

# IACS

*Illinois Association of Christian Schools*



## **Athletic Handbook**

***ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS***  
***ATHLETIC HANDBOOK***

*MARCH 2024*

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# ***ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS***

## ***ATHLETIC HANDBOOK***

### **ARTICLE 1 INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE & MISSION STATEMENT**

#### **Introduction**

One of the many benefits of IACS membership is the participation in IACS athletics. This participation provides competition among Christian schools of like faith in a variety of sports. The goal of the IACS athletic program is to develop character and leadership in the lives of young men and ladies, so that they will take the lessons learned and use them in their lives for the Lord.

It is easy to allow athletic programs to get out of balance in Christian schools. The IACS must maintain a clear and appropriate philosophy of athletics. Athletics can be a vital part of an extra-curricular program, but it must not be the dominating aspect of a school. The primary goal of Christian education is to train young men and ladies in areas of service for the Lord. Any part of a school program that detracts from this goal is out of balance and must be modified. The leadership of the IACS encourages all IACS schools to keep this philosophy in mind as they interact with other schools and operate their respective athletic programs.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the IACS Athletic Handbook is to establish guidelines and procedures which will aid in the efficient and professional operation of the IACS state athletic program.

#### **Mission Statement**

The purpose of the IACS Athletic Program is to provide member schools with opportunities to use the arena of athletics to train young men and ladies for Christian service, and to use athletic experiences as a foundation for learning valuable life lessons.

## **ARTICLE 2            ORGANIZATION**

### **2.1 Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is the governing body of the IACS and is responsible for establishing/approving policies and guidelines for IACS activities. They are also responsible for appointing a state Athletic Director to oversee the athletic program throughout the year.

### **2.2 Athletic Director**

The IACS Athletic Director serves as chairman of the Athletic Committee, and seeks to provide leadership for IACS athletic meetings, tournaments, and policy-making endeavors. He is responsible for ensuring that member schools uphold the policies in the IACS Athletic Handbook, for oversight of all athletic conferences, for the setting up of all tournaments, for coordinating clear communication to member schools regarding association athletics, for the content on the association website athletic page, and for the general needs of IACS athletics. The Athletic Director, representing the Athletic Committee, answers directly to the Executive Director(s), IACS President, and Executive Committee. It is important to note that the IACS is a member-operated organization that requires participation and input from all member schools concerning policy-making and general operation of the athletic program. (cf. IACS Constitution, Article 6)

### **2.3 Athletic Committee**

The Athletic Committee Meetings are open to all pastors, administrators, athletic directors, and coaches from IACS schools. The Athletic Committee meets approximately four times a year to determine tournament pairings, locations, and discuss other athletic-related issues. When a vote of the Athletic Committee is needed, each school shall have one vote. A majority vote is needed in order to submit proposals to the Executive Committee. The Athletic Committee will serve as an advisory board to the Executive Committee and will make recommendations regarding athletic policies and guidelines. These recommendations will be brought to the Executive Committee and general membership for action.

### **2.4 Athletic Appeal Board**

The IACS Athletic Appeal Board shall consist of the IACS Athletic Director and two members of the IACS Executive Committee. The two members of the Executive Committee will be appointed yearly to handle appeals. The Athletic Appeal Board shall gather all relevant information from all parties involved and will make the final decision on any athletic-related issue (See Article 11.4).

## **2.5 Administrative Jurisdiction**

The IACS has complete and final jurisdiction in determining and evaluating all member schools' compliance to the athletic handbook and constitutional by-laws. IACS member schools are required to maintain and uphold all by-laws during athletic contests between IACS member schools.

## **2.6 Standardized Calendar**

All IACS-sponsored State Tournaments and Sport Seasons shall be conducted on dates established in accordance with the standardized calendar developed by the National Federation of State High School Association. This calendar shall number the weeks of the year, with Week One (No. 1) being the first full week of July (Sunday through Saturday).

# **ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP & ELIGIBILITY**

## **3.1 General Membership**

Membership in the IACS is determined by vote of the Executive Committee and the general membership of the IACS. Membership dues must also be paid prior to participating in IACS athletics. All schools have the option of payment in full at the beginning of the year or utilizing the payment plan. All member schools are eligible for post-season play subject to schedule requirements outlined in Article 7.3.

## **3.2 Academic Eligibility & Participation**

A player's participation in IACS and non-IACS contests will be determined by the following academic guidelines. Each student:

- (a) Must maintain a C- average
- (b) Must be passing every course (no F's)
- (c) Must be taking a minimum of one credit on campus other than Physical Education

In addition, the student must be enrolled at a member school and grades must be checked at least once every nine-week grading period. While all students must meet eligibility requirements, exceptions may be made in certain academic areas for students with diagnosed learning disabilities. If a student attends an A.C.E. school or other non-grade program, progress must be made at a standard level to be considered eligible. In special situations, such as a student taking a college-level course off-campus, the "on-campus" requirement may be waived by the IACS office. These special situations should be brought to the attention of the IACS office immediately.

### **3.3 Eligibility of Homeschool Students**

Member schools may choose to allow homeschool students to participate in IACS athletic competitions provided the following guidelines are met:

- (a) The student must be enrolled at the member school and must attend in-person for the entire academic year.
- (b) The student must be on track to earning at least one credit (other than Physical Education) at the member school during the current school year.
- (c) A participating student must successfully complete at least one credit (other than Physical Education) at the member school in order to maintain eligibility for the following year.
- (d) Grades must be checked at least once every nine-week grading period, and the student must be passing each class being taken at the member school (no “F’s”)
- (e) The student should be included in the total student count when reporting yearly IACS enrollment.

Note: Member schools may add additional requirements at their own discretion.

### **3.4 Age Requirements**

- (a) A student competing on the Junior High level should not have reached his/her 15th birthday before August 15th of that year.
- (b) A student competing on the Senior High level should not have reached his/her 19th birthday before August 15th of that year.
- (c) Students are restricted to four years of eligibility at the varsity level from grades 9th-12th. If a player in the 8th grade or below plays on the varsity level, this participation will not count toward his/her high school eligibility.

### **3.5 Eligibility of Transfers**

Students transferring to an IACS school will not be eligible for a ten-day calendar period if the transfer occurs during a school year. Students transferring from one IACS school to another IACS school during a sport season cannot play during that sport season unless there is a change of permanent address. Those transferring at the beginning of a school year will be eligible immediately. If a transfer occurs where the apparent reason for the move is strictly athletic participation, that student shall be ineligible for the current school year.

### **3.6 School Post-Season Eligibility**

Participation in post-season is contingent upon a schools compliance with the by-laws of the IACS Constitution and Athletic Handbook.

## **ARTICLE 4           GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **4.1 Athletic Handbook**

It is the member schools' responsibility to be familiar with the IACS Athletic Handbook and require new coaches and athletic directors to read the handbook for the purpose of determining policy and procedure for athletic participation. All rules governing participation in IACS contests are determined by the IACS. Unless specified by the IACS Athletic Handbook and/or the Executive Committee, rules and policies governing participation in IACS contests will be the same as those outlined in the IHSA Handbook.

### **4.2 Athletic Meetings**

It is the member schools' responsibility to attend the IACS Athletic Meetings. The IACS Athletic Committee meets approximately four times a year. The Athletic Meeting agenda typically involves: (1) the establishment of tournament brackets and seeding, (2) discussion of IACS athletic policies and procedures, and (3) voting on athletic policies to submit to the Executive Committee for approval. Each IACS school shall have one vote during the Athletic Meetings.

### **4.3 Insurance**

Each player should be covered by insurance for IACS events. Each school is responsible for their own players, and each home team is responsible for proper insurance coverage of the facilities for the contest.



#### **4.4 Physicals**

Each IACS school must require annual physicals of each team member for all sports. A player must have a current physical (within a calendar year of the previous physical) before being allowed to participate in any practice (including practices beginning prior to school starting) or game. Records must be kept on file and updated annually for the protection of the schools.

### **ARTICLE 5           ATHLETIC CONTESTS**

#### **5.1 Cancellations & Rescheduling**

In the event of inclement weather or other scheduling conflict, cancellation and rescheduling matters are to be resolved by the athletic directors and/or administrators of both schools. Any game cancelled within 72 hours of the contest shall be considered a forfeit by the canceling team, unless the cancellation was a result of inclement weather or both schools agree to reschedule the contest. Every attempt should be made to reschedule a cancellation.

#### **5.2 Admission Charges**

It is the responsibility of the home team to establish admission charges for their athletic events. All IACS schools are required to honor the free pass that is given to all IACS teachers and administrators at the beginning of the year (excluding tournaments). Coaches, players, cheerleaders, and team personnel should be admitted free to IACS contests. All Executive Committee members and their families also will be given free entry into IACS tournament games in addition to regular season games.

#### **5.3 Game Management**

It is the responsibility of the home team to assure that experienced and responsible individuals are used to manage the official clock and/or scorebook of a given contest. It is recommended that students not serve in these roles.

#### **5.4 Crowd Control**

It is the responsibility of each IACS school to maintain the appropriate Christian sportsmanship and attitude at IACS events. It is destructive to our Christian testimonies to have unruly fans being disrespectful to officials or cheering against the opponent. Please refer to Article 8 regarding Christian sportsmanship. In addition, mechanical noisemakers are not allowed in the gym during games. Pep bands are asked to play only before the game and during time-outs. If music is played during warm-ups, please make sure that the choice of music would not be offensive to those in attendance. For IACS hosted events, a specific selection of songs should be used for warm-up music.

## 5.5 Game Reports

The purpose of game reports is to document any yellow/red card or technical foul that may occur during an athletic contest. Game reports should be emailed by both schools involved within 24 hours if the offense occurred Monday through Thursday. If the offense occurs Friday or Saturday, game reports should be emailed by both schools by the following Monday. Please refer to Article 9 for policies regarding Intolerable Offenses.

## 5.6 Officials

- (a) All varsity contests must be officiated by registered, recognized, or certified IHSA officials. This requirement may be waived, although not recommended, if both schools agree. It is the responsibility of the home team to contact the opposing team (prior to the opposing team's departure) if unregistered officials must be used or an inadequate number of officials are scheduled. The visiting team has the right to refuse to play if registered officials cannot be secured. In this case, every attempt should be made to reschedule the event with registered officials. If rescheduling is not possible, then the home team shall forfeit the contest. Once two IACS schools agree to play, the outcome of that contest is final.

It is also recommended that lower-level contests (JV and below) be officiated by registered, recognized, or certified IHSA officials. All state tournaments must be officiated by registered, recognized, or certified IHSA officials.

- (b) Officials for any IACS contest must not be:
  - (1) Affiliated with or employed by the school/church.
  - (2) Related to students or school/church staff.  
"Related" shall be defined and include the following: spouse, mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, etc.
  - (3) An alumnus of either school.
- (c) Two officials are required for varsity soccer, volleyball, and basketball contests.
- (d) An official in any sport may not work more than three home games per level for an IACS school in a given season (excluding tournaments). If officials are scarce, please refer to Article 5.6 (a).

## **ARTICLE 6            GENERAL PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES**

### **6.1 Standardized Calendar**

- (a) All IACS-sponsored State Tournaments and Sport Seasons shall be conducted on dates established in accordance with the standardized calendar developed by the National Federation of State High School Associations. This calendar shall number the weeks of the year, with Week One (No. 1) being the first full week of July (Sunday through Saturday).
- (b) Any post-season competition that occurs later than the season deadline must be pre-approved by the IACS Athletic Director.

### **6.2 Rules Governing Play**

- (a) All rules for governing play during IACS contests will be those established by the National Federation of High School Associations. All member schools should have a current copy of the “Rules Book” for each sport. The National Federation publishes a new edition each year.
- (b) Co-ed teams are not permissible in the IACS.

### **6.3 Season Limitations for Soccer**

- (a) No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Soccer team, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 5 or later than Saturday of Week 17 in the IACS Standardized Calendar.
- (b) No Soccer team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than:
  - (1) Seventeen (17) matches and 2 tournaments, exclusive of the IACS tournament.
  - (2) Sixteen (16) matches and 3 tournaments, exclusive of the IACS tournament.
  - (3) Fifteen (15) matches and 4 tournaments, exclusive of the IACS tournament.

#### **6.4 Season Limitations for Volleyball**

- (a) No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Volleyball team, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 5 or later than Saturday of Week 17 in the IACS Standardized Calendar.
- (b) No Volleyball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than:
  - (1) Seventeen (17) matches and 2 tournaments, exclusive of the IACS tournament.
  - (2) Sixteen (16) matches and 3 tournaments, exclusive of the IACS tournament.
  - (3) Fifteen (15) matches and 4 tournaments, exclusive of the IACS tournament.

#### **6.5 Season Limitations for Basketball**

- (a) No school belonging to this Association shall organize its Basketball team, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 18 or later than Saturday of Week 35 in the IACS Standardized Calendar.
- (b) No Basketball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than:
  - (1) Twenty-six (26) games and 1 tournament, exclusive of the IACS tournament.
  - (2) Twenty-three (23) games and 2 tournaments, exclusive of the IACS tournament.
  - (3) Twenty (20) games and 3 tournaments, exclusive of the IACS tournament.
  - (4) Seventeen (17) games and 4 tournaments, exclusive of the IACS tournament.

#### **6.6 Season Limitations for Baseball**

- (a) No school belonging to this organization shall organize its Baseball team, practice or participate in interscholastic contests earlier than Monday of Week 36 or later than Saturday of Week 46 in the IACS Standardized Calendar.
- (b) No Baseball team representing a member school shall, in any one season, participate in more than:
  - Thirty-five (35) games, exclusive of the IACS tournament.

## **6.7 Cheerleading**

The IACS allows cheerleaders at any athletic event. All cheerleaders should wear skirts to the top of the knee or loose-fitting pants. Cheerleaders must also wear a spandex-style garment underneath the uniform and be modest in their routines. In addition, music and/or dance steps are not allowed. All cheerleading activities shall be conducted in accordance with the Spirit Rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Cheerleading practice must coincide with the season and dates of the sport in which the cheering will occur.

## **6.8 Season Limitations for Non-Tournament Sports**

In sports where there is no state tournament, e.g., golf, wrestling, and softball, the IHSA guidelines shall be used to determine season limitations.

## **6.9 Summer Participation**

- (a) Participation by high school students in summer programs must be voluntary and in no way be an actual or implied prerequisite for membership on a high school team.
- (b) Persons who coach a sport at a member school may have a maximum of 25 days of contact in that sport with students from that school during the period between the last day of classes in the spring each year and the beginning of school in the fall. Students may have a maximum of 25 days of contact per sport with persons who coach that sport at the school they attend during the same time period. A day of contact is defined as any date on which any coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques of any sport takes place. These limitations apply to all sports except Baseball and Softball.
- (c) Schools may transport students from their schools to summer league contests, coaching schools, clinics or other non-school contests in the summer during the contact day period outlined in (b) above.
- (d) Schools may conduct coaching schools, camps or clinics during the summer, provided:
  - (1) The event is conducted between the close of school in the spring and the beginning of school in the fall.
  - (2) The event is open to any high school student and is not restricted to students who have been or expect to be high school athletes.
  - (3) The event provides common instruction and activities for all participants.

## **6.10 Game Participation**

- (a) The IACS recommends that Junior Varsity competition is restricted to 11th grade and below. In a situation where a senior is needed in order to conduct a game/match, the other team should be informed prior to beginning the game/match. Seniors are not allowed to compete at the Junior Varsity level simply based upon skill level.
- (b) Junior High competition is restricted to those in 8th grade and below, with the exception of soccer where 9th graders are allowed to participate at the Junior High level.
- (c) During basketball season, the IACS recommends that students participate in no more than ninety (90) quarters in any one season, exclusive of tournaments. Junior High, Junior Varsity, and Varsity quarters should be added together to arrive at the total number of quarters played. The IACS also recommends that a student play no more than six (6) quarters per date, exclusive of tournaments.
- (d) The Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) by-laws stipulate that when competing against another full-member of the IESA (public school), students are limited to play in no more than four (4) quarters per day.

## **ARTICLE 7            POST-SEASON TOURNAMENTS**

### **7.1 General Information**

The IACS strives to provide quality post-season tournaments for its member schools. It is important to note that quality post-season tournaments are a product of member school involvement and participation. Member schools are frequently called on to: host tournaments, serve/work at tournament sites, and make recommendations regarding locations, pairings, and other related items. In addition, the IACS also strives to maintain the highest level of professionalism, fairness and neutrality when organizing post-season tournaments.

The IACS Athletic Director shall oversee the coordinating of post-season tournaments.

## 7.2 State Tournaments & Dates

The IACS sponsors a variety of post-season state tournaments for member schools. Below are the tournaments sponsored by the IACS, as well as the weeks in which they occur (according to the IACS Standardized Calendar).

(a) Junior High Girls Volleyball	Week 15
(b) Junior High Boys Soccer	Week 15
(c) Varsity Girls Volleyball	Week 16
(d) Varsity Boys Soccer	Week 16
(e) Elementary Boys Basketball	Week 32
(f) Junior High Boys Basketball	Week 33
(g) Girls/Boys Varsity Basketball	Week 34

## 7.3 Participation in Post-Season Tournaments

Participation in post-season is contingent upon the following guidelines:

- (a) Schools must be in compliance with the by-laws of the IACS Constitution and Athletic Handbook.
- (b) Payment of IACS dues must be up-to-date before participating in the post-season.
- (c) In order to participate, each school needs to complete the Athletic Participation Form (found on the IACS website) as well as pay an athletic participation fee for each sport in which they participate. These athletic fees need to be paid by September 15<sup>th</sup> for fall sports and November 30<sup>th</sup> for winter sports. The fees will allow your school:
  - to have access to the athletic section of the IACS website where you can enter your schedule and update your teams' results,
  - to get seeded for the state tournaments, and
  - to participate in the tournaments as far as your team can go.
- (d) A school's Junior High and Varsity level teams must attempt to play a "full" regular season schedule. "Full" is defined as at least 1/3 of the total number games allowed (See Article 6).
- (e) Schools need to have their schedules posted on the IACS website at the beginning of the season. Within 72 hours of each game, the result of the game needs to be entered

- (f) Each school needs to have a representative at the seeding meeting or if they cannot attend, must e-mail their seeding ballot to the IACS athletic office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.
- (g) If a school forfeits a post-season game, they cannot advance in the tournament.

#### **7.4 Regional & State Tournament Sites**

During the post-season, certain member schools may have the opportunity to host a regional game or state tournament at their facilities. It is imperative that the IACS organize and maintain a level of professionalism while hosting these regional games and state tournaments. Therefore, the following guidelines must be met for a school to host a varsity boys' or girls' regional game and/or state tournament:

- (a) All court and field dimensions must meet the requirements set forth by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). These dimensions may be found in the NFHS Rule Book. Each member school should have a current edition of the NFHS Rule Book for each sport.
  - (1) Soccer
    - 1. Field Length (100-120 yards)
    - 2. Field Width (55-75 yards)
    - 3. Goal Dimensions (8 yards wide x 8 feet high)
  - (2) Volleyball
    - 1. Court Length (60 feet)
    - 2. Court Width (30 feet)
    - 3. Court Clearance (6 feet surrounding each side and end of the court)
    - 4. Net Height (7' 4 1/8")
    - 5. In addition to the above National Federation guidelines, the IACS requires that regional and state tournament sites must have a minimum 20-foot clearance above the court when measured from the floor to the lowest obstruction within the dimensions of the volleyball court.
- (b) All goal dimensions, basket and net heights, and equipment used by the host school must also meet the requirements set forth by the NFHS.
- (c) It is the responsibility of each host school to assure that their facilities and equipment meet the requirements set forth by the NFHS.
- (d) Any questions regarding these requirements may be directed to the IACS Athletic Director.



- (e) If a school earns the right to host a regional game but does not meet facility or equipment requirements set forth by the NFHS, the following steps should be taken:
  - (1) The school earning the right to host the regional may reserve a different facility in the area that meets NFHS requirements at the host school's expense.
  - (2) If a different facility is not available, the opponent may have the right to host the regional contest at their school.
  - (3) If the opponent's facility does not meet NFHS requirements, then the opponent may reserve a different facility in the area which does meet NFHS requirements.

### **7.5 Rules for Governing Post-Season Play**

All rules for governing play during IACS Varsity Regional & State Tournaments will be those established by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

All rules for governing play during IACS Junior High & Elementary Regional & State Tournaments will be those established by the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) unless otherwise specified below:

- (a) Junior High Girls Volleyball will play the traditional 2 out of 3 game matches.
- (b) Junior High Boys Soccer will play 2 - 30 minute halves. If overtime is needed, it shall consist of 2 - 5 minute sudden-victory halves. After the two overtime periods, the game shall be decided by a shootout (5 members from each side shooting from the penalty spot).
- (c) Elementary Boys Basketball will play 6 minute quarters and 3 minute overtimes. A smaller girls' basketball shall be used for post-season play. There shall be no full-court pressing until the last 2 minutes of each half. The three-point shot will not be used at the elementary level.
- (d) Junior High Boys Basketball will play 6 minute quarters and 3 minute overtimes.

### **7.6 Rules for Conference Play**

There are no official IACS conferences, although conferences can be made. You may play any team, and there are no teams that you have to play. Your team record and the difficulty of competition will be two of the main factors in determining your seeding position.

## **7.7 Awards**

The IACS acknowledges athletic achievements and strives to reward these achievements at each state tournament. The host school for each state tournament will be responsible for ordering awards for that tournament. The following guidelines should be used for ordering awards:

- (a) All eight-team (or more) tournaments should award 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Consolation, and Sportsmanship trophies.
- (b) All other (seven teams or less) tournaments should award 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and Sportsmanship trophies.
- (c) All varsity-level tournaments should present individual awards (Most Valuable Player, all tournament). The total number of awards given should equal at least 25% of the total number of starters in the tournament. For example, a basketball tournament with eight teams participating will have a total of 40 starters and 10 (25%) individual awards.

Players committing an intolerable offense during a tournament are not eligible for All-Tournament awards.

When voting for All-Tournament teams, coaches may not vote for their own players. There will be a coaches meeting immediately preceding the awards ceremony to confirm the All-Tournament teams.

- (d) Each member of a varsity-level state championship team should also receive a medallion commemorating the team's accomplishment.

## **ARTICLE 8**

## **CHRISTIAN SPORTSMANSHIP**

### **8.1 General Information**

Since participation in athletics is a public display of our Christian testimony, the IACS expects the highest of standards concerning sportsmanship, attitude, and the overall conduct of fans, coaches, and participants. School administrators and coaches are responsible for monitoring conduct of fans, coaches, and participants before, during, and after each contest.

## 8.2 Guidelines for Athletic Contests

The following guidelines should be remembered when competing as a Christian school:

- (a) The officials are the authority for the competition. Whether participating or spectating, appropriate respect for the officials should be shown. (Romans 13:1, I Peter 2:13, 17).
- (b) Cheer for your team and players and not against the opponent. Make sure comments are positive and uplifting (Ephesians 4:29).
- (c) Keep in mind the importance of giving God the glory in whatever we do (I Corinthians 10:31).

## ARTICLE 9 INTOLERABLE OFFENSES

### 9.1 Definition of Intolerable Offenses

The following infractions are considered “Intolerable” by the IACS:

- (a) Fighting
- (b) Foul or abusive language
- (c) Displayed or continual abuse of an official

### 9.2 Penalties for Committing an Intolerable Offense – Player

Any player guilty of committing one of the three Intolerable Offenses resulting in a card, (yellow or red), technical foul, or game ejection shall be dealt with in the following manner:

- (a) 1st Offense: Player shall be disciplined by his/her school.
- (b) 2nd Offense: Player shall be suspended immediately from the current competition and from the next three games/matches at the level the offense occurred.
- (c) 3rd Offense: Player shall be suspended immediately from the current competition and deemed ineligible for the remainder of the regular season, any post-season play, as well as receiving any conference or state awards at the level the offense occurred.

### **9.3 Penalties for Committing an Intolerable Offense – Coach**

Any member of the coaching staff guilty of committing one of the three Intolerable Offenses resulting in a card (yellow or red), technical foul, or game ejection, shall be dealt with in the following manner:

- (a) 1st Offense: Coach shall be suspended from coaching for the next contest at the level the offense occurred.
  
- (b) 2nd Offense: A coach shall be suspended immediately from the current competition and from coaching for the remainder of the regular season and post- season. If the offense occurs at the end of a season, the coach will serve a minimum game/match suspension of three contests at the level the offense occurred.

### **9.4 Documentation & Reporting of Intolerable Offenses**

Each IACS member school is responsible for reporting any yellow/red card or technical foul to the IACS office. Game reports should be emailed to the IACS office within 24 hours if the offense occurred Monday through Thursday. If the offense occurs Friday or Saturday, game reports should be emailed by the following Monday. If failure to report continues for an extended period, more action will be considered by the Athletic Director.

### **9.5 Application of Intolerable Offense Penalties**

Any suspension as a result of committing an Intolerable Offense shall apply to both the regular and post-seasons. Player suspensions do not carry over to the following school year. Coach suspensions, however, do carry over to the following school year.

### **9.6 Appeals Process for Intolerable Offense**

An appeal of an official's decision may be made to the IACS Athletic Director. If the Athletic Director finds that both coaches agree that an official was incorrect in his decision regarding a yellow/red card or technical foul, the Athletic Director may uphold the appeal. If there is any disagreement between coaches and the IACS Athletic Director, the issue will be brought before the IACS Athletic Appeal Board. The Athletic Appeal Board shall make the final decision on any appeal. The player or coach in question may continue to play or coach until a final decision has been reached by the Athletic Appeal Board.

## **ARTICLE 10      DRESS & APPEARANCE STANDARDS**

### **10.1 General Information**

To maintain the testimony of our Christian schools and to promote high standards of dress and appearance, all guidelines set forth in this Article shall be maintained for all athletic contests.

### **10.2 Girls' Dress Guidelines**

Girls' athletic apparel should be loose-fitting and shorts should have a minimum inseam of 5 inches. Compression shorts or Spandex-type shorts should not be worn as the outer layer.

### **10.3 Boys' Appearance Guidelines**

While participating in athletic contests, hairstyles should be appropriate to one's gender, providing clear distinction and representation of a male or female -- masculine hairstyles for men and feminine hairstyles for women (Gn. 1:27, 1 Co. 11:3-16, 1 Jn. 2:15).

### **10.4 Pre & Post-Contest Dress Guidelines**

The IACS requests that all member schools have their athletes follow their school dress guidelines for dress/appearance before and after athletic contests whenever uniforms are not being worn. All IACS member schools are also responsible for making sure all athletes have a neat and presentable appearance for post-game/match awards ceremonies.

## **ARTICLE 11      PENALTY BY-LAWS**

### **11.1 Authority of IACS Administration**

Any violation of the IACS Athletic Handbook, Terms and Conditions, IACS Policies and Guidelines, and/or other rules of the Association shall be reported to the Athletic Director, who shall have the authority to investigate all alleged violations. The findings of the investigation shall be made known to the school(s) and/or person(s) alleged to have committed a violation. After consulting with the IACS President and Executive Director(s), the Athletic Director shall then have full authority to uphold policies if a school(s) and/or person(s) is found to have committed violations.

## **11.2 Penalties**

Any infraction of the IACS Athletic Handbook will be referred to the Athletic Appeals Committee. Penalties shall include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Written warning or reprimand.
- (b) Mandated forfeit of athletic contest.
- (c) Suspension and/or expulsion from athletic participation.

Failure to take corrective action required by any penalty shall be the basis for further action, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion from athletic participation.

## **11.3 Filing Grievances**

All member schools have the right to file an official grievance with the IACS office. Member schools should contact the IACS Athletic Director regarding any violations of IACS Athletic Policy.

## **11.4 Appeals Process**

All member schools have the right to file an appeal with the IACS office concerning any penalty placed on a school and/or person(s). This appeal will be brought before the IACS Appeal Board for review. The Athletic Appeal Board shall make the final decision on any appeal.