

Summary of Bylaw 2 Changes

Bylaw #	Submitted By	Topic	Type of Change	Impact of Changes
2.6	Eligibility & Compliance	Nondiscrimination	Editorial	Modifies language to bring it in line with Florida Statutes.

CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 2

Principles for the Conduct of Interscholastic Athletics

2.6 NONDISCRIMINATION

The FHSAA will promote an atmosphere of respect for and sensitivity to the dignity of every person. The Association will not discriminate in its governance policies, programs and employment practices on the basis of age, color, disability, ~~gender~~ sex, national origin, race, religion, creed, or educational choice. Each school is responsible to determine independently its own policies regarding nondiscrimination.

Summary of Bylaw 4 Changes

Bylaw #	Submitted By	Topic	Type of Change	Impact of Changes
4.4.1	Eligibility & Compliance	Composition	Editorial	Modifies language to bring it in line with Florida Statutes.

CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 4

Organization and Governance

4.4 SECTIONAL APPEALS COMMITTEES

4.4.1 Composition. There will be one Sectional Appeals Committee in each of the four administrative sections. Each committee will consist of the following seven (7) members:

- (a) Two members representing public schools elected by, and from, the public school FHSAA Representatives in the section;
- (b) One member representing non-public schools elected by, and from, the non-public school FHSAA Representatives in the section;
- (c) One member representing public school districts selected on a rotating basis, when possible, by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents from among district school superintendents, or by the Florida School Boards Association from among district school board members in the section.
- (d) One member representing recognized non-public school accrediting associations selected by the Florida Association of Academic Non-public Schools from among district-, regional- or school-based non-public school administrators or governing board members in the section;
- (e) One at-large member from an under-represented ~~gender~~ ~~sex~~ and/or race appointed by the Board of Directors from among district-, regional- or school-based administrators in the section; and
- (f) One attorney from among attorneys living in the section, who within the last five years has been a member in good standing of the Florida Bar or the bar of any other state in the union.

Summary of Bylaw 7 Changes

Bylaw #	Submitted By	Topic	Type of Change	Impact of Changes
7.2.1	Eligibility & Compliance	Unsportsmanlike Conduct	Editorial	Modifies language to bring it in line with Florida Statutes.

CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 7

Sportsmanship

7.2 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

7.2.1 “Unsportsmanlike Conduct” Defined. A student who commits an act of malicious and hateful nature toward a contest official, an opponent or any other person attending an athletic contest shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, profanity, striking or threatening a contest official; physical contact with an opponent which is beyond the normal scope of competition; spitting on a contest official or opponent; directing ~~gender~~ ~~sex~~, racial or ethnic slurs toward a contest official, an opponent or any other person attending an athletic contest; or other such acts deemed to be unacceptable conduct according to the principal of the member school the student attends or this Association.

Summary of Bylaw 9 Changes

Bylaw #	Submitted By	Topic	Type of Change	Impact of Changes
9.1.2.2	Eligibility & Compliance	Falsification of Information	Clarifying	Modifies language to clarify types of documentation.
9.2.1.1	Eligibility & Compliance	Definition of "Attend School"	Editorial	Modifies language to bring the definition in line with Florida Statutes.
9.2.2.1	Eligibility & Compliance	Home Education and PEP Students	Substantive	Adds language relative to students receiving a PEP scholarship (HB1 – 2023).
9.4	Eligibility & Compliance	Athletic GPA Calculation	Substantive	Modifies language to allow schools to calculate the athletic GPA on the first day of the semester.
9.4	Governance Committee	Cumulative GPA Calculation	Clarifying	Adds "unweighted" anytime "cumulative GPA" is referenced.
9.4.7	Eligibility & Compliance	Must be an Undergraduate	Substantive	Adds language relative to statutory requirement to allow students to continue participating in school activities with their original cohort.
9.7.2	Eligibility & Compliance	Qualified Practitioners	Clarifying	Modifies language to clarify who may conduct physical evaluations with reference to specific statutes and chapters.
9.7.3 & 9.7.4	Sports Medicine Advisory	Filing Requirements and Document Storage	Clarifying	Modifies/Adds language relative to filing and appropriate storage of the EL2 Form.
9.8.1	Sports Medicine Advisory	Document Storage	Clarifying	Adds language relative to appropriate storage of the EL3 Form.

CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 9

Student Eligibility

9.1.2.2 Falsification of Information. A student and/or parent/legal guardian appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction who falsifies ~~information to gain eligibility~~ any enrollment or eligibility document shall be declared ineligible to represent any member school for a period of one year from the date of discovery.

9.2.1.1 Definition of “Attend School.” A student attends school if he/she is present in a school classroom on a regular basis or is a “Non-Traditional” student participating for a member school. A student can attend only one school at a time for the purposes of interscholastic athletic eligibility, with the exception of charter school, non-member private school, and traditional public school students.

9.2.2.1 Home Education and PEP Students. A legally registered home education student or a student who has been awarded a PEP scholarship may participate at one of the following: (§ 1006.15(3)(c) and §1002.41(4), F.S.)

- (a) The student’s home zoned public school; or
- (b) The public school the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions pursuant to § 1002.31, F.S., including a charter or lab school; or
- (c) A private school that will accept the student for participation; or
- (d) A home education cooperative to which the student belongs.

9.2.2.1.1 Home Education Student Requirements. To participate in interscholastic athletics, a home education student must: (§ 1006.15(3)(c)1-7, F.S.)

- (a) register as a home education student with the district school superintendent of the county in which he/she resides (home education students) or provide the member school with verification of enrollment in the Personalized Education Program (PEP students); and
- (b) register with the school of his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before participation; and
- (c) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance as the school requires of other participating students; and
- (d) certify to the school at the end of each semester that he/she has the minimum cumulative grade point average required for participation; and
- (e) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements; and
- (f) must be registered with the FHSAA Office each year using a form provided by the Association.

9.4 ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

9.4.1 2.0 GPA Required for Academic Eligibility. A middle/junior high student must have 2.0 GPA, or the equivalent of a 2.0 GPA based on a 4.0 scale, ~~at the conclusion on the first day~~ of each semester. A high school student must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale, or its equivalent, ~~at the conclusion on the first day~~ of each semester to be academically eligible during ~~the next that~~ semester (§ 1006.15(3)(a)1, F.S.). Final grades previously earned by the student from another school shall not be converted using the scale in Bylaw 9.4.2.

9.4.1.1 Courses to be Used in Calculating GPA. The grades from all courses that a student takes, including those high school level courses taken by the student before he/she begins high school, must be included in the calculation of the student’s unweighted cumulative GPA ~~at the conclusion on the first day~~ of each semester. For public school students, this includes the courses listed in § 1003.4282, F.S.

9.4.1.4 Exception – First Semester Attendance. A first-year 6th grade student attending a middle school or combination school beginning with the 6th grade, a first-year 7th grade student attending a junior high school or combination school beginning with the 7th grade or any student, entering the ninth grade for the first time, is academically eligible during his/her first semester of middle school, junior high school, or high school attendance. The student, however, must meet the provisions of Bylaw 9.4.1 ~~at the conclusion of his/her first semester~~ on the first day of his/her second semester of attendance to be academically eligible to participate during his/her next semester of attendance.

9.4.1.6 Using Semester GPA for Ninth and Tenth Grade. A student who is academically ineligible during the second semester of ninth grade (i.e., became ineligible ~~at the conclusion of~~ based on his/her academic performance during the first semester of ninth grade) or during the first semester of tenth grade (i.e., became ineligible ~~at the conclusion of~~ based on his/her academic performance during the second semester of ninth grade) and does not regain ~~a~~ an unweighted cumulative 2.0 GPA ~~at the conclusion of the semester of ineligibility by the first day of the next semester~~ may be granted academic eligibility for the next semester if all of the following conditions are met:

- (a) The student signs an academic performance contract with his/her school as per Bylaw 9.4.1.5; and
- (b) The student sits out the semester of ineligibility; and
- (c) The student earns a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 unweighted scale in all courses taken during the semester of ineligibility.

9.4.1.7 No Exceptions During the 11th and 12th Grade. Once a student has completed 10th grade, he/she must have the unweighted cumulative 2.0 GPA as required by Bylaw 9.4.1 for the remainder of his/her high school career (§ 1006.15(3)(a)3, F.S.).

9.4.1.8 Students in Dual Enrollment or Early Admission Programs. Students who participate in dual enrollment programs or early admission programs must have the unweighted cumulative 2.0 GPA as required in Bylaw 9.4.1 to be academically eligible.

9.4.1.9 Student Not Eligible for One Full Semester if Transcript Cannot be Obtained. A student whose former school cannot or will not provide an official sealed transcript will not be eligible in the new school until he/she has been in attendance for one full semester and has established ~~a~~ an unweighted cumulative GPA. The school must submit a written report to the FHSAA Office that includes the student's name, date of first attendance in the school, and the beginning and ending dates of the previous semester.

9.4.2.1 Incomplete Grade is a Failure. An incomplete grade must be counted as a failure (Grade "F") when calculating a student's unweighted cumulative GPA.

9.4.3 Effect of Summer School or its Graded Equivalent Courses on Unweighted Cumulative GPA. A student may raise or lower his/her unweighted cumulative GPA by attending summer school or its graded equivalent if:

- (a) The summer school or its graded equivalent is regularly scheduled and regularly organized under the direction of a district school board or private school;
- (b) All coursework taken by the student is completed before the first day of classes in the subsequent semester; and
- (c) All courses taken by the student, in which he/she receives a grade, whether during the regular academic year or summer school, or its graded equivalent, must be used to calculate the student's unweighted cumulative GPA.

9.4.3.1 "Forgiveness." If a student repeats a course, regardless of whether he/she passed or failed the course on the first attempt in which the student earned a "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," the grade may be replaced with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, provided for required courses the course is the same or comparable course, or with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher for an elective course and that grade will be used to calculate the student's unweighted cumulative GPA (§ 1003.4282(5), note, F.S.).

9.4.3.2 Course Taught by Private Tutor Cannot be Used to Raise GPA. A school cannot accept a grade received by a student in a class conducted by a private certified tutor to raise his/her unweighted cumulative GPA for academic eligibility purposes.

9.4.4 Determination of Academic Eligibility ~~at the Conclusion on First Day of Each Semester.~~ A school must calculate the unweighted cumulative GPA of a student ~~at the conclusion on the first day~~ of each semester to determine the student's academic eligibility for ~~the next that~~ semester. ~~Only those grades that are first reported by the student's teachers at the conclusion of the semester can be used to calculate the student's cumulative GPA.~~

9.4.4.1 Grades Posted After the First Day of the Semester. Grades posted after the first day of the semester may be used in calculating the cumulative GPA for that semester, only if all coursework, including tests and exams, were completed prior to the first day of the semester.

9.4.5 Course Work must be Completed by First Day of Next Semester. A student must complete all work required to earn credit in a course taken during a semester by the first day of the next semester. A grade of "incomplete" must be considered a failing grade when calculating a student's unweighted cumulative GPA.

9.4.5.1.2 Work Not Completed Due to Illness or Excused Absence. A student who is academically ineligible because of a failure to complete his/her course work by the first day of the next semester due to an extended illness, supported by a physician's report, or other excused absence may have his/her academic eligibility restored once the course work is completed and the student receives a passing grade that raises his/her unweighted cumulative GPA to 2.0 or above. A school must notify the FHSAA Office in writing whenever this occurs.

9.4.7 Student Must be an Undergraduate. A student must not have completed the terminal grade of high school in the secondary education system of the U.S. or any other country. The terminal grade of the student is based on the graduation requirements of the country the student last attended school, including the completion of the GED or its equivalent.

9.4.7.1 Exception. A student who graduates early may continue to participate in interscholastic athletics with the student's cohort at the school in which the student graduates early if (§1003.4281(3), F.S.):

- (a) the student complies with district, private, or charter school board rules and policies regarding access to the school facilities and grounds during normal operating hours; and
- (b) the student does not participate in the intercollegiate athletic programs of a community college, university, or other post-secondary institution.

9.7 PHYSICAL EVALUATION (FHSAA Form EL2 – Pre-participation Physical Examination)

9.7.1 Student Must Have a Physical Evaluation Each Year. A student must have a physical evaluation each year and be certified as being physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletic programs prior to participating in interscholastic athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated with the student's candidacy for an interscholastic team. A physical evaluation shall be valid for a period not to exceed one calendar year from the date of practitioner's signature. The student cannot be allowed to participate in any activity related to interscholastic athletic programs until the fully executed physical evaluation form is on file in the school (§ 1002.20(17)(b), F.S.).

9.7.2 Qualified Practitioners. The annual physical evaluation must be administered by a practitioner licensed under Florida chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, or §464.0123 and in good standing with the practitioner's regulatory board. These include a licensed physician, a licensed osteopathic physician, a licensed chiropractic physician, a licensed physician assistant, or a certified advanced registered nurse practitioner (§1006.20(2)(c), F.S.).

9.7.3 Filing Requirements. The student-athlete shall be required to file with the principal or his/her designee a fully executed physical evaluation form ([page 4](#)), [including the listing of any past medical history, allergy, or medical condition that would be essential for school or healthcare personnel to reference in the event of an emergency, injury, or illness. Form\(s\) shall be](#) signed by the [approved](#) practitioner [as well as](#) the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).

9.7.3.1 Appropriate Document Storage. [Each member school or district shall have an official policy and procedure to legally store and protect any personal health information contained in FHSAA Form EL2, other required FHSAA forms, or any other medical information collected on an individual student-athlete including evaluations, reports, documentation, and return to play clearance associated with an injury, illness, or condition. Member schools who contract with outside healthcare resources for healthcare services shall ensure that medical information collected from students is protected under policy. Federal protections such as FERPA, HIPPA, IDEA, and Section 504 shall be referenced when establishing individual school policies.](#)

9.8 CONSENT AND RELEASE (FHSAA Form EL3 – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate)

9.8.1 Student Must Provide School with Signed Consent and Release Form to Participate. A student must have the consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to participate in interscholastic athletic programs at a member school prior to participating in interscholastic athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated with the student's candidacy for an interscholastic team. The student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must also release the FHSAA, its member schools and contest officials from all liability for any injury or claim that may result from the student's participation in interscholastic athletics. This consent and release from liability must be provided in writing on a form developed by this Association for that purpose. The form must be signed by the student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The student cannot be allowed to participate in any activity related to interscholastic athletic programs until the fully executed consent form is on file in the school. [Collection and storage of this document shall follow Bylaw 9.7.3.1 above.](#)

Summary of Bylaw 10 Changes

Bylaw #	Submitted By	Topic	Type of Change	Impact of Changes
10.1.1	Eligibility & Compliance	Notification to Member School Representatives	Substantive	Adds language relative to member schools notifying representatives when they receive a sanction from the FHSAA.

CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 10

Compliance and Enforcement

10.1.1 General Principles. The Executive Director shall have the authority to direct audits and compliance reviews and to investigate all alleged violations of this Association's Bylaws, as well as regulations, guidelines, policies, or procedures established by the Board of Directors. The procedures outlined in Policy 39 (Policy on Investigative Procedures), which shall be in full compliance with Florida Statute 1006.20(2)(g), will be followed for such investigations. All findings shall be disclosed to the member school in writing, setting forth the findings of fact and specific violation upon which the decision is based.

10.1.1.1 Notification to Member School Representatives. The member school must notify any member school representative in writing who receives a sanction and/or penalty as a result of the decision rendered.