North Shore Secondary Schools Athletic Association (NSSSAA) Bylaws

~ June 2026

Officials for NSSSAA and NWOSSAA Finals
Conveners will make arrangements for all NSSSAA and NWOSSAA officials.

Current NSSSAA Bylaw information for Coaches and Convenors
Note: This information is an update of NSSSAA material. If used in conjunction with our playing regulations, it may hopefully circumvent many of the problems we as convenors and coaches experience annually.

Communication
All NSSSAA information is to be sent to the School Co-Curricular Coordinator of the pertinent school.

Website
NSSSAA shall pay the hosting fees for the NSSSAA website (2026)

Discipline and Code of Behaviour
The OFSSA Code for Players and Coaches is to be adhered to by all players and coaches. It is part of the NSSSAA playing regulations.

Any player who displays violent behaviour or who directs severe, abusive language towards a referee, player or coach, shall be penalized by a one-game/match suspension (not including the game he/she is participating in at the time). The action will be judged and dealt with by the convenor first. If possible, or if needed, a meeting between the coaches, referees and the convenor shall be held, and a decision reached by a vote. The incident shall be reported to the school co-curricular coordinator and the principal of the school in question.

The one game suspension will carry over within the current NSSSAA season finals and the NWOSSAA tournament. The one game suspension will not carry over into the next academic year.

The convenor of the event in question shall notify the principal(s), school co-curricular coordinator, and league President within 24 hours after the incident. Following written correspondence must be made with the above-mentioned people, within one week.

A convenor, athletic director or principal **must** be present and supervise throughout all athletic events. (2019)

Smoking at Venues
Smoking, e-cigarettes and vaping is not allowed on the properties of any venue including schools, soccer playing fields, track meets, curling arenas, and golf courses. (2019)

Officials
Qualified officials are to be used where possible for NSSSAA events. It is the option of the visiting school to supply a referee unless the host school can supply two certified referees. The host school is to supply the head official.

Non -Teaching Staff Coaches
At all NSSAA competitions, a non - teaching coach must be supervised and accompanied on the bench by a teacher, or retired teacher as appointed by the principal or that team shall not compete.

Identified Special Needs Students
Coaches, trainers or educational assistants are allowed to aid special needs students from the side lines in sports when and where deemed necessary and appropriate.

Date Changes
There will be no changes of championship dates without consultation with the executive and a majority vote by all member schools (two votes per school).

Non – Completion of Scheduled League Games

a. Should a team not be able to compete in any scheduled league game excluding the finals, the game in question shall be considered forfeited unless an alternate date can be mutually agreed upon by the two teams in question. Examples of this situation can include, but are not limited to, inclement weather and vehicular malfunction.

b. Should a team not be able to field a full complement of players, or the team decides not to play, for whatever other "questionable" reason, that team shall be considered to have forfeited the game.

c. i) Should a team not be able to finish its regularly scheduled program of game/s e.g. A team being removed from further play because of disciplinary reasons, a team "folding", a coach leaving, etc, then that team shall be deemed as having removed itself from further competition for that season.

ii) If a team is unable to complete the season (except as in section "a") their games will not be counted in point totals, except if they have played each team once in the season. Then only their first scheduled game against each team will be counted.

Adherence to Schedule
If a team will be arriving late for a league game, they should phone the host school to inform them. This enables teachers to keep students in classes longer.

Unforeseen Circumstances

With respect to soccer, volleyball and basketball finals: No game shall be postponed, nor starting time changed, without first obtaining permission from the convenor in consultation with the president 48 hours in advance (Motion 3, 2026). Golf may be postponed, within the same day only (Motion 26, 2026).

~~In the event of unforeseen circumstances (e.g. weather, etc) all will try to accommodate the unfortunate team(s) to complete the tournament. Only badminton, golf and curling tournaments will be considered. The onus will be on the team(s) who could not attend, to complete the tournament within reasonable time constraints of further competition. Consultation with all athletic directors will determine the process to be followed.~~ (2026)

Visiting and Playing Times
For volleyball and basketball finals, schedules must be arranged using a fixed template (see playing regs). (Motion 3, 2025)

~~Host schools should try to accommodate visiting teams during regular season play with regards to playing times.~~

Hosting of NSSSAA and NWOSSAA Events
When hosting an NSSSAA or NWOSSAA event, the convenor and coach shall not be the same person. The convenor or his/her designate, ie, principal must be present at the tournament.

Tournament Costs.

The host school of any NSSSAA Championship tournament pay 50% of all costs associated with officials/referees with the other 50% being divided equally amongst all participating teams excluding any teams from the host school.

For NWOSSAA sanctioned activities, NWOSSAA medals are paid for by NSSSAA and then NSSSAA will bill the respective schools. Officials for NWOSSAA will be paid by the NSSSAA account.

School Rules
Where applicable, the convenor should notify visiting teams about any school rules pertinent to visiting teams.

Student purchase of School Uniforms
Student athletes, who buy team uniforms representing their school, must adhere to the following standards for school uniforms:

1. Legal numbers must be used in accordance with the sport's regulations
2. If the student's name is visible on the uniform, it must be the student's surname; nicknames are unacceptable for league play.

Officials' Rules for League Play
Schools are to have proper rule books available for each league game.

NSSSAA Commitment to NWOSSAA
At the end of the final league game, the winning school must indicate whether or not they are prepared to compete at NWOSSAA. If a school wins an NSSSAA championship declines to compete at the NWOSSAA level, the second-place team would be invited to represent NSSSAA at NWOSSAA.

Any school withdrawing from the NWOSSAA championship at the home of the NorWOSAA champion, will not be allowed to host for their next NSSSAA venue turn for basketball or volleyball.

NSSSAA Position on Non-Sanctioned Sports
Although non-sanctioned sports are supported, it is the philosophy of the NSSSAA that all sports sanctioned by this league should be supported by member schools over non-sanctioned sports.

Pre-Season Practices
No school team practice of any kind for sanctioned NSSSAA events will commence prior to the first official day of school.

Banners and Medals
A minimum of two NSSSAA schools must compete in a NSSSAA sanctioned competition for a banner to be awarded for that sport.

Gold, silver, and bronze medals be presented at the end of the NSSSAA championships for all sports excluding soccer which will only award gold and silver. (2015)

NSSSAA Tournament Checklist

1. The tournament format is to be set and sent or phoned in to all coaches prior to the date of the scheduled activity. In some instances, follow-up communication by the convenor regarding tournament particulars is necessary. This secondary communication should be completed one week prior to the tournament date.

2. Tournament formats should follow the guidelines of the playing regulations of the particular sport.

3. Should competing schools be required to provide officials, the convenor should receive their names prior to the tournament date.

4. At the tournament, the convenor should be able to disseminate any information regarding NWOSSAA championships.

5. Tournament formats should include lists of available overnight accommodations. In case of problems obtaining adequate overnight accommodations via commercial means, the convenor should do all in his power to rectify the situation.

6. Tournament formats should include information regarding the availability of cafeterias, tuck shops, etc.

7. Where applicable, appropriate medals and banners should be on hand for presentation after the conclusion of the tournament.

8. Convenors should ensure that their equipment is in working order.

9. Officials should be booked one month prior to the tournament.

10. Communications with the news media should be carried out immediately as is feasible following the tournament.

NSSSAA Annual Meeting Fees

The cost of the league annual meeting be covered by NSSSAA for the period of one year, to be reassessed annually provided no less than $5000.00 are in the NSSSAA account. (2014) If less than $5000.00 is in the NSSSAA account the annual conference venue fees and expenses will be divided equally among all schools in the league.

League Alignment
Any motion proposing a realignment of NSSSAA league divisions be considered only if it is submitted as a notice of motion at least two weeks in advance of the annual general meeting, for the consideration of all member schools. Proposals for league realignment must include specific restructuring suggestions. (2015)

Twinning

Twinning proposals will be presented to the current NSSSAA Executive who will make their decision (in consultation with OFSAA) based on the good of all of the schools in the league, prioritizing increasing the number of teams participating in the league, maximizing playing opportunities for students, and ensuring that proposals prevent the "stacking" of teams, as per OFSAA's Recruitment Policy. Schools may determine the best commitment for their situation i.e. which/how many teams the agreement applies to, and the duration of the agreement. Proposals must be submitted 2 weeks prior to the first regular season game of affected sports. (2023)

In the case of long-term/"permanent" twinning scenarios, a letter confirming the continuation of the twinning agreement will be submitted to the executive 2 weeks prior to the start of the first season of the year or the season in question. (2026)

Article XI Awards

Section I Medals

The association shall provide gold, silver and bronze medals for all NSSSAA championships for all sports excluding soccer which will only award gold and silver. (Motion 12, 2015)

Section II Banners

The association shall provide banners, for all NSSSAA sanctioned championships.

Article XII Eligibility

Section I Qualifying Players

a. Students are eligible to compete for no more than five consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9. There is no appeal to this rule.

b. A player not currently on a team may be added to an eligibility list any time prior to the last regular season game, and the list resubmitted with an explanation for the change and resubmission to the executive. This includes junior players moving to a senior team.

c. i. A player must compete in at least one NSSSAA regularly scheduled game before he/she is eligible to compete in the NSSSAA Championship Finals. Regularly scheduled games include those games held to settle ties in final standings.

   ii. As the NSSSAA does not follow a league format in the sport of soccer, part b) and c) i) does not apply to soccer.

d. Any player who plays in at least one league game or match at the senior level shall not be eligible to play another game at a junior level, in the same sport, including NSSSAA finals during that school year. (Motion 2, 2018)

e. Student Athlete Participation

   Gender Equity

   NSSSAA will continue to provide equitable opportunities for students in co-curricular activities. NSSSAA supports student-athlete participation on same-sex teams and encourages equitable programs for girls and boys in co-curricular activities in terms of funding, practice time and facilities.

   If a sport activity in not available for a female on a girls' team, she is eligible to participate on the boys' team following a successful try out. Where a sport activity is available for a female on a girls' team, she is eligible to participate on a boys' team, if she demonstrates comparable skill and ability during a successful try out. If a sport activity does not exist for a boy, he is not eligible to participate on the girls' team.

   Transgender Participation Policy

   Definition:
   Transgender: An umbrella term that refers to individuals whose gender identity and/or gender expression is different from what is traditionally associated with their assigned biological sex at birth. Transgender people may or may not undergo medically supportive treatments, such as hormone therapy and a range of surgical procedures, to align their bodies with their internally felt gender identity. Transgender identity is not dependent upon physical appearance or medical procedures.

NSSSAA believes in equal opportunities for all students to participate in school sport. NSSSAA supports the concept that a student's self-identification is the sole measure of their gender identity.

NSSSAA supports the participation of student athletes in sport in accordance with their lived gender identity. (Motion 1, 2018)

Section II Academic Eligibility

As per each school in relation to their students.

Section III Individuals

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by this association, a student shall:

a. Be certified as eligible by the principal of the school;
b. Be eligible for competition under the rules and guidelines as outlined by the school which he/she attends;
c. Be a full time student according to the OFSAA definition;
   If a student has fewer than 22 credits (Grade 9 and 10) then they must be taking 3 courses per semester. If a student has 22 or more credits, they must take two credits in the semester of that sport. Correspondence courses are allowed after 22 credits if a student is assigned to a teacher, and attends the scheduled block of time at school.
d. A student is eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive calendar years from his/her entry into Grade 9 for **ALL** sports

Identified Special Needs Students

a. Special needs students may be exempt from meeting the credit criteria as outlined and explained Article XII subsection III (c).

b. Meet the following age requirements:
   - For all activities involving two age groupings:
     - Junior - If a contestant is under 16 as of January 1st of the calendar year.
     - Senior - If a contestant is 16 or older and under twenty as of January 1st of the calendar year.

Section IV Transfers

The NSSSAA transfer policy shall be consistent with the OFSAA transfer policy. Every student who has transferred from another school within the previous twelve (12) months is ineligible for competition unless he/she appeals to the NSSSAA Transfer Appeal Board and is deemed eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy.

Students who have transferred schools and wish to appeal their ineligible status can do so by obtaining a copy of the current OFSAA Transfer Form from the OFSAA website. There are four sections listed on the form that the student can use to appeal. The student's reason for appeal must meet the criteria outlined in one of the four sections on the form, otherwise, an appeal cannot be submitted. There are no other options for appealing other than the four sections listed on the form. Complete the form, add any supporting documentation stipulated in the table on page three of the form, collect the necessary signatures and return the form to school athletic director as soon as possible, well in advance of the start of the season. The form will be forwarded to NSSSAA Executive for review.

The local (NSSSAA) Executive will be the first to review the form. In most cases, if the transfer situation meets one of the four sections outlined on the form, eligibility can be granted at the local level. If the appeal is denied, there are appeal options at the regional and provincial level. There is a fee (refundable if successful) to appeal at the provincial level. At all three levels of appeal, the Executive will determine if the circumstances of the appeal meet one of the four sections outlined on the form. The decision will be based on the information provided on the Transfer Appeal Form, so it is important the form is complete with all required additional information attached. Please contact your school's Athletic Director for further information.

Transfer Review Committees at all levels have meetings scheduled to review appeals at various times during the school year that coincide with sport seasons. The aim is to provide a review/appeal process that establishes the eligibility status of the student prior to the start of the sport he/she would like to play. Therefore, it is important that students complete and submit the Transfer Form as soon after transferring to a new school as possible. OFSAA has set dates for its transfer appeals; please see the OFSAA website for its current dates (ofsaa.on.ca). (May 2024)

Section V Penalty for Use of an Ineligible Player

When an ineligible player competes in a game, that game shall automatically be counted as a loss for the school for which he/she competes, and a win for the non-offending team.

Section VI Rulings on Eligibility

c. Students who are ineligible must complete the current OFSAA transfer appeal form found on the OFSAA website and have their Athletic Director forward it to the NSSSAA executive prior to the start of the season.

d. Each team from each school must provide their athlete director a roster to upload to the OFSAA Hub prior to the start of the season in order to be sanctioned by the NSSSAA executive. This eligibility list must be printed and signed by the coach, athletic director and principal and be forwarded to the secretary-treasurer of NSSSAA prior to the commencement of league play.
e. Students who are ineligible must complete the NSSSAA transfer appeal form found on page 15 of the NSSSAA Constitution and have their Athletic Director forward it to the executive prior to the start of the season (May 2024).

Article XIII Activities

Section I – Sponsored Activities

The following activities will be sanctioned: soccer, golf, volleyball, basketball, badminton, curling.

Section II – Seasons and Dates

Organized practices may not begin before the first day of school in September.

Section III – Organization of Activities

Each of the activities shall be organized by the designated convenor of that activity under the guidelines of the executive.

Article XIV Coaches and Convenors

Section I – Coaches

All competitors must be supervised by a teacher. A teacher is defined as a member of the Ontario College of Teachers, or a holder of an Ontario Teachers Certificate. All school teams must be in the charge of a teacher or retired teacher as assigned by the principal of the school they represent, who will be responsible to the association for the conduct of the team. The teacher/retired teacher must accompany the team on the bench and be present for the length of the game or competition.

Section II – Convenors

The convener and coach shall not be the same person;

a. The appointment of officials for authorized league games shall be arranged by the convenor;
b. Schedules for competition must be a sent to all participating schools no later than one week prior to the day of competition by the convenor. For volleyball and basketball finals, schedules must be arranged using a fixed template (see playing regs). If changes to schedule must be made at the last minute (ie. the morning of the competition) be it resolved that, convener and representatives from all affected schools communicate prior to the first

game of the event, to discuss a schedule that would be appropriate for all parties involved. The convener, having the final say, creates a schedule taking into account everyone's concerns but prioritizing safe travel and less time delays for travelling teams.

c. The convenor shall determine all costs including those for banners, and shall forward the appropriate information to the secretary-treasurer who will then invoice the participating schools equally;
d. The convenor shall arrange for the payment of officials;
e. The convenor shall have the authority to terminate a team competing in an event in full, if the convenor feels that the misbehaviour of this team is negative enough to warrant such actions. Should a team be removed, the convenor shall report (in writing) to both the association and the principal of the school in question the exact circumstances of the team's removal, at the next scheduled association meeting;
f. The convenor shall prepare a written Convenor's Report immediately after the termination of a tournament and forward the report to the association president;
g. The convenor may request lists of competitors or participating teams.
h. A team may not bid to host a semi-final or final championship, and will forfeit their right to host within the rotation if suitable accommodations (hotel/motel/bed and breakfast if suitable; i.e. the whole team and coach can stay in the same building) cannot be guaranteed for all competitors. Potential Convenors are responsible for reserving the needed number of spaces ahead of the championship date and shall notify the NSSSAA executive at least 2 weeks prior should the necessary accommodations not be available so that the executive can move the championship to another host (in case of championships, the next school on the rotation list).
i. Any concerns from community coaches and players should be brought to the teacher from their respective schools. That teacher will then resolve the issue, and if not possible will approach the convenor with their concerns. If the teacher and convenor cannot resolve the issue, the convenor should remind the teacher that a formal protest can be lodged within 24 hours after the protest in question. No further discussion should therefore occur. If a convenor is then inappropriately approached by a teacher, community coach or player, the school shall first be given a warning and told of the consequences should this continue. If the convenor is approached in the same way a second time, the team in question may be disqualified from the tournament. (2017)

~~Section III – Postponement~~

~~No game shall be postponed nor starting time changed without first obtaining permission from the convenor and the opposing coach at least 24 hours before the game, unless caused by unforeseen circumstances or an act of God.~~ (2026)

Article XV Protests and Complaints

Section I – Protests

a. Protests may only be made in reference to the incorrect application of a rule by an official or a serious infraction of league rules or playing regulations by a player or coach. Officials'

decisions of a discretionary nature may not be protested.

b. i. Any protest or desired intention to protest must be made within 24 hours of the disputed competition;
   ii. The protest must be sent through the athletic director of the school lodging the protest.
c. A protest or intention to protest, must be made in writing with a non-refundable fee of $100.00 to the Secretary – treasurer of NSSSAA with a copy to be forwarded to the convenor at the same time. The Secretary-treasurer will refer the protest to the NSSSAA president, a copy of which will be sent to all School Co-Curricular Coordinators.
d. A letter of protest must be as clear, concise and as specific as possible, simply stating a desire to protest, and the factual basis (Rule) of the protest. The letter must be professionally ethical and free from exaggeration and generalities;
e. There shall be no further exchange of letters or comments with any individual, school or association on the matter except at the discretion of the president;
f. The decision (vote) of all athletic directors in any protest is final and binding on all parties involved.

Section II – Complaints

A complaint is an expression of anger, concern and/or sorrow, which when severe enough often results in a charge of wrongdoing. Cases of complaints covered by this constitution will usually have to do with inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour.

Any coach, NSSSAA or school official, or convenor may lodge a complaint regarding the inappropriate behaviour of players, coaches, officials or fans at a NSSSAA event. The procedure to follow is outlined below:

i) If the complaint is not being lodged by the convenor, speak to the convenor first to see what your course of action should be;

ii) The person or persons to whom the complaint is directed must be made aware of the complaint by the person with the complaint. Where possible this can be done verbally or in written form. The person or persons who have had the complaint made against them must have an opportunity to respond. If there is no satisfactory resolution of the complaint, then the person complaining may wish to go to the next step;

iii) The complainant shall go to his/her School Co-Curricular Coordinator, to see if that individual can resolve the complaint;

iv) The complainant shall go to his/her School Co-Curricular Coordinator and shall send a letter to the President of NSSSAA outlining the complaint and what has been done to try to resolve the problem. Copies are to go to the person(s) whom the complaint is about, to the athletic director and the principal of the school that the complaint has been filed on.

b. The president of NSSSAA in consultation with the School Co-Curricular Coordinators of the NSSSAA schools, will decide upon a course of action to be taken which may include sanctions.

Article XVI Deportment of Players and Coaches and the Board of Reference

Section I – Abusive Behaviour

Players who display violent behaviour or who direct severe, abusive language toward a referee, player or coach shall be penalized by a one game suspension (not including the game they are participating in at the time). The action will be judged by the two coaches, the referees and the convenor, and decided on by a vote. The incident shall be reported to the athletic director and the principal of the school in question.

Section II – Reporting Misconduct

The convenor of the event in question shall notify the principal(s), School Co-Curricular Coordinator, and league president within 24 hours after the incident. Following written correspondence must be made with the above-mentioned people within a week.

Article XVII NSSSAA Transfer Policy

*REMINDER: If it is suspected that a student is seeking a school transfer purely for sports reasons, students/parents should be reminded that twinning (as per OFSAA Bylaws B15 Section 3) is a possibility for schools not able to field teams.
Transfer students should be provided with two decisions – one for playing at our local NSSSAA competition only and one for continuing to NWOSSA/OFSAA approved competition.
The NSSSAA transfer policy allows students to transfer from another school for competition at the NSSSAA level only.
If students who are made eligible at the NSSSAA level only advance to a NWOSSAA or OFSAA level, that student will be deemed ineligible to play at the NWOSSA/OFSAA level. The OFSAA level transfer policy would need to have been completed and approved prior to the NSSSAA competition.
If eligibility at the NWOSSAA/OFSAA level is requested, then the OFSAA transfer appeal form and all sections of the forms should be fully and accurately completed and submitted to the NSSSAA Executive. OFSAA transfer rules will then be applied to that student. If the NSSSAA Executive denies the transfer, then the student must appeal in the OFSAA transfer policy appeal board. The appeal must be completed early enough to meet the dates of appeal deadlines from the OFSAA Appeal board. This appeal must be completed early enough to meet the dates of appeal deadlines from the OFSAA Appeal Board. Approximately two weeks after each deadline

date a hearing will be held.
Section A: Change of Residence
*family moves and student moves with them (deemed eligible)
*student moves to live with a guardian (focus is to play hockey, swim, wrestling, etc.) for a higher calibre team or club not available in their community. When student returns home, he/she will be deemed eligible (e.g. returns in April to join Soccer and track and Field) and eligible if he/she played a sport for other school while training.
Section B: Exchange Students
*students from outside of Canada not with their parents (exchange students) are deemed eligible.
Section C: School Closures and New Schools
*where a school closes, or a new school opens, students may attend the school of their choice and will be deemed eligible.
Section D: Did not participate in sports at former school
*transfer students who did not participate in sports during the past 12 months
*students participated in sports at previous school but not those applied for at present school.
Section E: Junior Students
*Only students entering Grade 10 may apply under this section. Students who have made a bad choice of schools in Grade 9 are eligible to move to a new school for second year.
Section F: Parental Custody
*In a family separation the student moving from one parent to another will be granted eligibility to move to a new school and, if it so occurs, return to the former school without being deemed ineligible (only once).
Section G: Transferring for Academic Reasons
*Students wishing to change schools may be granted eligibility to move to a new school for academic reasons (for example, course selection); that student may be allowed to return to the former school without being deemed ineligible (only once). The transfer request must include a letter from both the student/parent and principals of both involved schools outlining reasons for the student's transfer.