

FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES PROCEDURES

3.1 Florida High School State Championship Series

3.1.1 Administration and Management. As specified in Bylaw 4.3.2, all Florida High School State Championship Series shall be conducted in accordance with the policies established by the Board of Directors and shall be under the direction and supervision of the FHSAA Office.

3.1.2 Enforcement of Rules & Policies. Participating schools shall adhere to all regulations and policies governing the Florida High School State Championship Series. The determination of the host school for each event shall be conditioned in part on the school's willingness to comply with and enforce regulations and policies governing the event. This includes financial terms, as well as licensing and merchandising policies. A school that does not comply with and enforce such regulations and policies shall forfeit its opportunity to serve as host.

3.1.3 Signs and/or Banners. The display of signs, banners, placards or similar items at matches in the Florida High School State Championship Series is permitted, provided:

- (a) They are in good taste and reflect good sportsmanship in their message and use;
- (b) They reflect identification and encouragement to participants and their school or community, and make no reference to the opposing team, its school, players or community;
- (c) They are not displayed on the court, or in a manner which interferes with play;
- (d) They do not obstruct the view of participants or spectators;
- (e) They are not safety hazards; and
- (f) They are not prohibited by facility management.

3.1.4 Noisemakers. Whistles, or artificial noisemaking devices that mimic or simulate a game whistle, air horns, and all other artificial or mechanical noisemaking devices, are prohibited in all Florida High School State Championship Series events.

3.1.5 Bands.

3.1.5.1 Outdoor Sports. With the exception of football and flag football, bands will not be allowed to play at Florida High School State Championship Series tournaments/meets in outdoor sports. Bands are prohibited at football district tiebreakers.

3.1.5.2 Indoor Sports. With the exception of basketball, bands will not be allowed to play at Florida High School State Championship Series tournaments/meets in indoor sports. Please see 4.2.3.3.4 for basketball specific information.

3.1.6 Merchandising. The FHSAA retains the exclusive right to produce and sell souvenir products (apparel and otherwise) at all games, tournaments and meets held as part of the Florida High School State Championship Series; host schools/organizations are required to sell items provided by the official FHSAA event souvenir merchandiser.

The host school/organization of a Florida High School State Championship Series event may be permitted to sell generic merchandise unrelated to the event (i.e., apparel and other merchandise bearing the host school/organization's mark), provided such merchandise has been made available for sale on a consistent basis throughout the year and has not been produced specifically for sale at the Florida High School State Championship Series event.

3.1.7 Souvenir Programs. All host schools of district tournaments/meets and regional tournaments/meets that produce a program must display on the program cover both the appropriate FHSAA sport logo and sportsmanship logo. The logos must also be displayed prominently inside or on the team roster inserts.

3.1.8 Public-Address Protocol. The public-address announcer shall be considered a bench official for all Florida High School State Championship Series events. He/she shall maintain complete neutrality at all times and, as such, shall not be a "cheerleader" for any team. The announcer will follow the FHSAA script for promotional announcements, which are available from this association, player introductions and awards ceremonies. Other announcements are limited to:

- Those of an emergency nature (e.g., paging a doctor, lost child or parent, etc.);
- Those of a "practical" nature (e.g., announcing that a driver has left his/her vehicle lights on);
- Starting lineups or entire lineups of both participating teams (what is announced for the home team must be announced for the visiting team); and
- Messages provided by host school management; and
- Announcements that FHSAA souvenir merchandise, souvenir programs and concessions are on sale in the facility. During the contest, the announcer:
- Should recognize players about to attempt a play (e.g., coming up to in baseball, punting, kicking or receiving a punt or kick in football, serving in volleyball, etc.);



- Should recognize player(s) making a play (e.g., “Basket by Jones” in basketball, “Smith on the kill” in volleyball, etc.);
- Should report a penalty as signaled by the referee;
- Should report substitutions and timeouts;
- Must not call the “play-by-play” or provide “color commentary” as if he/she were announcing for a radio or television broadcast;
- Must not make any comment that would offer either competing team an unfair advantage in the contest; and
- Must not make any comment critical of any school, team, player, coach or official; or any other comment that has the potential to incite unsporting conduct on the part of any individual.

The announcer should be certain of the accuracy of his/her statements before making them. When in doubt, the announcer should remain silent.

3.1.9 All-Tournament/Meet Teams. No employee of the FHSAA or the local manager may influence in any way the selection of any all-tournament/ meet team, including the selection of a most valuable player or other “player of the game.”

3.1.10 Uniformed Security. The local manager for a Florida High School State Championship Series event is responsible for providing appropriate uniformed security at the event that his/her school is hosting.

3.1.11 Contest Officials. The host school for Florida High School State Championship Series contests beyond the district level shall provide contest officials with a secure and adequate dressing room (one each for mixed gender crews) with properly operating bathroom facilities including showers with warm water at the site of the contest. If the site does not have such facilities, the host school shall obtain and provide at its expense an appropriate hotel/motel room(s) reasonably close to the site. The host school is required to complete dressing room arrangements and have the information available to the head referee at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest. It is the responsibility of the head referee or umpire-in-chief to contact the school administration at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest to verify the arrangements for the contest. The referee or umpire-in-chief shall report to the FHSAA Office the failure of any host school to provide dressing facilities as required.

3.1.12 Media Restrictions.

3.1.12.1 Access to Locker/Dressing Rooms. The FHSAA operates under a closed locker room policy at all Florida High School State Championship Series events. At no time will news media representatives be granted access to locker rooms or dressing rooms at any state championship event. Team boxes, team benches, team huddles and dugouts are considered extensions of locker/dressing rooms.

3.1.12.2 Access to Competition Area. Media representatives are not permitted in the competition area (i.e., within the field of play, on the playing court, etc.) at any time during a Florida High School State Championship Series contest until the competition has concluded and a winner has been determined. Photographers shall honor photographer lines and designated areas when marked.

3.2 Tournament/Meet Structure

3.2.1 Sanctioned Sports.

3.2.1.1 Series Structure. The successive tournament series shall be designated respectively as district, regional and Florida High School State Championship Series for all sanctioned sports except for Boys Weightlifting (district and Florida High School State Championship Series).

3.2.1.1.1 Team Sports. The successive rounds following the district tournament (completion of district season for football, including District Tiebreakers) in team sports will be Regional Quarterfinals (except 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A football, baseball and softball, 1A girls volleyball and 1A boys and girls basketball), Regional Semifinals, Regional Finals, State Semifinals and State Championship.

3.2.1.2 District Complex

3.2.1.2.1 Team Sports. Participating schools are geographically assigned to one of sixteen (16) district complexes in their respective classifications except for the 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A baseball, boys and girls basketball, football, softball and girls volleyball classifications which will be assigned to eight (8) district complexes. Except for football, a tournament shall be conducted in each district complex at the conclusion of the regular season to determine the two teams (champion and runner-up) that shall represent the district complex in the remainder of the Florida High School State Championship Series. In football, the champion and the runner-up shall represent the district complex in the remainder of the Florida High School State Championship Series.

3.2.1.2.2 Individual Sports. Participating schools are geographically assigned to the number of complexes as listed below.

- Cross Country – Sixteen (16) district complexes, boys and girls
- Golf – Twenty-four (24) district complexes, boys and girls
- Swimming & Diving – Twelve (12) district complexes, boys and girls
- Tennis – Sixteen (16) district complexes, boys and girls
- Track & Field – Sixteen (16) district complexes, boys and girls

