

PALM BEACH COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME

This Association shall be known as the Palm Beach County Middle School Activities Association.

ARTICLE II

AIM

The aim of this Association shall be to promote, direct and control all inter-scholastic activities, both athletic and non-athletic, of middle school students, within Palm Beach County, to enforce such regulations as may be necessary to assure that all such activities shall be part of and contribute toward the entire education program of The School Board of Palm Beach County and the State of Florida, to make recommendations to further safeguard the physical, mental and moral welfare of middle school students and protect them from exploitation.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

All middle schools and combination junior-senior high schools in Palm Beach County are eligible to be members of the Association. Each member school of this Association will comply with the regulations set forth in the By Laws and the School Board of Palm Beach County Policies.

Schools that do not pay their fines within thirty (30) days of the fine notice or fifteen (15) days of a decision of an appeal, will forfeit all athletic contests and not be permitted participation in Association sponsored activities or attend Association meetings. Appeals must be made in writing within five (5) working days of the fine notification, and accompanied by \$25.00 fee to the Executive Director. If the appeal is granted, the \$25.00 fee will be refunded.

ARTICLE IV

DUES

Each member school is required to submit dues annually. The amount of dues to be paid shall be based upon the number of students in school at the close of the first attendance month of the current year. The dues shall be \$0.20 per student enrolled in Grades 6, 7, and 8. The minimum dues a school shall pay will be \$50.00. Dues are payable ten (10) days after the end of the first full month of school.

Schools, which have not paid dues on or before October 31, will pay a late fee of \$10.00 for each month or portion of a month delinquent from that date. Schools delinquent past January 1 will not participate in Association activities until dues are paid.

ARTICLE V

MEETING AND QUORUM

The Association will hold at least two (2) regular meetings a year. The two (2) required meetings would be held the last week in August or the first week of September and during the last two (2) or three (3) weeks of school. Special meetings may be called on notification of all members as to time, place and purpose. A quorum must be present before any business may be conducted. A majority of member schools will constitute a quorum.

A fine of \$25.00 will be assessed each school that is not represented at each organizational sports meeting in which they have entered in the full meeting of the Association.

The Executive Director will be empowered to call special meetings of coaches or athletic directors, with five (5) days minimum notice. A \$25.00 fine will be levied if the coach or athletic director fails to attend.

ARTICLE VI

VOTING

Each school shall be entitled to one vote in the Association. This vote shall be vested in the principal of the participating school. In the absence of the principal, proxy voting may be used provided the proxy is submitted to the Executive Director in writing prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

The By-laws may be amended by a two-third (2/3) vote approval by members and approval of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Amendments may be made at any of the two (2) general meetings and voted on at the next regular scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS

The limit of opportunity for eligibility for each student shall be three (3) consecutive years from the time he/she enters the sixth grade, unless an undue hardship has occurred during this eligibility. A student who has attained the age of 15 prior to September 1 of the current school year may submit a hardship waiver to the school's Athletic Director to be considered for participation. In such cases a committee will be appointed to review the hardship requests. Each student deemed to be eligible must have their name submitted to the Association on the Master Eligibility List prior to their participation in any competition. The Master Eligibility lists are to be submitted by each school to the Executive Director prior to the beginning of each season.

Any student that successfully passes the fifth grade will be considered to be eligible for the 1st 9 weeks of their sixth grade year.

Failure in more than one (1) subject during a given 9-week grading period shall cause a student to be ineligible for practice and competition the following 9-week grading period. In addition, a student must maintain a specified grade point average of 2.0 as well as a satisfactory conduct average for the previous 9-week period to be eligible. "Satisfactory" conduct is under the determination of each middle school principal. Grades earned in summer school will be calculated to determine the courses passed during the previous term. Grades for courses taken in summer school will be calculated with grades for the last marking period of the previous year to determine GPA.

A period of seven (7) calendar days beyond the last day of the system marking period is provided to determine academic eligibility during the current school year.

An athlete who changes schools cannot participate in any athletic contest at the new school until the student/athlete has been in attendance five (5) school days. The athlete will remain ineligible until all records have been transferred to and received by the new school. The new school is responsible for checking all eligibility before the student is permitted to participate.

Any student who practices with, or participates under game conditions, with any junior varsity or varsity team or a senior high school will be declared ineligible for further competition in that sport at the middle school level until the following school year.

Each name, which appears on a game eligibility list, or in a scorebook, must correspond to the student's name as it appears on the Master Eligibility list. It is necessary to put down both given names for a student; nicknames cannot be accepted.

To be eligible to compete at the play-offs and championship, a student athlete must have been eligible to compete in 50% of their school's regular season contests and their name must appear on the Master Eligibility List for that sport.

Prior to any participation all athletes must:

1. Submit a birth certificate, or a certified copy of a birth record from the Bureau of Vital Statistics. A student who has attained the age of 15 prior to September 1 of the current school year may submit a hardship waiver to the school's Athletic Director to be considered for participation in any interscholastic sports at the middle school level.
2. Be examined by a qualified, or certified physician and passed for competition. According to Florida State Law, physical exams are valid for 365 days from date of issue.
3. Be covered by school-approved insurance or the equivalent.
4. Have written permission from parents before they can practice or participate in any sport. This must be accomplished with the notarized Parental/Student Approval for Student Participation in Sports form Completion.

Schools that are found to have an ineligible student participating or whose name appears on a Master Eligibility sheet for their team will be fined \$25.00 per ineligible student, payable to the Association. Furthermore, the school will forfeit all games in which the ineligible student was a member of a team. Forfeits because of an ineligible student shall not result in a fine paid to the opposing teams that are awarded forfeits. Students' names not appearing on the Master Eligibility sheet or a supplement are ineligible to compete.

ARTICLE IX

ACTIVITY REGULATIONS

By-laws and regulations adopted by this Association are to be binding upon all members. All activities shall be conducted in accordance with adopted policies of The School Board of Palm Beach County and the Palm Beach County Middle School Activities Association. A body of regulations for each activity is to be provided in this section.

1. Officials

- a. Registered officials shall be determined by and used in any game between schools of this Association.
- b. The timekeeper of the game shall be a member of a school faculty, and the scorebook shall be under the supervision of an adult or qualified high school student. Any exception to this rule must be agreed upon by the coaches involved prior to the contest. The officials have the authority to designate the official scorers and timers regardless of the home team.

2. Practice Sessions

- a. All practice sessions are to last a maximum of two hours. The time will be registered from the time the first player arrives on the field or court and until the last player leaves.
- b. Except in the case of a meeting for orientation and organization that may be held prior to the first scheduled practice date, personnel of a school may not assemble informally or otherwise prior to the first scheduled practice date. In addition, practice cannot be held on Saturdays, Sundays or during legal holidays. Practice may only be held on regular school instructional days.
- c. When athletic facilities are not available to a school, written request must be presented to the Association for approval of special practice times, etc.. If the players meet at a city park or otherwise in an informal manner and a school coach is present, this meeting is a practice.

3. Awards

- a. Member schools will be permitted to present awards to the members of each athletic team for participation in inter-school athletic contests. Suitable awards, or none at all, may be given at the discretion of the principal of each school.
- b. Trophies will be presented by the Association in all sports as determined by the Executive Director.

4. Schedules

- a. The number of contests for each sport sponsored by this Association will be minimum - 6/maximum - 14, plus Play-offs and Championship.
- b. Schools may only participate in games or contests scheduled and approved by the Executive Director and the Association.
- c. The Executive Director will poll, in the fall and winter meetings, the schools that will participate in the appropriate sports. The Executive Director will draw up master schedules for each season at the appropriate time.
- d. The visiting team will be allowed a grace period for all Athletic contests in the case of emergencies before a forfeit is awarded. The visiting team will be allowed to properly warm-up prior to the beginning of the contest to aid in injury prevention. The home team is expected to be prepared to start the contest at the time designated on the contract.
- e. Scrimmages before, during, or after the season between schools are prohibited.

5. Protest Procedures

Any protest concerning game rules or interpretations of such cannot be placed. Only protests that deal with eligibility or interpretation of Association regulations are allowed. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director. It must be accompanied by a check for \$25.00 payable to the Association. All protests are under the statute

of limitations, which permits protests only during the current school year.

6. Admission to Athletic Contests

The maximum admission for all athletic contests will be as follows:

Students.....\$1.00 including stadium tax
Adults.....\$2.00 including stadium tax
 \$3.00 during play-offs/championship including
 stadium tax

7. Intramural Activities

The Association encourages the development of a broad intramural program in each middle school. The aim of this program is to provide all boys and all girls with a variety of activities.

Eligibility for these activities is granted to all boys and girls regardless of academic achievement. The following are general restrictions for participation:

- a. Any student currently a member of an interscholastic sports activity shall be ineligible for participation in that intramural sport.
- b. Any student who has received a letter award for participation in a sport shall be ineligible for participation in that intramural sport.
- c. A participant who receives an injury in intramural competition sufficient to require the attention of a doctor must have written permission from the doctor who attended him/her before being allowed to participate further in intramurals.
- d. Any student not able to be enrolled in physical education due to a medical condition shall be ineligible for participation in any vigorous sports activity, unless a written permission from a doctor is provided.
- e. Poor conduct or deliberate violation of the rules on the part of An individual or team should carry with it strict disciplinary action to the party involved.

Awards for Intramurals

Awards shall be used only if the situation demands them. If they are given, they should be simple in nature (certificates, ribbons, badges).

Health Regulations for Intramurals

Health examinations should be required of all participants of intramural sports activities. Any student enrolled in physical education, however, shall be eligible for participation in the program.

ARTICLE X

Meetings

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall prevail at all meetings of the Association in so far as they are applicable and in so far as they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-laws.