



# TAACS

## A t h l e t i c s

## Statement of Organization

(Revised September 2007)

### ARTICLE ONE—ORGANIZATIONAL TITLE

This organization shall be known as the Tennessee Athletic Association of Christian Schools (TAACS), a subsidiary organization of the Tennessee Association of Christian Schools (TACS).

### ARTICLE TWO—PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The purpose of the organization shall be to teach Christian ethics and build Christian character through Christ-centered athletic competition and to regulate such interscholastic relationships through and by a governing body composed of its own member schools.

### ARTICLE THREE—MEMBERSHIP

#### SECTION ONE—SCHOOLS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any Christian school which is a member in good standing with the Tennessee Association of Christian Schools may become a member of this organization by:

1. Subscribing to the rules and regulations of the organization.
2. Pay annual dues per sport per team. The due dates and entrance fees are as follows:
  - a. Football and Girls Volleyball: Prior to September 1, \$150; Sept. 1 to October 4, \$200; After October 4, \$250
  - b. Basketball: Prior to November 1, \$150; November 1—December 15, \$200; After December 16, \$250
  - c. Baseball, Girls Softball and Boys Soccer: Prior to April 1, \$150; April 1–15, \$200; After April 15, \$250
3. The penalty for failing to pay annual dues for a sport or team by the deadline date stated in number 2 will be the forfeiture of state competition and/or an assessment of a \$200 late penalty.

## SECTION TWO—DUES

1. Membership dues are payable in advance to the **state athletic coordinator** who in turn will forward all due fees to the executive director of TACS. \*\*

## SECTION THREE—REGIONAL DIVISIONS

1. **The state will be divided into two regions (East: Chattanooga/Knoxville/Tri-Cities areas) (West: Memphis/Nashville areas).** \*\*

## ARTICLE FOUR—MEETINGS

1. Special meetings may be called by the state athletic coordinator and/or the executive director of TACS.

## ARTICLE FIVE—GOVERNING BODIES

### SECTION ONE—OFFICERS

1. **The state athletic coordinator and one representative from each region along with the President and the executive director of TACS will comprise the officers of this organization (Athletic Council).** \*\*
2. Officers will be appointed by the President of TACS and will serve a term of two years.

### SECTION TWO—THE STATE ATHLETIC COORDINATOR

1. The Coordinator, under the athletic council, shall be authorized to interpret the procedures and rules and shall have the authority to impose any penalties these may involve.
2. Rulings of the Coordinator may be appealed to the TAACS athletic council.
3. The coordinator will be responsible for organizing all TAACS tournaments.

## ARTICLE SIX—GENERAL PROVISIONS

### SECTION ONE—REPORTS

The regional directors shall be responsible for seeing that all reports, contracts, fees, etc. are sent to the state athletic coordinator at a designated time.

**TACS schools are required to submit athletic eligibility rosters to the state athletic coordinator prior to participation in each sanctioned sport. Failure to submit eligibility rosters will result in forfeiture of games played before the eligibility rosters were submitted. (Adopted September 23, 2010)**

**TACS schools are required to report athletic scores each week to the state athletic coordinator for sanctioned sports that are in season. Scores should be reported on Monday of each week. Sanctions for failure to report scores will be determined by the Athletic Council. (Adopted September 23, 2010)**

## SECTION TWO—RULES AND REGULATIONS

All TAACS athletic events will be played under the regulations of the National Federation of State High School Associations as described in the current rule books.

## SECTION THREE—OFFICIALS

Officials for all TACS league, regional, and state games must be assigned by a state sanctioned assigning organization unless otherwise approved by the state athletic coordinator. No official TACS sanctioned sports can be officiated by staff, relatives, alumni, or any other persons deemed in any way to have an interest in the outcome of the event.

## ARTICLE SEVEN—ELIGIBILITY

### SECTION ONE

1. He or she must be a full-time student or a senior completing work required for graduation and taking at least three full units of work.
2. He or she must not have been enrolled in school for more than eight semesters since entering the ninth grade. A semester is considered to be equivalent to one-half of a normal school year.
3. His or her 19th birthday must fall after August 1 of that school year.
4. He or she must not be married or divorced.
5. All athletes must conduct themselves at all times in a Christ-like manner toward all officials, coaches, administrators, spectators, or other participants.
6. All athletes must have a C average based on a four point GPA without an F in any subject they are presently taking in school. Grades must be averaged every three weeks. An athlete who becomes ineligible will remain ineligible for one week [seven days]. At the end of the seven day suspension period, grades will be averaged to determine eligibility. The athlete will be re-evaluated every seven days until the next 3 week grading check. The grade will be a cumulative average throughout the entire semester. (On a four point GPA a full credit course is four points for an “A”; one-half credit course is two points for an “A”; one-fourth credit course is one point for an “A”.)

Beginning with the completion of the first three weeks of the school year, grades to determine athletic eligibility will be calculated based on cumulative current semester averages through the Friday before the state tournament. Example: The seventh week of school average is figured for the first seven weeks of the first semester to determine the average.

7. No student will be given scholarships or grant-in-aid of any kind purely for athletic purposes.  
**Any financial aid given to any student participating in a TAACS sanctioned sport must meet the following criteria: \*\***
  - a. **Must be need based. \*\***
  - b. **Must be overseen by an independent third party firm which is not affiliated with the school. \*\***
8. The school and their athletes are expected to uphold the highest of Christian standards.
9. Students with learning disabilities who cannot meet the present TACS athletic eligibility grade requirements can become eligible for TACS athletics if they are enrolled in an approved

Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that meets the standards promulgated by the TACS “special learning program” division.

10. Umbrella Home School students may not participate in sanctioned varsity athletics.

## **ARTICLE EIGHT—RULES**

### **SECTION ONE—GIRLS**

1. Girls’ athletic uniforms must be modest and loose fitting with a gradual flare from the waist to no higher than 2” above the top of the kneecap. If the uniform rises during play, it must be loose enough to fall back to no higher than 2” above the kneecap when the player returns to a standing position. Uniform material should not allow underwear lines to show through. Athletic apparel worn under the athletic uniform must be of the same color (dominate color) as the uniform and of a length not to exceed the length of the uniform. Uniforms shall otherwise be modest according to conservative standards.
2. Jewelry or neck chains shall not be worn in athletic competition.
3. Cheerleading uniforms will need to be culottes or skirts that are knee length and modest. Tight fitting or low cut attire is strictly prohibited.
4. All tattoos which are not covered by the playing uniform must be covered by additional clothing, sweat bands, or wrapped with athletic tape to prevent visibility.

### **SECTION TWO—BOYS**

1. Boys’ athletic uniforms (shorts) must be loose fitting and of a length that is modest according to conservative standards. Sweat pants or warm-ups may be worn by players for purposes of modesty if so desired and approved by the school. If worn by the entire team, the sweat pants or warm-ups must be of the same color. If worn by one or more individuals on the team, they should be the same color as the shorts of their team members. Athletic apparel worn under the athletic uniform must be of the same color (dominate color) as the uniform.
2. Boys hair shall be off the ear and collar and be trimmed neatly.
3. There is to be no facial hair. (Sideburns shall not extend below the lobe of the ear.)
4. Jewelry or neck bands shall not be worn in athletic competition.
5. All tattoos which are not covered by the playing uniform must be covered by additional clothing, sweat bands, or wrapped with athletic tape to prevent visibility.

### **SECTION THREE—VERIFICATION OF UNIFORM CONFORMITY (ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 1992)**

1. An official uniform check will be made by the TAACS Regional Athletic Directors to verify conformity to Article Eight, Section One, Number One and Section Two, Number One.
2. Flare (girl’s uniforms) is interpreted as a flare from one view not all views, e.g., front view or side view.
3. The approval of uniforms must be made prior to the first game of a scheduled season.
4. Violations of dress standards will be addressed by regional leadership. If regional leadership cannot resolve the problem, then a complaint can be filed by a member school under Amendment IV Athletic Commission E. Procedures for filing complaints.

5. It is the responsibility of the school to verify dress wear, not the regional coordinators. Schools must work with the coordinator to limit inconvenience and excessive travel.

#### **SECTION FOUR—TOURNAMENT ATTIRE**

Appropriate attire (dress pants and collared shirts for boys and knee length skirts or dresses for girls) must be worn throughout **region** and state tournaments, including pre- and post-activities and awards program. Dress attire (dress pants, dress shirts, and ties for boys and knee length skirts or dresses for girls) must be worn while attending chapel or special meeting. \*\*

#### **ARTICLE NINE—PENALTIES**

Violation in any of the aforementioned articles will be handled individually by the athletic council. (The athletic council is made up of the TACS President, Executive Director, State Athletic Coordinator, and the four regional directors.)

#### **ARTICLE TEN—AMENDMENTS**

It is hereby stipulated and agreed that this constitution and bylaws may be submitted to the TACS Executive Committee for amendment if approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the athletic council.

#### **AMENDMENT ONE—COACH, FAN, AND PLAYER BEHAVIOR**

##### **A. COACHES**

Poor sportsmanship following game (losing coach's responsibility to shake hands and congratulate the winning coach and his team).

1. Penalty—A \$50 fine will be levied against the school. Actions will be subject to review by the Athletic Council.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct (*yellow cards for soccer and volleyball, technical fouls in basketball, and ejection in all sanctioned sports*) committed by coaches during games involving TACS sanctioned sports must be reported in writing by the involved TACS schools to the State Athletic Coordinator within 48 hours or two school days as verified by postmark of envelope. A copy of appropriate form will be sent to all schools at the beginning of the school year. The penalty for failure to report is \$50 per incident.
3. When a coach is ejected from a game, both schools must report in writing to the Chairman of the State Athletic Coordinator within 48 hours or two school days as verified by postmark of envelope. The penalty for ejection from a game is \$100.00 and suspension from coaching (or being present in the gymnasium) the following two regularly scheduled or tournament games. If the ejection is the last or second to the last game of the season, the penalty will carry over into the following season.

##### **B. FANS**

1. Hollering at the official, questioning the official after the game about their poor judgment, and/or poor sportsmanship.
  - a. Penalty—banishment from the tournament.

2. Unsportsmanlike conduct toward a player or his team.
  - a. Penalty—banishment from the tournament.

### C. PLAYERS

1. Players in post season play (regional and state tournaments) receiving a red card in soccer or a technical foul in basketball, ejection in volleyball, or ejection in baseball due to unsportsmanlike conduct will be ineligible for that tournament's all tournament team.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct (*yellow cards for soccer and volleyball, technical fouls in basketball, and ejection in all sanctioned sports*) committed by players during games involving TACS sanctioned sports must be reported in writing by the involved TACS schools to the State Athletic Coordinator within 48 hours or two school days as verified by postmark of envelope. A copy of appropriate form will be sent to all schools at the beginning of the school year. The penalty for failure to report is \$50 per incident.
3. If a player is ejected for unsportsmanship conduct, the player will be suspended for the following two regularly scheduled or tournament games.

### AMENDMENT TWO—TRANSFER RULE

- A. Once a student enters a Tennessee Association of Christian Schools (TACS) school, he/she can participate in a Tennessee Athletic Association of Christian Schools (TAACS) sanctioned sport on behalf of no other TACS school during that school year.
- B. **If a TACS student transfers to another TACS school prior to the beginning of the first semester, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the first half of regularly scheduled games in sports sanctioned by TAACS. The transfer rule applies to any student who participated in a sanctioned sport the previous year on behalf of another TACS school. The intent and interpretation of this rule will be based upon the premise that a transfer student must forfeit one-half of regularly scheduled games in any given sport before the student becomes eligible to participate on behalf of the school they transferred to. (Adopted September 28, 2011)**
- C. **Varsity sports sanctioned by TAACS at this time are volleyball, basketball, and softball for girls; football, basketball, soccer and baseball for boys. Junior Varsity sports (7–9 grades) sanctioned by TAACS are basketball for boys and girls and volleyball for girls. (Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year) \*\***
- D. The only exceptions to A and B of the transfer rule would be if the family of the student changes residence by moving to an area closer to the school to which he/she is transferring, or the school from which a student transfers no longer offers the sport for student participation, or did not participate in the sport the previous year. **Move must precede first day of class attendance at new school. \*\***
- E. Eligibility rosters must be submitted to the regional athletic coordinator prior to the beginning of a sport's season. All transfers must be noted on the eligibility (include date and school from which student transferred) roster.
- F. A transfer athlete from a non-TACS school or a student eligible under D of the transfer rule must be enrolled in the school represented no less than 30 days prior to participating in basketball; 15 days prior to participating in all remaining TACS sanctioned sports. This rule applies to non-TACS transfer students after the school year begins. However, the transfer athlete shall not be

prohibited from practicing with the team. All games in which ineligible players participate will be forfeited. The athlete must “sit out” a total of 30 calendar days.

- G. If a parent is employed by a member TACS school, students may play athletics without being in violation of the transfer rule. **Employment must be legitimate, full time (32 hours or more per week). Transfer must take place at the time of the hire. \*\***

\*Original Constitution Adopted September 1982. All rule amendments and adoptions are appropriately noted.

### **AMENDMENT THREE—TEAM ELIGIBILITY (ADOPTED FEBRUARY 1986)**

- A. **TACS schools will be required to pay an eligibility fee for regional and state tournament play for Junior Varsity and Varsity teams.** Failure to adhere to the “spirit of fair-play” of this rule will cause a school to be ineligible for future TAACS Athletic events in that sport for that season and two additional seasons.

Example: If a school is participating in girls basketball in the 86-87 school year but chooses not to pay the annual sport entrance fee (because perhaps they feel they are not strong enough to qualify for the State), they will not be eligible for post-season play until the 89-90 school year.

The intent of this rule is two-fold: (1) to enhance a spirit of unanimity in developing the regional, sub-state and state playoffs, and (2) to prevent schools from paying only annual sport dues when they are confident of winning.

- B. Unsportsmanship conduct by a team, coach, parents, or fans in a TAACS sponsored regional, sub-state or state tournament can result in the termination of continued post season play, and placed on probation for the ensuing school year.
- C. No schools will be allowed to join together to make a team for any sport.
- D. Any student who participates on a non sanctioned varsity (high school) team will be permanently ineligible to participate in TAACS athletics in that sport.

### **AMENDMENT FOUR—ATHLETIC COMMISSION (ADOPTED DECEMBER 11, 1987)**

#### **A. State Athletic Commission**

1. The commission will be composed of five members appointed by the TACS President.
2. The Chairman of the Commission will be appointed by the TACS President.
3. All members will serve for one year, and, if reappointed, may continue to serve on the commission.
4. The President, Executive Director, and State Athletic Coordinator will serve as ex-officio members.
5. The commission will address problems that cannot be resolved by member schools or TAACS organizations and complaints of unsportsmanship conduct exhibited by a school, coach, player, or fan during regular season or post-season play.

#### **B. Goals**

1. To promote a Christlike spirit at all athletic events (district, regional, and state).
2. To develop a philosophy of Christian athletics.
3. To establish a written conduct of behavior.
4. To investigate all reports of misconduct (season and post-season play).
5. To establish guidelines for probation and suspension of offending teams.

### **C. Philosophy**

1. Christian athletics is one of the ministries of the local Christian school and should be structured such that it presents a picture of Christ by all those who participate.
2. Since our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit, athletes should work to discipline the body and bring it into subjection to the Holy Spirit. The body should not bring glory to itself but rather glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. Hard work, diligence, perseverance, honesty, cooperation, and self-control should be taught through our athletic programs.
3. Winning is an admirable goal. In each ball game there are two contests: the physical contest and the spiritual contest. Both teams, however, should strive to win the spiritual contest. Therefore, our actions and reactions during these events should be edifying to all involved.
4. Competitive athletics provide us a mirror of our real attitudes and an opportunity to train and encourage our young people in character and integrity as they participate. Our prayer is that our efforts in Christian athletics result in our students growing in Christ and thereby glorifying Him.

### **D. Standards of Conduct**

1. The purpose of Christian athletics is to promote Christlikeness in the lives of the players, the coaches, and the fans. Controlled emotions in pressure situations are an excellent opportunity to display the Spirit of Christ. To display a negative spirit is contrary to the Biblical principle of "love thy neighbor." Unsportsmanlike conduct will include but not be limited to harassment of officials or players, booing, throwing objects, profanity, or any other display of unChristlike attitudes.
2. The intent of the rules is not to dampen the spirit of the crowd or players. We encourage cheering, yelling, or any other positive support for your team, but we must honor Christ. Any violation of the aforementioned standard of conduct will result in a warning or probation from the Athletic Commission.
3. All players, fans, and coaches need to exercise control during all athletic events. Each school should have a designated official whose responsibility will be to remind fans or coaches of the ramifications resulting from unChristlike behavior. This may help schools from being placed in an embarrassing situation later on.

### **E. Procedures for Filing Complaints**

1. Complaints must originate in written form (oral complaints in certain circumstances may suffice) within 48 hours of the time of the infraction. Include the specific nature of the infraction, the date of the infraction, the participants involved, and any other related information.
2. Upon receipt of a written complaint, the Commission Chairman will send a copy to each commission member, the TACS officers, the Executive Director, and the Athletic Coordinator.
3. All complaints will be evaluated by the Commission and if necessary, a hearing will be set.
  - a. Any school charged with violating TACS regulations shall be notified of such charges by the Commission chairman. (If a hearing is desired by the school involved to respond to such charges, the chairman must be notified immediately in writing. Provisions will then be made for a hearing and the school so notified.)

- b. A member school shall not be suspended from membership in TAACS without first being given the opportunity to present its case at a hearing. Hearings shall be conducted by the Chairman and two or more members of the Commission board.
- c. No member of the Athletic Commission Board shall serve on the Board while a case involving the school which he represents is being heard.
4. The severity of a penalty will be determined by the Athletic Commission and may include probation or suspension.
5. The decision of the Athletic Commission is subject to final approval by the TACS Executive Officers.

#### **AMENDMENT FIVE—STATE TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS**

If there is a decrease in the number of teams in a regional division, the number of teams eligible to advance to state tournament will diminish accordingly. The number of teams in a regional division will determine the number of teams eligible to represent that region in state tournament play.

#### **AMENDMENT SIX—RECRUITING**

Recruiting from a TACS school is a violation of the spirit of Christian athletics and can result in disqualification from post-season play and/or submitted to the local TAACS District organization for disciplinary action if action is warranted.

**Recruiting involves any contact initiated by school personnel to a student enrolled at another TACS school or his parents/guardians for the purpose of influencing that student to attend your school (e.g., phone calls, home visits, letters, text messaging, e-mails, etc.). \*\***

#### **AMENDMENT SEVEN—APPEAL PROCESS**

Regional level decisions and matters can be appealed by the school administrator to the State Athletic Coordinator only if the following steps are followed:

1. A letter must be sent to the State Athletic Coordinator within 48 hours of the district decision or matter.
2. The letter must contain a complete description of the offense or matter.
3. The decision to have the matter or decision heard lies solely with the State Athletic Coordinator. If he chooses to hear the matter, he will contact the District League President and TACS Regional Coordinator for further details.
4. The State Athletic Coordinator has the right to terminate the appeal process.
5. The school making the appeal must pay for any cost incurred by TACS or the State Athletic Coordinator to review the appeal or further pursue the decision or matter. This includes telephone calls, travel expenses, correspondence, etc.
6. Once an appeal is recognized, the State Athletic Commissioner and/or State Athletic Coordinator (with or without input from their corresponding committees) will make the final decision. If committee members are asked to be involved in decision-making process, telephone conversations (when the time frame is short) can be substituted for a called meeting.

### **AMENDMENT EIGHT—MUSIC**

Any music used prior to, during, and after a game must be approved in advance by the administration (Pastor, Administrator, or Principal) of all participating schools.

### **AMENDMENT NINE—BOARDING STUDENT**

**Students will be allowed to board at TACS approved boarding schools (e.g., Shenandoah Baptist Academy). Students who are not enrolled in a boarding school must live with their parents. A student who does not live with their parents must establish residency for 12 months with a legal guardian before being allowed to participate in TAACS athletics. Exceptions are made in the case of a life altering event which requires a change of guardianship (e.g., death of parents, incarceration of parents). This amendment does not apply to missionary children or international students. \*\***

Revised Constitution (revisions noted in **Bold** type followed by a double asterisk \*\*) approved September 27, 2007.