

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SUMMARY

April 9, 2024

Hermitage, Tennessee

1. Executive Session/Litigation Report
2. Roll Call
3. Approved Minutes of Last Meeting
4. Old Business
 - a. Emerging Sports

Approved the proposed language regarding the addition to Article IV of the TSSAA Constitution to establish thresholds for sanctioning emerging sports. The proposed states the Legislative Council can sanction an “emerging sport” once 15% of the TSSAA membership are either currently participating in the sport or committed to participation once sanctioned.

A sanctioned emerging sport will be treated the same as all other TSSAA sanctioned sports, except that at state championship will not be offered. Instead, TSSAA will work to classify participating schools into districts, regions, and/or sections for a postseason invitational. All emerging sports, regardless of initial participation numbers, must go through a one-year trial period before a state championship will be added. It will be the responsibility of the Board of Control to approve a state championship after the trial period and once the TSSAA office has determined that participation numbers have increased, there exists an appropriate amount of geographic representation throughout the state to execute postseason qualifying procedures, and the state championship can be implemented by existing TSSAA staff. Emerging sports can remain in the emerging sport category indefinitely until a state championship is added. Once a sport is sanctioned with a state championship, the state championship will not be removed even if participation numbers fall.

- b. Voted to approve sanctioning Girls’ Flag Football as the first emerging sport.
- c. Approved the following language regarding the TSSAA Sports Calendar

Girls Volleyball

- 8 days of off-season practice during a 15 day period are permitted after Christmas break and prior to the end of the school year.

Girls Soccer

- 8 days of off-season practice during a 15 day period are permitted after Christmas break and prior to the end of the school year.

Girls and Boys Basketball

- 8 days of off-season practice during a 15 day period are permitted prior to the end of the school year.

Baseball

- 8 days of preseason practice during a 15 day period are permitted during the school year and prior to Christmas break.

Girls Softball

- 8 days of preseason practice during a 15 day period are permitted during the school year and prior to Christmas break.

Soccer

- 8 days of preseason practice during a 15 day period are permitted during the school year and prior to Christmas break.

- d. Discussed TSSAA Transfer Rules
- e. Discussed possible revisions to the Residence Rule. Voted to continue to work on language and get feedback from the member schools in regards to how to approach any potential changes to the rule.
- f. Voted to grandfather in homeschool and virtual school students that are currently participating at a school that will not meet the new Non-traditional Student rule when it goes into effect next year.

5. New Business

- a. Heard TSSAA Building Update
- b. Approved proposed change to Article I, Section 9 (Coaching Requirements)

Current Non-faculty Coach Registration fees are \$50 per high school coach and \$25 per middle school coach. The approved proposal increases each fee by \$25.
- c. Approved change to Article III, Section 9 (Coaches Ejected for Unsportsmanlike Incidents)

Increase the fine for a coach ejection to \$500 for the first offense and \$1000 for the second offense.
- d. Discussed a restructure of membership fees that could be presented at the Regional Meetings in November of 2024.
- e. Voted to change the Football Sports Calendar to state:

The Date of the First Contest allowed is Monday of NFHS Week 7.
- f. Approved the proposed change to Article III, Section 7 for Unsportsmanlike Conduct in Girls Soccer and Soccer.

There is a two-game suspension for serious foul play except for the following offenses which shall result in a one-game suspension:

- a. A player anywhere on the field (other than a goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area) who deliberately handles a ball to prevent it from going into the goal.
 - b. A foul by a player against an opponent who is moving toward his/her offensive goal with an obvious opportunity to score.
 - c. *A player who is disqualified from the contest for receiving his/her second yellow card.*
- g. Approved proposed change to Article IV, Section 8 (TSSAA Sports Calendar)

Schools are allowed to play in three tournaments in boys' and girls' basketball during the regular season.
 - h. Discussed interpretations of the Independent Game Participation Rule