete from joining a Member Organization team until they have not participated on any organization team in their sport for a period of one (1) year. Member Organization teams that use an ineligible player as above will be ineligible from the league for 12 months. After sitting out one year, the athlete may play for any team. If a player is cut from a sports organization's team during try-outs, they are automatically released and may play for any other sports organization in that sport.
- C. If the team or organization announces that there will not be a team (or fails to submit a minimum number of players on the roster) then all players previously on that organizations team are released unless the Competition Committee reviews the situation and determines the program failed due to players refusing to play.
- D. Nothing in these provisions are intended to limit a player from playing for a different organization than his initial organization if the initial organization does not offer the additional sport that the student wants to participate in:

Example: A student plays basketball for a sports athletic organization that only offers basketball. That student desires to run track. That student may be permitted to run track for another sports athletic organization, but may not play basketball for that sports athletic organization unless released by the governing authority of the sports athletic organization for which they initially played basketball.

- E. No Member Organization, may have a student athlete who is currently playing varsity, junior varsity, B Teams, or middle school on a SCISA or SCHSL team in their sport playing or practice with their team in that sport.

ARTICLE VII – TOURNAMENT AND CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY RULES

Member Organization teams may become eligible for tournaments or championships by participation in a schedule as set forth in each sport. The Member Organization teams in each sport shall set the guidelines for championships and schedules in that sport. Player participation is defined as dressed in the team uniform and in the team area or named in the score book.

- A. Any team or coach that permits any suspended coach or athlete to participate in any athletic contest in violation of the suspension will be suspended. The game shall be forfeited.
- B. The removal of a team before the completion of the game, except for reasons related to player safety, is a violation of the code of conduct and shall be subject to sanctions to be determined by the Competition Committee.

ARTICLE VIII - OFFICIALS

All member schools will use SCISA or SCHSL or PAA certified Officials for all home contests.

ARTICLE IX - OFFICIAL RULES FOR CONTESTS

National Federation Rules shall govern all athletic contests. There will be no deviation other than those adopted by the Competition Committee.

ARTICLE X - ADMISSION PRICES

Athletic passes and ceiling prices for admission to any contest during the regular season shall be set by each sport. Admission prices for post-season tournaments and championships shall be set by each sport.

ARTICLE XI – ORGANIZED PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Each individual sport shall develop practice limitation requirements in contemplation of the SCISA and SCHSL practice limitations.

ARTICLE XII – CODE OF CONDUCT

SECTION I: PHILOSOPHY

The code of conduct is provided as a minimum set of standards for each Member Organization. PAA believes that interscholastic athletics are integral part of the total educational program. High standards of behavior, scholarship, and citizenship are important to a sound athletic program. Students volunteering to participate in athletics must assume the responsibilities of this privilege and are required to meet these expectations. Moreover, adults shall be models of good sportsmanship and will lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect, and self-control. Athletes, coaches, officials, and fans shall at all times conduct themselves in a reasonable and sportsmanlike manner. Each person will be responsible for his/her words and actions at all PAA athletic events and will conform his/her behavior in adherence to the Code of Conduct.

SECTION II: SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS

I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending, coaching, officiating, or participating in any PAA athletic event and shall conform my behavior to the following code of conduct:

1. I will treat any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or any other attendee with respect regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, or ability.
2. I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or any other attendee.
3. I will not engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety, or well-being of any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or any other attendee.
4. I will not use drugs or alcohol while at any athletic event. I will not attend, coach, officiate or participate in an athletic event while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
5. I will not use tobacco (including smokeless types) while at any athletic event.
6. I will not engage in the use of profanity.
7. I will not engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or any other attendee.
8. I will not initiate a fight or scuffle with any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or any other attendee.
9. I will not argue with officials or go through the motions indicating dislike or disdain for a decision.
10. I will not make any degrading remarks about any official, coach, athlete, or school. I will not make any degrading remark or criticism of any official, coach, athlete, or school to the media.
11. I will not detain or attempt to stop an official following the contest to request a ruling or explanation of actions taken by the official. I will not follow or "chase" an official after a contest is over.
12. I will not leave the bleachers or stands and enter the playing area to protest, object, criticize, or question a call.
13. I understand that conduct that leads to my removal from an athletic event may be considered a serious violation of the code of conduct.
14. I understand that as a coach or as a school administrator, that the removal of a team before the completion of the game may be considered a serious violation of the code of conduct.
15. I hereby agree that if I fail to conform my conduct to the code of conduct while attending, coaching, officiating, or participating in a PAA athletic event that I will be subject to disciplinary action by PAA.

SECTION III: CONSEQUENCES

Any one or more of the following penalties may be imposed upon any team, coach, spectator or athlete upon a violation of Code of Conduct or Constitution of this association.

WARNING - A warning is an official notice that an inexcusable, unethical, or unsportsmanlike action is a matter of record and any such act must not happen again.

PROBATION - Probation is a more severe type of penalty and is for a specified time period. A team on probation shall not play in any play-off, championship, region tournaments, or invitational.

SUSPENSION - Suspension is a severe penalty which may be imposed for any specified time period during which a team, individual, or coach is not allowed to participate. The suspension may be for one or multiple activities.

FINE - Fines may be levied for each infraction or violation. A fine may be levied in addition to one of the above penalties. All fines must be paid within ten (30) calendar days from the date of the notification.

SECTION IV: REPORTING - Violations of the Code of Conduct may be reported by:

- A. Organization officials filing a written Incident Report or by submitting a written report detailing the violation;
- B. Officials filing an incident report or disqualification notice;
- C. PAA Officials or representatives.

ARTICLE XIII – TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES/REQUIREMENTS

SECTION I: PRE-SEASON MEETING

Each team shall notify coaches, parents, and players the Code of Conduct and the expectations of good sportsmanship at athletic events.

SECTION II: MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Insurance Program: All organizations shall provide coverage for students with basic and catastrophic insurance.
- B. Supervision Requirements: A coach or appointee must be in attendance in a supervisory capacity at all times.

SECTION III: TEAM RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCT OF PLAYERS, FANS, AND COACHES

- A. Each Member Organization Is Responsible For The Actions And Conduct Of Its Coaches, Athletes, and Fans Before, During, And After The Game. In the case of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the coaches, players, students or spectators of a team, the Member Organization will be

subject to discipline by the Competition Committee. All FINES will be directed to the offending team's organization.

- B. The Organization will be responsible for paying of any fine within thirty (30) days of receiving notification of the fine.

SECTION IV: HANDLING A FRACAS

Should a fracas begin, only members of the coaching staff will go on the field to stop the fracas. All substitutes and other team personnel are to remain in the team box. The officials are instructed to stay in control of the contest and not allow a fracas to begin, but once one has begun, they cannot get physically involved. Any athlete who leaves the team box or bench area and enters the field or floor area will be disqualified.

SECTION V: PROCEDURES FOR INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL COMPLAINTS

- A. All violations of the Constitution or the Code of Conduct must be reported in writing to the Competition Committee's designee.
- B. Such violations, if possible, should be resolved directly between Organizations. The Competition Committee will be happy to assist in the resolution. The Competition Committee reserves the authority to review all cases to ensure that such violations have been dealt with properly.
- C. If direct Organization to Organization contact fails, then the matter is encouraged to be brought before the Competition Committee at their next, regular scheduled meeting. Each Organization must submit a written brief containing all known facts pertinent to the incident. This information should be complete to the point that it will be possible to reach a valid decision without further investigation. The written brief must be submitted at least five days prior to the Competition Committee Meeting through the Competition Committee's designee. The Committee may require the presence of any or all of the parties involved. Parties involved may be offered an opportunity to appear before the Committee.

ARTICLE XIV – GUIDELINES FOR PENALTIES AND FINES

During a school year, situations may arise involving the rules and regulations pertaining to the rules of the game, eligibility, required forms, schedules, entries to tournaments, and unsportsmanlike conduct are considered by the Competition Committee. In order to avoid inconsistencies and to assist the Competition Committee in being uniform in its dealings within the Association, these guidelines have been established. The Competition Committee has the authority to raise or lower a fine depending upon the severity of the offense.

SECTION I: EJECTIONS/DISQUALIFICATIONS OF PLAYERS AND COACHES:

- A. Conduct that leads to an ejection/disqualification will be reviewed by the Committee to determine the necessary disciplinary actions and fines. Depending upon the severity of the offense, a player or coach may be warned, fined, suspended or placed on probation. Serious offenses include but are not limited to: violent conduct; fouls committed in anger against another player, fighting, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or gestures toward another player, coach, official, spectator, etc. Records of these offenses will be kept over the student's and

coach's career in order to determine whether there is a pattern so that appropriate discipline can be administered.

B. GUIDELINES FOR A PLAYER/COACH DISQUALIFICATION/EJECTION FROM AN ATHLETIC EVENT DURING A SCHOOL YEAR

FIRST OFFENSE - Each Organization shall administer discipline according to their guidelines. Recommendation is two game suspension and \$50 Fine may be administered to the Organization.

SECOND OFFENSE - The Competition Committee will issue a two game suspension (inclusive of the game in which the ejection occurred). Depending upon the seriousness of the offense, a \$100 Fine may be administered to the Organization.

THIRD OFFENSE - will result in the termination of eligibility for the school year for all sports (reinstatement may only be granted by the Athletic Committee and a \$250 Fine if reinstated by the Competition Committee). The Competition Committee reserves the right to evaluate each case based upon its severity to determine if additional disciplinary actions should be instituted, including permanent suspension.

SECTION II: PARTICIPATION BY AN INELIGIBLE STUDENT

A student is defined ineligible due to: academic status; age and/or grade requirement; illegal participation; league suspension; or any other student or team eligibility requirement. **PENALTY: a Five Hundred Dollar Fine** will be issued for each eligibility violation and all games or contests the student participated in are forfeited. The penalty will be more severe for an Organization and/or coach who knowingly allows an ineligible student to participate.

A team permitting a student to practice/play without a completed Physical and/or Parents' Permission Form shall be **fined \$100.**

SECTION III: SCHOOL NOTIFICATION

All Member Organizations will be notified on a regular basis by the Competition Committee of the penalties imposed on teams, coaches, and athletes.

ARTICLE XV – INTERIM RULINGS AND APPEALS

SECTION I: APPEALS

- A. The Competition Committee's Designee and the Chairman of the Competition Committee may make such rulings as are necessary between Competition Committee Meetings, subject to final approval by the Competition Committee at its regular meeting.

- B. A notice to appeal an athletic decision must be made in writing within seven (7) days of receipt of the ruling unless the ruling is time-sensitive due to tournament and/or play-off schedules. If so, the appeal shall be filed within 24 hours of the ruling. An appeal must be in the form of a complete written brief containing all pertinent information. The brief must be filed with the PAA Competition Committee's Designee. The Competition Committee may hear the appeal at the next scheduled meeting, a special

called meeting, or by a sub-committee appointed by the chairman. A decision of the Competition Committee may not be appealed.

ARTICLE XVI – REQUIRED FORMS

SECTION I: CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM

Consent and Release forms that warn of Inherent Risk and Waiver thereof must be submitted and maintained by each Member Organization before a student is allowed to participate in practice or competitions.

SECTION II: PHYSICAL FORM

A completed physical is required on all student athletes before they are allowed to practice or participate. These forms must be on file with the Member Organization for all participating students regardless of level of competition. A Physical Examination is valid for one year from the Date of the Examination. The Member Organization shall maintain a copy of the form or a copy of the PAA from titled “PHYSICAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT”.

ARTICLE XVII – THE COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The Competition Committee shall be responsible for all activities of the Association. The Committee shall be composed of no less than one representative from each Member Organization. A Member Organization with multiple sports teams shall be represented by one representative for the first three sports teams in the organization and one additional representative for each three sports teams thereafter with a maximum of 2 representatives for any one member organization. Each Member Organization shall choose their representatives to the Competition Committee. Competition Committee Members shall serve for terms of three years and until their successors are named and approved. A member may return to the Competition Committee if re-elected by member organization. The Competition Committee shall select its own President and Secretary from among the members and will determine its own rules of procedure. Any member may be removed from the Competition Committee by a 2/3's vote of those present at any valid meeting of the Competition Committee. The President may remove a member after three consecutive absences from meetings without satisfactory reasons. The President may appoint new members between meetings to fill vacancies. All rulings by the Competition Committee are final unless appealed as outlined in the Constitution.

ARTICLE XVIII – AMENDMENTS

SECTION I: Amendments to the Constitution can be made upon two-thirds favorable vote of the Competition Committee, provided prior notice and text of the proposed changes have been given to the Competition Committee members fifteen (15) days before a regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION II: When an amendment is adopted, its effective date is the date of adoption unless otherwise specified at the time of the adoption or passage.

PALMETTO ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



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