

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SUMMARY

April 17, 2023

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

1. Roll Call
2. Approved Minutes of Last Meeting
3. Old Business
 - a. Virtual School Rule

Denied the proposed change to Article II, Section 27 (Virtual School Rule) of the TSSAA/TMSAA Bylaws:

Current wording of Minimum Eligibility Requirements #1:

In order for a student to practice or participate at any level, the student must reside in the geographic area of the LEA of the member virtual school. The virtual school must be a member of TSSAA in good standing. The administration of the virtual school must choose to allow their students to participate for their zoned public schools.

Proposed change:

The participating student must have a legal residence within the school district of the school where he/she will be participating, if participating with a public school. If participating with a private school, the student must have a legal residence within a 20 mile radius of the private school and meet all tuition and financial aid requirements.

Submitted by Tennessee Online Public School

The Council formally asked the state office to work on language that could align the Virtual School Rule with the Home School Rule.

- b. Amateur Rule Disciplinary Action

The Council approved the following in regards to disciplinary action for when this rule is violated.

A student who violates any portion of the Amateur Rule shall be penalized according to the sanctions below:

- a. First Violation: The student shall receive a formal warning and return any award(s) or money received in violation of this rule. TSSAA shall direct the student in violation to immediately remove any endorsement, advertisement, sponsorship, or other promotional activity that is in violation of the Amateur Rule.
 - b. Second Violation: The student shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at any level of competition for a period of one (1) year from the date of TSSAA's determination of the second violation.
 - c. Third Violation: The penalty and any additional period of ineligibility will be determined by the Executive Director based on a consideration of the nature of the violation(s) and the extent to which the violation(s) may have been knowing, deliberate, or in reckless disregard of the provisions of this rule.
- NOTE: It is expected that the TSSAA member school will ensure adherence to any of the above penalties imposed on their student.

- c. Heard update on Michigan Coaching Link Rule

4. New Business

- a. Tabled a proposal from Maury County Public Schools for disciplinary action to be taken when unsportsmanlike incidents occur involving fans.
- b. Approved proposed change to Article II, Section 16 (Tuition and Financial Aid) of the TSSAA Bylaws.

Removed the following:

1. Children of full-time faculty members may be given financial aid, but such students, if transfers, shall be ineligible for 12 months in any sport in which they have an athletic record for the previous or current year.

- c. Approved proposed Change to Article III, Section 14 (Playing of Ineligible Student-Athletes) of the TSSAA Bylaws

Proposed Change:

When a team plays an ineligible athlete in TSSAA tournaments or playoffs **and wins the contest**, the ~~entire contest is forfeited~~ **win is vacated**, the team is removed from the tournament or playoff, and no team replaces that team in the tournament series. All awards and money earned from the post season tournament series must be returned to TSSAA.

- d. Approved proposed change to Article II, Section 24 (Special Cases Involving Hardship) of the TSSAA Bylaws

Proposed Change:

The burden of establishing each of these elements to the Executive Director's satisfaction is upon the school at which eligibility is sought. **The individual student must meet the TSSAA definition of *enrolled* at the school where eligibility is sought in order for the Executive Director to consider the hardship case.**

Any decision of the Executive Director on any request for a waiver of eligibility rules under this Section may be appealed *de novo* to the Board of Control at its August, November, January, ~~or~~ March, **or June** meetings. **The Board of Control only considers appeals at the June meeting on behalf of students that meet the TSSAA definition of *enrolled* at their new school.**

- e. Discussed Boarding School Classification Proposal

5. Litigation Report