



LHSAA ANNUAL CONVENTION PROPOSAL AGENDA

2027 Annual Convention General Business Meeting Agenda

I. Constitution Article Proposals

<i>Item</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Article/Bylaw</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Voting Designation</i>
I-1	Constitution	Article 7.1.3	Kenneth Henderson (Cedar Creek)	2/3 Vote All membership

II. Administrative Bylaw Proposals

<i>Item</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Article/Bylaw</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Voting Designation</i>
II-1	Eligibility	Bylaw 1.3.2, 1.13.3, 1.13.4	Executive Committee	Simple Majority All membership
II-2	Eligibility	Bylaw 1.3.2	Executive Committee	Simple Majority All membership
II-3	Eligibility	Bylaw 1.11.2	Executive Committee	Simple Majority All membership
II-4	Administration	Bylaw 3.1.4, 3.1.5, 3.3.1(3&4)	Jared Cavalier (St. Michael)	Simple Majority All membership
II-5	Administration	Bylaw 3.4.8 & 3.5.1.7	Kenneth Henderson (Cedar Creek)	Simple Majority All membership
II-6	Sports Seasons	Bylaw 4.2.7	Tom Eldringhoff (Catholic High, BR)/ Wes Howard (Denham Springs)	Simple Majority All membership
II-7	Sports Seasons	Bylaw 4.4.3	Jared Cavalier (St. Michael)	Simple Majority All membership
II-8	Athletic Contests	Bylaw 6.13.12	Elise LeBoeuf (Vandebilt Catholic) / Rusty Farrar (Ouachita Parish)	Simple Majority All membership
II-9	Athletic Contests	Bylaw 6.23.1	Elise LeBoeuf (Vandebilt Catholic) / Ryan Gallagher (Brother Martin)	Simple Majority All membership
II-10	Officials	Bylaw 8.3.1	Chris Jones (Choudrant) / Tiffany Holt (Pitkin)	Simple Majority All membership

III. Athletic Bylaw Proposals

<i>Item</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Article/Bylaw</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Voting Designation</i>
III-1	Baseball	Bylaw 10.1-10.14	Kenneth Henderson (Cedar Creek)	Simple Majority Baseball schools
III-2	Baseball	Bylaw 10.2.1	Chris Jones (Choudrant) / Tiffany Holt (Pitkin)	Simple Majority Baseball schools
III-3	Baseball	Bylaw 10.9.2	John Robert Warner (Oak Grove) / Teri Howe (Ruston)	Simple Majority Baseball schools
III-4	Baseball	Bylaw 10.11.1- 10.13.10	Chris Jones (Choudrant) / Tiffany Holt (Pitkin)	Simple Majority Baseball schools – Class B Meeting

<i>Item</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Article/Bylaw</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Voting Designation</i>
III-5	Baseball	Bylaw 10.11.1-10.13.10	John Robert Warner (Oak Grove) / Matt Citron (Opelousas Catholic)	Simple Majority Baseball schools
III-6	Baseball	Bylaw 10.11.3	Chris Jones (Choudrant) / Tiffany Holt (Pitkin)	Simple Majority Baseball schools
III-7	Baseball	Bylaw 10.12.5	Marty Cannon (St. Thomas More)	Simple Majority Baseball schools
III-8	Basketball	Bylaw 11.1-11.8.5	Marty Cannon (St. Thomas More)	Simple Majority Basketball schools
III-9	Basketball	Bylaw 11.8.4	John Robert Warner (Oak Grove) / Teri Howe (Ruston)	Simple Majority Basketball schools
III-10	Football	Bylaw 14.3.1	Shane Smith (Franklinton) / Freddie Harrison (LCCP)	Simple Majority Football schools
III-11	Football	Bylaw 14.11.4	John Robert Warner (Oak Grove) / Teri Howe (Ruston)	Simple Majority Football schools
III-12	Powerlifting	Bylaw 17.5.6	Tom Eldringhoff (Catholic High, BR)/ Wes Howard (Denham Springs)	Simple Majority Powerlifting schools
III-13	Soccer	Bylaw 18.3.1, 18.15.1-2, 18.6.1	Steven Moore (Grace Christian)	Simple Majority Soccer schools
III-14	Softball	Bylaw 19.1-19.11.4	Kenneth Henderson (Cedar Creek)	Simple Majority Softball schools
III-15	Softball	Bylaw 19.9.5	John Robert Warner (Oak Grove) / Teri Howe (Ruston)	Simple Majority Softball schools
III-16	Tennis	Bylaw 21.1-21.9.3	Marty Cannon (St. Thomas More) / Karari Hanks (Neville)	Simple Majority Tennis schools
III-17	Tennis	Bylaw 21.5-21.5.5	Dana P. Bourgeois (Ascension Christian)	Simple Majority Tennis schools
III-18	Tennis	Bylaw 21.9.1	Elise LeBoeuf (Vandebilt Catholic)	Simple Majority Tennis schools
III-19	Track & Field (Indoor)	Bylaw 22.5.5	Steven Vrbka (Parkway) / Emmett Beggs (Benton)	Simple Majority Track and Field (Indoor) schools
III-20	Track & Field (Outdoor)	Bylaw 23.3.2-23.4.16	Walt Lemonie (Brusly)	Simple Majority Track and Field (Outdoor) schools
III-21	Track & Field (Outdoor)	Bylaw 23.7.8	Executive Committee	Simple Majority Track and Field (Outdoor) schools



Constitution Article Proposals

2027 Annual Convention General Business Meeting

I. Constitution Article Proposals

<i>Item</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Article/Bylaw</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Voting Designation</i>
I-1	Constitution	Article 7.1.3	Kenneth Henderson (Cedar Creek)	2/3 Vote All membership



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

I-1

Date: 8/30/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Kenneth W. Henderson		Cedar Creek School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☒ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☐ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

7.1.3

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

- 7.1.3** Each member school principal shall represent his/her school at LHSAA meetings. Voting at the annual meeting is restricted to high school principals of each member school, or an authorized voting designee as provided herein. Service as a member of the Executive Committee shall not, by itself, confer any additional or independent voting rights at the Annual Meeting. Each member school shall be entitled to one vote at the Annual Meeting, which shall be exercised by its high school principal or an authorized voting designee. ~~An approved emergency may include, but is not limited to, death, illness, medical and/or health-related issues in the immediate family (proof may be required) and unavoidable extenuating circumstances (full explanation shall be required). School-related business and travel to other professional organizational meetings shall not qualify as an approved emergency. In the absence of the principal due to an emergency that has been approved by the Executive Committee, When the principal is unable to attend the Annual Meeting,~~ the principal may appoint a voting designee. The designee shall be an assistant principal who meets the requirements of a full-time administrator as listed in Section 3, Bylaw 3.3.1 or the school's designated athletic director who meets the requirements in Bylaw 3.3.1.3 and 3.3.1.4 and meets the following additional criteria:
1. Be a current registered member of LHSADA.
 2. Have a minimum of five years' high school coaching and/or athletic director experience.
 3. Be in compliance with Bylaw 3.1.5, LHSAA Handbook Certification, including renewal.
- ~~In addition to these requirements, it is strongly recommended that every athletic director attend the LHSADA annual conference and work toward completion of the national certification through the National Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association(NIAAA).~~

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

7.1.3

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

The purpose of this amendment is to clarify voting rights at the LHSAA Annual Meeting and to ensure that each member school has an equal and clearly defined vote. Section 7.1.3 currently states that voting at the Annual Meeting is restricted to high school principals. However, the LHSAA Executive Committee includes individuals who are not high school principals, including representatives from the State Department of Education, the School Board Association, the Superintendents Association, the Coaches Association, the Athletic Directors Association, and the Officials Association. The Constitution and Bylaws should clearly distinguish between serving on the Executive Committee and exercising the voting rights of an LHSAA member school at the Annual Meeting. This amendment does not restrict or diminish the ability of non-principals to serve on the Executive Committee, participate in deliberations, provide expertise, or perform the responsibilities assigned to them. It simply establishes that service on the Executive Committee does not, by itself, create an additional or independent vote at the Annual Meeting. The amendment further establishes the principle that **each member school is entitled to one vote**. This provides consistency and prevents a member school from potentially exercising more than one vote because an employee or representative of that school also serves on the Executive Committee. The amendment also clarifies that a member school's principal may appoint an authorized voting designee. The **existing emergency language is removed** so that the provision is based on the member school's representation rather than requiring the Executive Committee to determine whether the principal's absence constitutes an approved emergency. The qualifications for an athletic director serving as a voting designee are retained to ensure that the individual representing the school has appropriate experience, professional standing, and LHSAA certification. The intent is to provide a clear, consistent, and equitable voting process while maintaining broad representation and participation on the Executive Committee.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

Pros: (Must have at least one)

1. **Establishes “one member school, one vote.”** This is the central purpose of the amendment. It makes the voting structure unmistakable.
2. **Eliminates the potential for double voting.** If a principal votes for a school and another person associated with that school is allowed to vote because of Executive Committee membership, the school could potentially have two votes. When a proposal is decided by one or two votes, everyone should know exactly who is legally entitled to participate in the vote.
3. **Removes the subjective “approved emergency” determination.** The current language requires the Executive Committee to determine whether a principal's absence qualifies as an emergency. The new language makes the voting rights belong to the **member school** and allows the principal to appoint a qualified designee. The designee still has to meet specific professional qualifications rather than simply being anyone selected by the principal.
4. **Makes the Constitution easier to interpret.** Anyone reading 7.1.3 should be able to determine immediately who gets the vote without having to infer voting rights from Executive Committee provisions elsewhere in the Constitution.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

1. The principal should attend the Annual Meeting and personally exercise the school's vote rather than delegate that responsibility to another administrator.
2. Non-principal members of the Executive Committee are legitimate members of the Association's governing body and should retain the right to participate fully in the Annual Meeting, including voting. Because these individuals represent important constituencies within interscholastic athletics, removing their ability to vote could be viewed as diminishing their role or disenfranchising them as members of the Executive Committee.

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Administrative Bylaw Proposals

2027 Annual Convention General Business Meeting

II. Administrative Bylaw Proposals

<i>Item</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Article/Bylaw</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Voting Designation</i>
II-1	Eligibility	Bylaw 1.3.2, 1.13.3, 1.13.4	Executive Committee	Simple Majority All membership
II-2	Eligibility	Bylaw 1.3.2	Executive Committee	Simple Majority All membership
II-3	Eligibility	Bylaw 1.11.2	Executive Committee	Simple Majority All membership
II-4	Administration	Bylaw 3.1.4, 3.1.5, 3.3.1(3&4)	Jared Cavalier (St. Michael)	Simple Majority All membership
II-5	Administration	Bylaw 3.4.8 & 3.5.1.7	Kenneth Henderson (Cedar Creek)	Simple Majority All membership
II-6	Sports Seasons	Bylaw 4.2.7	Tom Eldringhoff (Catholic High, BR)/ Wes Howard (Denham Springs)	Simple Majority All membership
II-7	Sports Seasons	Bylaw 4.4.3	Jared Cavalier (St. Michael)	Simple Majority All membership
II-8	Athletic Contests	Bylaw 6.13.12	Elise LeBoeuf (Vandebilt Catholic) / Rusty Farrar (Ouachita Parish)	Simple Majority All membership
II-9	Athletic Contests	Bylaw 6.23.1	Elise LeBoeuf (Vandebilt Catholic) / Ryan Gallagher (Brother Martin)	Simple Majority All membership
II-10	Officials	Bylaw 8.3.1	Chris Jones (Choudrant) / Tiffany Holt (Pitkin)	Simple Majority All membership



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws II-1

Date: 08/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Executive Committee		

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☒ Administrative Bylaws ☐ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaws 1.3.2, 1.13.3, 1.13.4

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

~~1.3.2 9th Grade School of First Choice~~ A 9th grade student entering high school for the 1st time shall establish his/her eligibility at any LHSAA school of their choice and shall be immediately eligible for all sports at all levels, unless the student signs the 8th Grade Participation Form. Once eligibility is established, they shall be a bona fide student at the school of first choice, and if a student transfers to another LHSAA school after establishing a school of first choice, then all Transfer Students rules shall apply.

1.13.3 Transfers Within the Athletic Attendance Zone: If at any time a student transfers from one member school to another member school in the same attendance zone, the student shall become immediately ineligible for varsity athletics for a period of one calendar year from the date of enrollment/attendance in the second school. Students ~~in 10th or 11th grades~~ and not in their senior year shall remain eligible for sub-varsity athletics. The student may be eligible at his/her school of first choice in the attendance zone. A transfer student will be ineligible for a period of one calendar year at the new school unless he/she transfers under one of the following exceptions:

1.13.4 Outside the Athletic Attendance Zone: Any student who attends a school outside his/her athletic attendance zone shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic Varsity athletics, but will be eligible for sub-varsity at that school for a period of one calendar year from his/her first day of attendance unless he/she transfers under one of the following exceptions:

1. A student ~~in 10th or 11th grades and~~ not in their senior year who is transferring outside his/her athletic attendance zone shall be eligible to participate at the sub-varsity level.
2. The student continuously attended the entire 7th and/or 8th grades at a middle/junior high school of that same member school or school system located outside of his/her athletic attendance zone. The school shall be required to register and certify the student's eligibility status on the Members' Only website.
3. Students who have been accepted into a program and attend the school at the first opportunity (9th grade), should be granted full participation after verification of acceptance. Students should meet all requirements of acceptance into the program.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

This proposal removes the 9th grade rule of first choice and moves the handbook back to what was previously in the 25-26 Handbook.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Schools have the opportunity to revert back to the previous rule.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

Does not allow students in 9th grade a school of 1st choice.

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws II-2

Date: 08/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Executive Committee		

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☒ Administrative Bylaws ☐ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaw 1.3.2

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

1.3.2 9th Grade School of First Choice – A 9th-grade student entering high school for the 1st time shall establish his/her eligibility at any LHSAA school of their choice and shall be immediately eligible for all sports at all levels, unless **a recruiting violation has occurred or** the student signs the 8th Grade Participation Form. Exception: Students who signed the 8th grade participation form may be eligible to participate in sub-varsity only. Once eligibility is established, they shall be a bona fide student at the school of first choice, and if a student transfers to another LHSAA school after establishing a school of first choice, then all Transfer Students rules shall apply.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

This proposal is needed to ensure that undue influence does not occur when a 9th grade student is making their school of 1st choice.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

- Ensure any recruitment will be penalized.
- Students are not influenced to attend a current school when making their 1st choice.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- Students/Schools will be penalized if recruiting does occur.

DEADLINE: Forms are due **August 31, 2026**. Email the completed form as a **word document** to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on **September 9, 2026**.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

II-3

Date: 08/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Executive Committee		

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☒ Administrative Bylaws ☐ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaws 1.11.2

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

1.11.2 **Second Semester Eligibility:** To be eligible for the second semester of the school year, a student must enroll in and successfully pass **at least six (6) subjects from the first semester.** ~~the number of courses that will allow him/her to earn a minimum of 3 Carnegie credits for the first semester. Note: This can be accomplished by earning any combination of Carnegie units. Six (6) one half (.5) Carnegie credits will meet this requirement.~~

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

This proposal changes a student from receiving Carnegie units to passing 6 subjects due to some courses not receiving Carnegie credits after the 1st semester.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Schools that don't record credit on the transcript until after the second semester will not penalize student eligibility after the first semester.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

Credit does not have to be earned to create 2nd semester eligibility.

DEADLINE: Forms are due **August 31, 2026**. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on **September 9, 2026**.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws II-4

Date: 8-31-26

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Jared Cavalier		St. Michael High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☒ Administrative Bylaws ☐ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

3.1.4, 3.1.5, 3.3.1(3&4)

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

3.1.4 Member schools are required to have an on-site administrator ~~and/or~~ athletic director, and/or assistant/associate athletic director who has attended and completed an in-service on the transfer and other eligibility rules. Such on-site personnel are required to attend a renewal every three years. Failure to comply shall result in the school being fined \$500 and may result in the school being declared ineligible for postseason play in all sports.

3.1.5 All newly appointed principals ~~and~~ athletic directors, and assistant/associate athletic directors shall successfully complete the LHSAA Handbook Certification Course within three months of being named to the position. Schools would be limited to 2 assistant/associate athletic directors. All new first-time head coaches shall successfully complete the LHSAA Handbook Certification course prior to the first day of practice of the sport in which they have been named head coach. This rule does not apply to someone who has previously served in one of these capacities at a member school.

3.3.1 A faculty coach of an athletic team shall be employed by the school's school board and shall be assigned coaching duties by the board or the school principal. The individual shall hold the position of teacher, administrator, athletic director, assistant/associate athletic director, dean of students, librarian, or school counselor or a combination of these responsibilities on a full-time basis by the school system. In all cases, the individual shall be required to be physically present and work at his/her school(s) during the entire school day during the school's normal hours of operation. The normal hours of operation shall be considered the time the school begins classes for the school day until the actual end of the school day for the majority of regularly enrolled students. This individual's name shall be submitted as a school administrator or professional school counselor on its annual school report submitted to the LDOE for the current school year. Each category of individuals who can serve as a faculty coach is further defined in the following bylaws. Only individuals meeting the requirements specified can serve as a faculty coach at a member school in the sports of football and boys' and girls' basketball.

3.3.1.3 Full-time athletic director assistant/associate athletic director assigned teaching duties: shall be eligible to coach at the school provided he/she is a full-time, on-site employee of the school or school system and meets the requirements of a full-time teacher.

3.3.1.4. Full-time athletic directors assistant/associate athletic directors not assigned teaching duties: shall be eligible to coach at the school, provided he/she has a valid teaching certificate issued by the LDOE or has an applicable graduate degree in educational leadership and meets the applicable administrative provisions published in Bulletin 741 (Public and Non-public) as adopted by BESE for public and non-public schools. A school shall be limited to one full-time athletic director for boys' sports and one full-time athletic director for girls' sports that may serve as a faculty coach. Any exceptions to the above criteria must be approved in writing by the LHSAA Executive Committee.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

3.1.4, 3.1.5, 3.3.1



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

Many schools already have assistant athletic directors helping with LHSAA and sporting event logistics. By adding them to the list of approved game day supervisors it allows them to expand their role, while also helping carry some of the weight of administrators/AD's attending so many events. As we continue to add more games, teams, and sports the need for qualified administrators will keep going up.

Pros: *(Must have at least one)*

Will help ensure experienced and knowledgeable coverage at all events while easing some of the burden from administrations. It will also allow assistants to grow their involvement in the administrative side of eligibility and administrative logistics.

Cons: *(Must have at least one)*

Schools may have to create new stipends to cover the new positions they create

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws II-5

Date: 8/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Kenneth W. Henderson		Cedar Creek School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☒ Administrative Bylaws ☐ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

3.4.8 & 3.5.1.7

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

- 3.4.8 Retired coaches holding a Lifetime card and College Interns/Student Teacher Coaches shall be considered non-faculty coaches and shall not be included in the number of non-faculty coaches allowed per sport and the total of non-faculty coaches allowed per school year.
- 3.5.1.7 A student coach who meets all requirements of Rule 3.5 shall be considered a separate category of non-faculty coaches and shall not count toward the maximum number of non-faculty coaches permitted per sport or the total number of non-faculty coaches permitted per school year under Rule 3.4.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

3.4.8 & 3.5

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

The purpose of Rule 3.5 is to provide college students who are pursuing coaching as a profession with an opportunity to obtain meaningful practical experience working within a secondary school athletic program.

Student coaches who meet the requirements of Rule 3.5 should therefore remain a separate category from the non-faculty/CECP coaches whose numbers are restricted under Rule 3.4. Counting a qualified student coach against a school's limited number of non-faculty coaching positions creates a conflict with the educational and professional-development purpose of Rule 3.5. A school would understandably be more likely to use one of its limited coaching positions for a qualified adult rather than for a college student seeking supervised coaching experience.

The proposed clarification does not create an unlimited coaching category. Student coaches would remain subject to the specific eligibility, supervision, and duration requirements established in Rule 3.5. The amendment simply makes clear that a student coach who satisfies those requirements does not consume one of the limited non-faculty/CECP coaching positions established by Rule 3.4.

This clarification is also consistent with the longstanding interpretation of the rule. During previous administrations of the LHSAA, qualified student coaches serving under Rule 3.5 were not counted toward the maximum number of non-faculty/CECP coaches permitted under Rule 3.4. That interpretation was communicated through CECP certification training, although it was not expressly incorporated into the Handbook.

The purpose of this amendment is therefore not to create a new benefit for schools, but to codify a longstanding interpretation and eliminate ambiguity in the Handbook.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

Pros: *(Must have at least one)*

- 1. Preserves the educational purpose of Rule 3.5.** Rule 3.5 was created to give college students pursuing a career in education, athletics, sports administration, or coaching meaningful, supervised experience in a high school athletic program. If these students count against a school's limited CECP positions, schools may choose experienced adult coaches instead, reducing the opportunity Rule 3.5 was designed to provide.
- 2. Codifies the interpretation used by the previous two Executive Directors and eliminates ambiguity.** During the tenure of the previous two LHSAA Executive Directors, qualified student coaches serving under Rule 3.5 were not counted against Rule 3.4 non-faculty coaching limits. Clarifying the rule would put that interpretation into the Handbook and eliminate the need for schools to rely on an unwritten interpretation or seek individual rulings from the Association.
- 3. Student coaches are already subject to significant limitations and safeguards.** Rule 3.5 does not provide an unlimited coaching exception. Student coaches must meet CECP requirements, receive university approval, be registered with the LHSAA, work under the direct supervision of a qualified faculty coach, may not serve as a head coach, are limited to **two per sport and eight per school year**, and may serve for a maximum of two years. Because these coaches are already separately regulated and restricted, they should not also consume one of the limited CECP positions established under Rule 3.4.

Cons: *(Must have at least one)*

- 1.** Excluding Rule 3.5 student coaches from Rule 3.4 totals could increase the overall number of coaches associated with a school.

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws II-6

Date: 8.26.2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Tom Eldringhoff		Catholic High School
Wes Howard		Denham Springs High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☒ Administrative Bylaws ☐ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaw 4.2.7

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

Bylaw 4.2.7 If a majority of the team members from the same school participate on an independent team, the team cannot be coached by a faculty member or non-faculty coach of that school. A coach may coach an independent team during the out of season period if the teams consists of no more than the following number of team members from the same school.

1. Basketball – 3
2. Baseball – 5
3. Softball – 5
- ~~4. Soccer – 6~~
5. Volleyball – 3

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

4.2.7

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

LHSAA rules allow school soccer teams to practice together throughout the year. However, when those same student-athletes participate in an out-of-season club league, Bylaw 4.2.7 limits a school coach to coaching no more than six players from the same school. This creates an unnecessary inconsistency: a coach may train the full school team but cannot coach those players together when they participate in actual club competition. Removing the soccer limitation from Bylaw 4.2.7 would resolve this conflict and allow players who may already practice together to compete together in an independent or club league during the out-of-season period.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

- Eliminates an inconsistency between year round team practice rules and out of season club competition rules.
- Allows student-athletes who practice together to compete together under the same coach.
- Better reflects the roster size and competitive structure of soccer.
- Expands opportunities for player development through meaningful competition.
- Simplifies compliance for coaches, schools, players, and club programs.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- Some schools may have greater access to organized club leagues than others.
- Coaches and administrators would still need to ensure that participation remains voluntary and complies with all other LHSAA rules.

DEADLINE: Forms are due **August 31, 2026**. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on **September 9, 2026**.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws II-7

Date:

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Jared Cavalier		St. Michael High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☐ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

4.4.3

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

4.4.3 Schools that share the same attendance zone with another LHSAA school shall not allow any of its coaches to conduct practice and/or strength or conditioning sessions with any middle/junior high school student(s) attending any middle/junior high school located inside or outside the school's attendance zone during the school year unless that middle/junior high is a part of the same member school, school system's designated feeder school, or the member school has on file the 8th Grade Student Spring Practice Participation/Tryout Commitment Form signed by one or both parents and student explaining to them that once the student participates in practice/tryouts with that school, that school shall become the student's school of eligibility. However, if the student subsequently transfers to another LHSAA member school the student shall only be eligible to participate at the sub-varsity level at the receiving school, subject to all other applicable eligibility requirements.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

Currently a freshman that attends a school that doesn't share an attendance zone can transfer prior to or during their freshman year and retain some eligibility. However a student that chooses a school that shares an attendance zone has no eligibility, even at the sub-varsity level, should they choose to transfer to another school even if it is done before the school year begins. The 8th grade spring/summer participation form needs to be amended so it is not so punitive against some 9th grader. Any other grade 10-11th student that participates in all the same activities can transfer as well and have at least sub-varsity eligibility. This will create a level playing field for transfers.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Cons: (Must have at least one)

Allows 9th graders the option to play at least sub-varsity if they transfer.

None

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

II-8

Date: August 24, 2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Elise LeBoeuf		Vandebilt Catholic High School
Rusty Farrar		West Ouachita High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

6.13.12 - Athletic Contests

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

6.13.12 In the sports where playoff brackets are based on 'select' and 'non-select' (baseball, girls and boys basketball, football, and softball), divisions in those sports shall be established in the following manner:

1. All schools classified as 5A in a classification year and any school choosing to play up will be Division I.
A. This will apply to Division I Select and Non-Select schools.
2. All other schools that are classified as 4A through 1A in a classification year shall be divided by 3 and put in Divisions II, III, and IV as evenly as possible.
 - A. This will be done by grouping all Select schools and dividing by 3 and then by grouping all Non-Select schools and dividing by 3.
 - B. This calculation shall be based on the total number of schools, not based on each individual sport.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

6.13.12

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

Schools in 3A choosing to play in 4A are still playing in Division II for playoffs. Schools in 3A may desire to participate in 4A in order to play teams geographically closer to them, which would in turn reduce costs for travel, reduce travel time, and reduce instructional time missed due to extended travel required. Because 3A and 4A teams compete in Division II for post-season play.

Number 1. A is a clarification for division I. This does NOT change anything for any division.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- Clarifies terminology on an amendment from 2026	- Only affects Division II
---	----------------------------

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

II-9

Date: August 24,
2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Elise LeBoeuf		Vandebilt Catholic High School
Ryan Gallagher		Brother Martin High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

6.23.1 - Athletic Contests

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

6.23.1 Artificial noisemakers, including, but not limited to, such items as bells, horns, drums, jam boxes, amplifiers, and/or megaphones, shall be prohibited in any indoor facility while an interscholastic contest is being played. Artificial noisemakers, including, but not limited to, such items as bells, horns, drums, jam boxes, amplifiers, and/or megaphones, shall be prohibited in any outdoor facility hosting the baseball or softball state tournament games. Artificial noisemakers do not include items providing warm up music under the team(s) supervision or instruments used by an organized stage or pep band if approved by the host principal. Authorized pep bands shall not be permitted to play at any time and in any manner while the ball is "alive."

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

6.23.1

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

With the proximity to the field of play and the nature of the facilities hosting the baseball and softball state tournaments, the sound created by noisemakers is exacerbated in comparison to other outdoor facilities. This diminishes the championship atmosphere, distracts from the student athletes' ability to perform at a high level, and limits the clear communication necessary between coaches, players, and officials on the field.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

- Aligns the tournament experience with other indoor championship standards, ensuring a fair, focused, and enjoyable environment for all participating teams and spectators

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- Limits an experience previously allowed at state tournaments for these two sports

DEADLINE: Forms are due **August 31, 2026**. Email the completed form as a **word document** to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on **September 9, 2026**.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

II-10

Date: 8/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Chris Jones		Choudrant
Tiffany Holt		Pitkin

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☒ Administrative Bylaws ☐ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

8.3.1

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

8.3.1 Registered Officials

1. Must be registered with the LHSAA and a local association.
2. Must make 70% or above on the LHSAA test to work varsity games.
3. Must work at least ten freshmen or junior varsity games before working varsity.
4. Shall not work past the first week of playoffs in any sport, **except for the sport of baseball.**

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

To allow for more baseball officials to umpire playoff games with the possibility of more Divisions/Classes moving to 2/3 series.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

1. Would help to solve the umpire shortage for playoff contests past the first round.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

1. The quality of the officiating could suffer some but it would be acceptable to get more 2/3 series for smaller schools.

DEADLINE: Forms are due **August 31, 2026**. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on **September 9, 2026**.



Athletic Bylaw Proposals

2027 Annual Convention General Business Meeting

III. Athletic Bylaw Proposals

<i>Item</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Article/Bylaw</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Voting Designation</i>
III-1	Baseball	Bylaw 10.1-10.14	Kenneth Henderson (Cedar Creek)	Simple Majority Baseball schools
III-2	Baseball	Bylaw 10.2.1	Chris Jones (Choudrant) / Tiffany Holt (Pitkin)	Simple Majority Baseball schools
III-3	Baseball	Bylaw 10.9.2	John Robert Warner (Oak Grove) / Teri Howe (Ruston)	Simple Majority Baseball schools
III-4	Baseball	Bylaw 10.11.1- 10.13.10	Chris Jones (Choudrant) / Tiffany Holt (Pitkin)	Simple Majority Baseball schools – Class B Meeting
III-5	Baseball	Bylaw 10.11.1- 10.13.10	John Robert Warner (Oak Grove) / Matt Citron (Opelousas Catholic)	Simple Majority Baseball schools
III-6	Baseball	Bylaw 10.11.3	Chris Jones (Choudrant) / Tiffany Holt (Pitkin)	Simple Majority Baseball schools
III-7	Baseball	Bylaw 10.12.5	Marty Cannon (St. Thomas More)	Simple Majority Baseball schools
III-8	Basketball	Bylaw 11.1-11.8.5	Marty Cannon (St. Thomas More)	Simple Majority Basketball schools
III-9	Basketball	Bylaw 11.8.4	John Robert Warner (Oak Grove) / Teri Howe (Ruston)	Simple Majority Basketball schools
III-10	Football	Bylaw 14.3.1	Shane Smith (Franklinton) / Freddie Harrison (LCCP)	Simple Majority Football schools
III-11	Football	Bylaw 14.11.4	John Robert Warner (Oak Grove) / Teri Howe (Ruston)	Simple Majority Football schools
III-12	Powerlifting	Bylaw 17.5.6	Tom Eldringhoff (Catholic High, BR)/ Wes Howard (Denham Springs)	Simple Majority Powerlifting schools
III-13	Soccer	Bylaw 18.3.1, 18.15.1-2, 18.6.1	Steven Moore (Grace Christian)	Simple Majority Soccer schools
III-14	Softball	Bylaw 19.1-19.11.4	Kenneth Henderson (Cedar Creek)	Simple Majority Softball schools

<i>Item</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Article/Bylaw</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Voting Designation</i>
III-15	Softball	Bylaw 19.9.5	John Robert Warner (Oak Grove) / Teri Howe (Ruston)	Simple Majority Softball schools
III-16	Tennis	Bylaw 21.1-21.9.3	Marty Cannon (St. Thomas More) / Karari Hanks (Neville)	Simple Majority Tennis schools
III-17	Tennis	Bylaw 21.5-21.5.5	Dana P. Bourgeois (Ascension Christian)	Simple Majority Tennis schools
III-18	Tennis	Bylaw 21.9.1	Elise LeBoeuf (Vandebilt Catholic)	Simple Majority Tennis schools
III-19	Track & Field (Indoor)	Bylaw 22.5.5	Steven Vrbka (Parkway) / Emmett Beggs (Benton)	Simple Majority Track and Field (Indoor) schools
III-20	Track & Field (Outdoor)	Bylaw 23.3.2-23.4.16	Walt Lemonie (Brusly)	Simple Majority Track and Field (Outdoor) schools
III-21	Track & Field (Outdoor)	Bylaw 23.7.8	Executive Committee	Simple Majority Track and Field (Outdoor) schools



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-1

Date: 8/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Kenneth W. Henderson	<i>K.W. Henderson</i>	Cedar Creek School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

10.1, 10.3, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9, 10.10, 10.11, 10.12, 10.13, and 10.14

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a

bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

10.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2026-2027 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, August 10, 2026 – Sunday, January 10, 2026	6 th – 28 th	Weight training/conditioning is permitted. No practice/contests are allowed.
Wednesday, April 28, 2027 – Sunday, May 1, 2027	43 rd	Round 1 Playoff Games (Division I, II, & III <u>I-VI</u>) Scrimmage Series (Division IV, Class B & C <u>VII</u>)
Tuesday, May 4, 2027 – Saturday, May 8, 2027	44 th	Round 2 Playoff Games (Division I, II, & III <u>I-VI</u>) Round 1 Playoff Games (Division IV, Class B & C <u>VII</u>)
Tuesday, May 11, 2027 – Saturday, May 15, 2027	45 th	Round 3 Playoff Games (Division I, II, & III <u>I-VI</u>) Round 2 Playoff Games (Division IV, Class B & C <u>VII</u>)
Tuesday, May 18, 2027 – Saturday, May 22, 2027	46 th	Round 4 Semifinal Games (Division I, II, & III <u>I-VI</u>) Round 3 Playoff Games (Division IV, Class B & C <u>VII</u>)

~~10.3 GENERAL Schools shall compete in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, B and C and shall compete in districts as adopted by the LHSAA Executive Committee. The schools in each district shall consist of both select and non-select admission schools.~~

~~10.3.1 For playoff competition, Class B and Class C shall be placed in separate brackets according to classes as approved by classification.~~

10.3 GENERAL - Schools shall be divided into seven equal or nearly equal divisions and compete in Divisions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, and VII. Baseball divisions shall be based on a school's October 1 enrollment that is certified to the LHSAA under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the Constitution Enrollment Calculation. Counting to achieve equal sevenths shall begin with the lowest and end with highest baseball school enrollment. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line shall play in the lower division. A school may elect to compete in a higher division by submitting a written declaration to the LHSAA by noon on the day of the first classification meeting in a classification year. This declaration will remain in effect for the following two years. Schools shall compete in districts as adopted by the LHSAA Executive Committee.

10.6 DISTRICT PLAY – No Change

10.7 REPORTING TEAMS FOR PLAYOFF COMPETITION – No Change

10.8 QUALIFYING PROGRAM

10.8.1 Qualifying teams shall be allotted to each class and division as follows:

NON-SELECT DIVISIONS/CLASS	QUALIFIERS	SELECT DIVISIONS	QUALIFIERS	DIVISIONS	QUALIFIERS
I	24	I	20	<u>I</u>	<u>32</u>
II	24	II	20	<u>II</u>	<u>32</u>
III	24	III	20	<u>III</u>	<u>32</u>
IV	24	IV	20	<u>IV</u>	<u>32</u>



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

B	20			<u>V</u>	<u>32</u>
C	20			<u>VI</u>	<u>32</u>
				<u>VII</u>	<u>32</u>

If a bye(s) on the bracket exists due to any qualifiers not being represented from a district, the bye(s) shall be filled using the remaining teams from those being considered for wildcard.

10.8.2 No Change

10.8.3 No Change

10.9 SEEDING THE BRACKET - In ~~Non-Select Divisions I – IV~~ VII, all teams shall be seeded 1-24 32 according to their power rating, and ~~Class B and C teams shall be seeded 1-20. In Select Divisions I – IV, teams shall be seeded 1-20 according to their power rating.~~

10.9.1 No Change

10.10 DETERMINING POWER RATING

10.10.1 The power rating for each school shall be determined as follows:

RESULT OF CONTEST	ADD	ADD
Win (20 points)	N/A	Opponent's Wins
Same Class & Division	Add 2 points for each Class & Division up	Opponent's Wins
Higher Class & Division	N/A	Opponent's Wins
Lower Class & Division		
Loss (0 points)	N/A	Opponent's Wins
Same Class & Division	Add 2 points for each Class & Division up	Opponent's Wins
Higher Class & Division	N/A	Opponent's Wins
Lower Class & Division		
Add 1 point to team that defeated both teams forfeiting		Opponent's Wins
Add ½ point if opponents have a tie		Opponent's Wins

10.10.2 No Change

10.10.3 No Change

10.11 PLAYOFFS –NON-SELECT

10.11.1 All playoff games shall be played on a "home and away" basis through the semifinals for Divisions I-VI. All playoff games shall be played on a "home and away" basis through the quarterfinal round for Division ~~IV, Class B, and Class C~~ VII.

10.11.2 No Change

10.11.3 No Change

10.11.4 If a playoff game is postponed because of inclement weather, darkness, or some other approved unforeseen reason, the Executive Director may grant an extension for the game. If the Executive Director grants the exception, the following shall apply:

1. No Change

2. No Change

3. No Change

4. No Change

5. No Change

6. In Divisions I ~~II, and III~~ -VI, in the rounds of play that are decided by a best two out of three series, the following guidelines shall apply:

a. No Change

b. No Change

c. No Change

10.11.5 The playoff system for Divisions I, ~~II, and III~~ -VI, shall be as follows:

1. No Change

2. No Change

3. No Change

4. No Change



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

5. No Change

10.11.6 Any division or class that has a bye in their bracket has the opportunity to play an "Exhibition" game with another team that has a 'bye' on its bracket. Division ~~IV, Class B and Class C~~ **VII** schools that qualify for playoff competition shall be allowed to play a three-game exhibition series during the NFHS 41st week. All exhibition games must be played before their first game in the playoffs.

10.12 ~~PLAYOFF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS —NON-SELECT~~

10.12.1 No Change

10.12.2 No Change

10.12.3 No Change

10.12.4 No Change

10.12.5 No Change

10.13 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

10.13.1 No Change

10.13.2 Division ~~IV, Class B and C~~ **VII** Quarterfinal winners shall play for the state championship in a single-elimination tournament. Divisions ~~I, II, and III~~ **-VI**, semifinal winners shall play for the state championship in a best two of three series.

10.13.3 No Change

10.13.4 No Change

10.13.5 No Change

10.13.6 No Change

10.13.7 No Change

10.13.8 No Change

10.13.9 No Change

10.14 **State Playoffs - Select** (Delete the entire sections as it is no longer valid.)

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

10.1, 10.3, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9, 10.10, 10.11, 10.12, 10.13, and 10.14

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

This proposal is intended to **bring LHSAA baseball back together** under one classification and playoff system for all member schools. It eliminates the separate select and non-select baseball structures, as well as the separate Class B and Class C playoff brackets and places all baseball schools into seven divisions based primarily on enrollment.

With approximately **351 schools currently playing baseball**, seven divisions would consist of approximately **50 schools per division**. Each division would have a 32-team playoff bracket, meaning approximately 2/3rds of the schools in each division would have an opportunity to compete for a state championship. This provides a meaningful postseason opportunity while still requiring teams to qualify through a district championship or the established power-rating system.

The proposal creates a **legitimate and consistent state championship structure**. Each division would have one state champion, and every school would compete for that championship under the same basic rules regardless of whether it is a select or non-select school.

Most importantly, the proposal **reduces the number of baseball state championships from ten to seven** which is how many championships the LHSAA had prior to the split. Rather than maintaining separate championships for select and non-select schools and additional Class B and Class C championships, the proposal creates seven enrollment-based state championships. This provides a clearer and more meaningful definition of what it means to be a Louisiana state champion in baseball.

The proposal also brings baseball into greater alignment with the classification structure already used in track, cross country, soccer and other LHSAA sports, where schools compete in enrollment-based divisions rather than separate select and non-select



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

classifications. If this proposal and the corresponding softball proposal are adopted, basketball and football would be the only remaining LHSAA sports using separate class-based structures.

The proposal also recognizes the current playoff format in baseball. **Division IV, V, & VI are being added to the best-two-out-of-three format because the current Division IV and Class B schools have indicated a desire to participate in a best-two-out-of-three series.**

Finally, the proposal maintains flexibility by allowing a school to elect to compete in a higher division for a two-year period. This provides schools with an option when they believe a higher level of competition is appropriate while maintaining stability in the classification system.

Pros: *(Must have at least one)*

1. **Brings baseball back together.** All baseball schools would compete in one unified classification system based on enrollment rather than being separated by select and non-select status.
2. **Reduces state championships from 10 to 7 while creating legitimate championships.** Approximately 351 schools would be divided into six divisions of roughly 50 schools each. A 32-team playoff gives approximately 2/3rds of the schools an opportunity to compete for a championship.
3. **Aligns baseball with the majority of LHSAA sports.** The proposal brings baseball in line with track, cross country, soccer and other sports that already use unified enrollment-based divisions.
4. **Preserves the best-two-out-of-three format where appropriate.** Adding all but Division VII recognizes the desire of all schools except for the smallest schools to compete in a best-two-out-of-three format.
5. **Simplifies the overall LHSAA classification structure.** If baseball and softball both move to unified divisions, basketball and football would be the only remaining sports using separate class-based structures.

Cons: *(Must have at least one)*

1. **Some schools will lose a separate select or non-select championship opportunity.** Schools accustomed to competing for a championship within their own classification may view the unified structure as a loss of opportunity. The response is that the proposal does not eliminate championship opportunities; it creates seven enrollment-based state championships open to all baseball schools.
2. **Some schools may face stronger competition.** Combining select and non-select schools could create more challenging playoff matchups. However, the enrollment-based divisions, power-rating system and ability to elect to move up provide mechanisms to maintain competitive balance and flexibility.

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-2

Date: 8/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Chris Jones		Choudrant
Tiffany Holt		Pitkin

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☒ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

10.2.1

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

10.2.1 Pre-Season:

1. There will be a mandatory two day dead period ~~the Friday and Saturday of the 28th week~~ for the purpose of allowing coaches to attend the Louisiana Baseball Coaches Association Convention for the 2 days of the Convention.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

1. To clear up language about the timing of the Louisiana Baseball Coaches Association Convention.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Cons: (Must have at least one)

1. Tryouts will no longer be limited and will be up to the principal's discretion.

1. There will be no set period for tryouts.

DEADLINE: Forms are due **August 31, 2026**. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on **September 9, 2026**.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-3

Date: 7/20/26

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
John Robert Warner	John Robert Warner	Oak Grove High School
Teri Lowe	Teri Lowe	Ruston High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaw 10.9.2 (new)

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a

bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

10.9.2-Playoff Reseeding

All playoff brackets shall be reseeded following the completion of each playoff round.

Following the completion of each round:

- The remaining playoff teams shall be ranked according to their original LHSAA Seeding.
- The highest remaining seed shall play the lowest remaining seed.
- The second-highest remaining seed shall play the second-lowest remaining seed.
- This process shall continue until all playoff pairings for that round have been determined.
- The higher remaining seed shall host the contest in accordance with existing LHSAA home-site playoff procedures.
- This reseeding process shall occur following each round of the playoffs until the state championship participants have been determined.

All original LHSAA Seeding established at the conclusion of the regular season shall remain unchanged throughout the duration of the playoffs.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

The LHSAA Power Ranking System was created to reward schools for their performance throughout the regular season. Under the current playoff structure, those rankings determine playoff qualification, seeding, and home-field advantage, but once the bracket is set, upsets elsewhere can diminish the benefit of earning a higher seed. This proposal preserves the value of regular-season performance by ensuring that the highest remaining seed always receives the lowest remaining seed after each playoff round. This proposal does not change the Power Ranking formula, playoff qualification process, or home-field advantage. It simply continues to reward teams for earning a higher seed throughout the postseason. Professional leagues, including the NFL, utilize this playoff format. Additionally, with a static bracket, the higher seed does not guarantee extra time to prepare, as upsets could change who teams play. This levels the playing field for all teams.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Rewards regular-season excellence throughout the entire postseason. Preserves the integrity of the LHSAA Power Ranking System. Ensures every regular-season game remains meaningful. The highest remaining seed always receives the lowest remaining seed. Eliminates situations where bracket upsets unintentionally create an easier path. Requires no changes to the existing Power Ranking formula. Requires no additional playoff games or rounds. Maintains the current home-field advantage procedures.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

Future playoff opponents cannot be determined until each playoff round has concluded.
Travel assignments may change from what would have occurred under a fixed bracket.
The LHSAA would need to publish updated playoff pairings after each round.

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-4

Date: 8/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Chris Jones		Choudrant
Tiffany Holt		Pitkin

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

10.11.1 10.11.4 10.11.5 10.11.6 10.13.2 10.13.10

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

- 10.11.1 All playoff games shall be played on a "home and away" basis through the quarterfinal round for Division IV, ~~Class B~~, and Class C.
- 10.11.4
6. In Divisions I, II, ~~and~~ III, and Class B in the rounds of play that are decided by a best two out of three series, the following guidelines shall apply:
- 10.11.5 The playoff system for Divisions I, II, ~~and~~ III, and Class B shall be as follows:
- 10.11.6 Any division or class that has a bye in their bracket has the opportunity to play an "Exhibition" game with another team that has a 'bye' on its bracket. Division IV, ~~Class B~~ and Class C schools that qualify for playoff competition shall be allowed to play a three-game exhibition series during the NFHS 41st week. All exhibition games must be played before their first game in the playoffs.
- 10.13.2 Division IV, ~~Class B~~ and C Quarterfinal winners shall play for the state championship in a single-elimination tournament. Divisions I, II, ~~and~~ III, and Class B semifinal winners shall play for the state championship in a best two of three series.
- 10.13.10 Additionally, Division IV, ~~Class B~~ and Class C shall receive \$200 for a semi-final game played and \$300 for a final game played. Divisions I, II ~~and~~ III, and Class B shall receive \$333 per game played.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

10.11.1 10.11.4 10.11.5 10.11.6 10.13.2 10.13.10

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

- To allow Class B schools to have two out of three series in all rounds of the playoffs. A LBCA survey of Class B coaches resulted in a 18-3 vote in favor on playoff series by those coaches that participated. The amendment could be facilitated by utilizing Field 37 at Sulphur Parks and Rec on Thursday - Saturday like Division I, II, and III and possibly Division IV and Class B.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- Creates equity with other Divisions - Favors overall best TEAM - Enhances the experience of players and fan attendance without games early in the week	Possible officials shortage, which can be remedied by having 2 man umpiring crews and having an expanded eligible umpire pool
--	---

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-5

Date: 8/29/26

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
John Robert Warner		Oak Grove High School
Matt Citron		Opelousas Catholic School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

10.11.1, 10.11.4 #6, 10.11.5, 10.11.6, 10.13.2, 10.13.10

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

10.11.1

All playoff games shall be played on a "home and away" basis through the quarterfinal round for ~~Division IV~~, Class B, and Class C.

10.11.4

In Divisions I, II, III, and IV, in the rounds of play that are decided by a best two out of three series, the following guidelines shall apply:" (6)

10.11.5

The playoff system for Divisions I, II, III, and IV shall be as follows:"

10.11.6

Any division or class that has a bye in their bracket has the opportunity to play an 'Exhibition' game... ~~Division IV~~, Class B and Class C schools that qualify for playoff competition shall be allowed to play a three-game exhibition series..."

10.13.2

~~Division IV~~, Class B and C Quarterfinal winners shall play for the state championship in a single-elimination tournament. Divisions I, II, III, and IV semifinal winners shall play for the state championship in a best two of three series."

10.13.10

Additionally, ~~Division IV~~, Class B, and Class C shall receive \$200 for a semi-final game played and \$300 for a final game played. Divisions I, II, III, and IV shall receive \$333 per game played.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

10.11.1, 10.11.4 #6, 10.11.5, 10.11.6, 10.13.2, 10.13.10

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

To allow Division IV schools to have two out of three series in all rounds of the playoffs. An LBCA survey resulted in a 23-2 result in favor. Division IV Select schools had previously passed and played the 2/3 series in the past, but this was removed when the new definition of Select schools was instituted. This amendment could be facilitated by using Field 37 at Sulphur Parks and Rec in conjunction with Divisions I, II, and III in the same weekend to give Division IV the same opportunity.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Cons: (Must have at least one)

1. Creates equity: Division IV follows the same format as Divisions I-III.
2. Favors the overall best team rather than a single dominant pitcher.

Possible shortage of umpires (can be addressed with weekday scheduling, two-umpire crews in early rounds, and/or expanded umpire pools)

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2025. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 17, 2025.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-6

Date: 8/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Chris Jones		Choudrant
Tiffany Holt		Pitkin

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

10.11.3

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

10.11.3 In "home and away" games, both schools shall mutually agree on the playing date and time of the contest. If the date of the game cannot be reached by mutual agreement, the game shall be played on the deadline cited in Bylaw 10.1, "Important Dates" section. If the game time cannot be reached by mutual agreement, the starting time shall be 3:30 p.m. Playoff games shall not be played on dates that conflict with district, regional, or state track and field meets without mutual agreement of both schools. In any Division or Class that has a two out of three series format, if the date/times of the games cannot be reached by mutual agreement, the series shall be played on the Friday and Saturday of the weekend that corresponds to that round. The Friday game time will be 6:00 (4:00 if there are no lights) and the Saturday possible doubleheader will begin at noon.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

1. To set dates and times in the handbook for any series that the dates and times cannot be agreed upon. Home and away had set times for this, but there was no default for 2/3 series if no agreement can be reached.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Cons: (Must have at least one)

1. Gives the LHSAA a concrete basis for game times and dates that did not exist before.

1. Does not address weather issues and re-scheduling.

DEADLINE: Forms are due **August 31, 2026**. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on **September 9, 2026**.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-7

Date: 8/20/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Marty Cannon		St. Thomas More

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaw 10.12.5

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

- 10.12.5 Financial Arrangements (all Divisions, regional and quarterfinal rounds of play)
1. Admission Prices shall be set by mutual agreement of the participating schools.
 2. The home team retains the rights to 100% of concession sales and souvenir program sales.
 3. Disbursement of revenue from gross ticket receipts shall be divided equally among schools after officials' game fee is deducted.
 4. Home team shall be responsible for securing and compensation for the following:
 - a. Officials Hotel Fee (if necessary)
 - b. Official Scorekeepers
 - c. Ticket Sellers and Takers
 - d. Security
 - e. Ground Crew
 - f. Baseballs and other items necessary to conduct the game.
 - g. Field Rental (if necessary)
 5. The visiting team is responsible for its travel expenses in divisions that play a single game. The traveling team shall receive \$3.00 per mile, one way, map mileage in all divisions that play a best two out of three series.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

10.14.7

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

Proposal would be to strike the section below, and the new section would be for all brackets that play a **best two out of three series**.

Currently, the traveling team does not receive any compensation during the playoffs, and with the best two out of three series, travel expenses can become very expensive.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Cons: (Must have at least one)

Will provide some financial relief for the traveling team.

Income for the home team will decrease.

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-8

Date: 7/1/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Martin Cannon		St. Thomas More

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaws 11.1, 11.3.1, 11.6.1, 11.7 (11.7.1&3) and 11.8.5

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

2026-2027 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
<u>Monday, September 14, 2026</u>	<u>11th</u>	<u>All Divisions: 1st Official Practice/ Earliest Scrimmage Allowed (Current medical history/ exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)</u>
<u>Monday, October 5, 2026</u>	<u>14th</u>	<u>Class B & C: Deadline for submitting online application for jamboree and/ or Invitational Tournament approval.</u>
<u>Monday, October 19, 2026</u>	<u>16th</u>	<u>All Divisions: Deadline for submitting working schedules online.</u>
<u>Monday, October 19, 2026</u>	<u>16th</u>	<u>Classes 5A – 1A: 1st Official Practice/ Earliest Scrimmage Allowed. (Current medical history/ exam, parental permission/ athletic participation, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)</u>
<u>Monday, October 19, 2026</u>	<u>16th</u>	<u>All Divisions: Deadline for submitting online application for jamboree and/or Invitational Tournament approval.</u>
<u>Monday, November 2, 2026</u>	<u>18th</u>	<u>Classes 5A – 1A: Deadline for submitting working schedules online</u>
<u>Monday, November 2, 2026 - Saturday, November 7, 2026</u>	<u>18th</u>	<u>All Divisions: Earliest Jamborees (Eligibility must be submitted online.)</u>
<u>Monday, November 9, 2026</u>	<u>19th</u>	<u>All Divisions 1st Contest (If jamboree is not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)</u>
<u>Monday, November 16, 2026 – Saturday, November 21, 2026</u>	<u>20th</u>	<u>Classes 5A-1A: Earliest Jamborees (Eligibility must be submitted online.)</u>
<u>Monday, November 23, 2026</u>	<u>21st</u>	<u>Classes 5A-1A: 1st Contest (If jamboree is not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)</u>

11.2.2 Season: A team shall be limited to 35 total games in a season. ~~the following:~~

1. 34 total games 1A-5A; I-IV
2. 44 total games B & C

11.3 GENERAL ~~Schools shall compete in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, B and C and Divisions I, II, III, and IV in the playoffs and shall compete in districts as adopted by the LHSAA Executive Committee. The schools in each district shall consist of both select and non-select admission schools. Boys' and Girls' basketball shall be divided into eight equal or nearly equal divisions. Basketball divisions shall be based on a school's October 1st enrollment that is certified to the LHSAA under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the Constitution - Enrollment Calculation. Counting to achieve equal eights shall begin with the lowest and end with the highest basketball school enrollment. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line in a division shall play in the lower division. A school may not participate in a division below that mandated by its enrollment. The LHSAA shall district basketball schools in each division. A school may elect to play in the a higher division if it submits a written declaration to the LHSAA by noon on the day of the first classification meeting in a classification year. The declaration shall apply for the next two years.~~



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

~~11.3.1 For playoff competition Class B and Class C shall be placed in separate brackets according to classes as approved by classification.~~

11.6.1

RESULT OF CONTEST (DIVISION I- IV -VIII)	ADD	ADD
Win (25 30 points)		
Same Class & Division	N/A	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 34 35
Higher Class & Division	Add 2 points for each Class & Division up	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 34 35
Lower Class & Division	N/A	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 34 35
Loss (0 points)		
Same Class & Division	N/A	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 34 35
Higher Class & Division	Add 2 points for each Class & Division up	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 34 35
Lower Class & Division	N/A	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 34 35

11.7 SEEDING

~~11.7.1 Class B teams shall be seeded 1-20 and Class C teams shall be seeded 1-20. In non-select divisions, I-IV shall be seeded 1-28 according to their power ranking. In the select divisions I-IV, all teams shall be seeded 1-24 according to their power ranking. All teams shall be seeded 1-32 according to their power ranking.~~

~~11.7.3 Schools that are classified as B and C shall count all games.~~

11.7.5 Tie-breaking procedures to be used when two or more schools have the same power rating:

2. If after applying the first criterion and the tie is not broken or if the two schools did not play each other during the season, or if there are more than two schools involved in a tie, the tie shall be broken by applying division class play percentage (schools that were played in the individual school's division classification). The school with the higher percentage shall be the higher seeded team.

11.8.3 Any class Division that has a bye in its bracket has the opportunity to play an "Exhibition" game with another team that has a 'bye' on its bracket. Exhibition games must be played after the End of the Regular Season/District Representatives named date listed in Bylaw 11.1, "Important Dates" section and before their first playoff game.

11.9.7 All boys' and girls' playoff games (from the bi-district round through the quarterfinal round) shall be played in the home team's gym if it meets the following minimum seating capacity:

<u>I - 1000</u>	<u>II - 800</u>	<u>III - 600</u>
<u>IV - 500</u>	<u>V - 500</u>	<u>VI - 500</u>
<u>VII - 350</u>	<u>VIII - 350</u>	

Note: The two participating schools may mutually agree in writing to play on a court that does not meet the minimum seating requirements.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

This proposal would move basketball from 10 divisions to eight, all divided equally by the latest school enrollment numbers. It seeks to design more equitable playing divisions and eliminate teams having to have one or more byes in the current playoff system.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

This adheres to the wishes of the majority of high school basketball coaches according to the most recent call sent about ending the split; still all playoff brackets have 32 teams, thereby eliminates a bye from the current playoff system, and eliminates an entire day from the state tournament.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

Classes B and C will no longer be isolated by themselves; however, they will still be playing in divisions of equal enrollment. Also, not all LHSAA schools are in favor of ending the split.

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-9

Date: 7/20/26

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
John Robert Warner	John Robert Warner	Oak Grove High School
Teri Lowe	Teri Lowe	Ruston High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaw 11.8.4 (new)

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw

please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

11.8.4-Playoff Reseeding

All playoff brackets shall be **reseeded following the completion of each playoff round.**

Following the completion of each round:

The remaining playoff teams shall be ranked according to their **original LHSAA Seeding.**

- The highest remaining seed shall play the lowest remaining seed.
- The second-highest remaining seed shall play the second-lowest remaining seed.
- This process shall continue until all playoff pairings for that round have been determined.
- The higher remaining seed shall host the contest in accordance with existing LHSAA home-site playoff procedures.
- This reseeding process shall occur following each round of the playoffs until the state championship participants have been determined.

All original LHSAA Seeding established at the conclusion of the regular season shall remain unchanged throughout the duration of the playoffs.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

The LHSAA Power Ranking System was created to reward schools for their performance throughout the regular season. Under the current playoff structure, those rankings determine playoff qualification, seeding, and home-field advantage, but once the bracket is set, upsets elsewhere can diminish the benefit of earning a higher seed. This proposal preserves the value of regular-season performance by ensuring that the highest remaining seed always receives the lowest remaining seed after each playoff round. This proposal does not change the Power Ranking formula, playoff qualification process, or home-field advantage. It simply continues to reward teams for earning a higher seed throughout the postseason. Professional leagues, including the NFL, utilize this playoff format. Additionally, with a static bracket, the higher seed does not guarantee extra time to prepare, as upsets could change who teams play. This levels the playing field for all teams.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Rewards regular-season excellence throughout the entire postseason. Preserves the integrity of the LHSAA Power Ranking System. Ensures every regular-season game remains meaningful. The highest remaining seed always receives the lowest remaining seed. Eliminates situations where bracket upsets unintentionally create an easier path. Requires no changes to the existing Power Ranking formula. Requires no additional playoff games or rounds. Maintains the current home-field advantage procedures.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

Future playoff opponents cannot be determined until each playoff round has concluded. Travel assignments may change from what would have occurred under a fixed bracket. The LHSAA would need to publish updated playoff pairings after each round.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-10

Date: 8/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Shane Smith		Franklinton High School
Freddie Harrison		Lake Charles College Prep

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaw 14.3.1

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

14.3.1 Schools shall compete in **Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A Divisions I, II, III, IV** and shall compete in districts as adopted by the LHSAA Executive Committee. The schools in each district shall consist of both select and non-select admission schools. Football schools shall be subdivided into select admission and non-select admission schools for postseason competition.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

Narrative: This proposal would transition football from the current blended classification model, in which schools compete in the regular season under a five-classification structure but are separated into Select and Non-Select divisions for the postseason. Instead, the regular season and postseason would utilize the same divisional structure.

Under this proposal, districts would be organized by Division, including Select and Non-Select member schools. This alignment would create a single, consistent classification system throughout the entire football season.

Overall, this proposal aligns the regular season with the postseason, creating a more transparent, equitable, and consistent competitive structure for Louisiana high school football.

Method: All teams will be divided into their post-season alignments Select and Non-Select. Then All Division 1 teams (Select and Non-Select) will be placed in 6 to 8 team districts when possible. Will repeat the process for Divisions 2-4. Teams would be allowed to play-up into the Division of choice above their enrollment.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

- **Consistency:** Schools would compete against the same group of comparable schools during both the regular season and the postseason.
- **Competitive Equity:** District competition would more accurately reflect each school's eventual playoff field, resulting in fairer regular-season competition and postseason qualification.
- **Scheduling Clarity:** Coaches, athletic directors, student-athletes, and fans would have a clearer understanding of competitive alignment from the beginning of the season.
- **Reduced Confusion:** Eliminating the transition from a five-classification regular season to a separate divisional playoff structure simplifies the classification system and makes it easier to understand.
- **Long-Term Stability:** A divisional model provides a more logical and sustainable framework for future district alignments and classification cycles.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

Would change current system in place.

DEADLINE: Forms are due **August 31, 2026**. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on **September 9, 2026**.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-11

Date: 7/20/26

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
John Robert Warner	John Robert Warner	Oak Grove High School
Teri Lowe	Teri Lowe	Ruston High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaw 14.11.4 (new)

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw

please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

14.11.4-Playoff Reseeding

All playoff brackets shall be reseeded following the completion of each playoff round.

Following the completion of each round:

The remaining playoff teams shall be ranked according to their original LHSAA Seeding.

- The highest remaining seed shall play the lowest remaining seed.
- The second-highest remaining seed shall play the second-lowest remaining seed.
- This process shall continue until all playoff pairings for that round have been determined.
- The higher remaining seed shall host the contest in accordance with existing LHSAA home-site playoff procedures.
- This reseeding process shall occur following each round of the playoffs until the state championship participants have been determined.

All original LHSAA Seeding established at the conclusion of the regular season shall remain unchanged throughout the duration of the playoffs.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

The LHSAA Power Ranking System was created to reward schools for their performance throughout the regular season. Under the current playoff structure, those rankings determine playoff qualification, seeding, and home-field advantage, but once the bracket is set, upsets elsewhere can diminish the benefit of earning a higher seed. This proposal preserves the value of regular-season performance by ensuring that the highest remaining seed always receives the lowest remaining seed after each playoff round. This proposal does not change the Power Ranking formula, playoff qualification process, or home-field advantage. It simply continues to reward teams for earning a higher seed throughout the postseason. Professional leagues, including the NFL, utilize this playoff format. Additionally, with a static bracket, the higher seed does not guarantee extra time to prepare, as upsets could change who teams play. This levels the playing field for all teams.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Rewards regular-season excellence throughout the entire postseason. Preserves the integrity of the LHSAA Power Ranking System. Ensures every regular-season game remains meaningful. The highest remaining seed always receives the lowest remaining seed. Eliminates situations where bracket upsets unintentionally create an easier path. Requires no changes to the existing Power Ranking formula. Requires no additional playoff games or rounds. Maintains the current home-field advantage procedures.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

Future playoff opponents cannot be determined until each playoff round has concluded. Travel assignments may change from what would have occurred under a fixed bracket. The LHSAA would need to publish updated playoff pairings after each round.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-12

Date: 7.28.2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Tom Eldringhoff		Catholic High School
Wes Howard		Denham Springs High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaw 17.5.6

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

17.5.6 The state meet shall be divided into five **equal or nearly equal** divisions **based on school enrollment.**

~~Division I — Class 5A (Boys/Girls)~~ ~~Division IV — Class 2A (Boys/Girls)~~
~~Division II — Class 4A (Boys/Girls)~~ ~~Division V — Classes 1A, B and C (Boys/Girls)~~
~~Division III — Class 3A (Boys/Girls)~~

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

17.5.6

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

This amendment would require powerlifting divisions to be formed from five equal or nearly equal groups of participating schools based on enrollment, rather than assigning powerlifting divisions by fixed LHSAA classification labels.

The intended effect is to distribute participating schools more evenly across the five state meet divisions, improve competitive balance, and increase the likelihood that each division has enough schools to support full weight classes. The proposal preserves the five-division structure and boys/girls competition.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

- Creates a more balanced distribution of participating powerlifting schools across the five divisions.
- Increases the likelihood that weight classes at the state meet are filled in each division.
- Preserves the current five-division format while improving competitive equity

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- Some schools may compete in a powerlifting division different from their general LHSAA classification.
- Schools may face different competitors at the state meet than they have in prior years.
- LHSAA would need to publish annual powerlifting division assignments after participation and enrollment are confirmed.

DEADLINE: Forms are due **August 31, 2026**. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on **September 9, 2026**.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws III-13

Date: 08/25/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Dr. Steven H. Moore	Electronic Steven H. Moore 8/25/26	Grace Christian School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaws 18.3.1; 18.5.1; 18.5.2; 18.6.1

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

18.3.1 Boys' and girls' schools shall be divided into ~~four~~ five equal or near equal divisions. Soccer divisions shall be based on a school's October 1 enrollment that is certified to the LHSAA under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the Constitution-Enrollment Calculation. Counting to achieve equal ~~fourths~~ fifths shall begin with the lowest and end with highest soccer school enrollment. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line shall play in the lower division. A school may not participate in a division below that mandated by its enrollment. The LHSAA shall district soccer schools in each division.

18.5.1 The ~~32~~ 24 highest seeded teams shall be placed on the bracket of each division.

18.5.2 Wildcard teams shall be allotted in each division as follows:

DIVISIONS	# OF DISTRICTS	#AUTO QUALIFY	#WILDCARD TEAMS	# BYES REMAINING
I(BOYS)	8	1 st	16 <u>24</u>	8 <u>0</u>
II(BOYS)	8	1 st	16 <u>24</u>	8 <u>0</u>
III(BOYS)	8	1 st	16 <u>24</u>	8 <u>0</u>
IV(BOYS)	8	1 st	16 <u>24</u>	8 <u>0</u>
<u>V(BOYS)</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>
I(Girls)	8	1 st	16 <u>24</u>	8 <u>0</u>
II(Girls)	8	1 st	16 <u>24</u>	8 <u>0</u>
III(Girls)	8	1 st	16 <u>24</u>	8 <u>0</u>
IV(Girls)	8	1 st	16 <u>24</u>	8 <u>0</u>
<u>V(Girls)</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>

18.6.1 Teams in divisions shall be seeded 1-~~32~~ 24 according to their power ranking.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Bylaws 18.3.1; 18.5.1;18.5.2;18.6.1; Constitution Article 8.3(Classification) - enrollment-based classification procedures under Article 8.3 would be applied to establish five soccer divisions rather than four.

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

This proposal establishes five enrollment-based divisions for boys' and girls' soccer (Divisions I-V) and adopts a uniform 24-team playoff format in each division, replacing the current structure of four divisions with a 32-team Division I-IV playoff bracket.

Under the proposed format, each division would contain an approximately equal number of schools (roughly 35-36 teams per division based on current membership), using the LHSAA's existing enrollment-based classification procedures to set cutoffs. Playoff qualification would continue to use the current power-rating system. Seeds 1-8 in each division would receive first-round byes; seeds 9-24 would compete in the opening round, with winners advancing to a Round of 16 and remaining rounds following existing LHSAA postseason procedures.

The intent is to improve competitive balance by reducing enrollment disparities within each division, provide more equitable championship opportunities, reward regular-season performance through first-round byes for top seeds, and align soccer's division sizes with other LHSAA sports (baseball, softball, and basketball average in the mid-30s in teams per division).



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

Pros: *(Must have at least one)*

Creates more balanced divisions and rewards top regular-season seeds with byes.

Aligns soccer's division sizes with other LHSAA sports (baseball, softball, basketball).

No change to missed school time is anticipated.

May modestly reduce travel expenses and game administration costs in the largest division by moving from a 32-team to a 24-team bracket.

Cons: *(Must have at least one)*

Realigning from four to five divisions requires a full reclassification of all member schools sponsoring soccer, which may shift schools' divisional placement and district assignments.

Fewer total teams will qualify for the playoffs than currently qualify in Division I under the 32-team format.

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-14

Date: 8/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Kenneth W. Henderson	<i>K.W. Henderson</i>	Cedar Creek School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

19.1, 19.3, 19.5, 19.6, 19.7, 19.8, 19.9, 19.10, 19.11, 19.12, and 19.13

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a

bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

19.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2026-2027 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Tuesday, April 27, 2027 <u>Monday, May 3, 2027</u>	43 rd 44 th	End of Regular Season/District Representative Named
Wednesday, April 28, 2027 <u>Tuesday, May 4, 2027</u>	43 rd 44 th	Playoff Pairings Named
Saturday, May 1, 2027 <u>Thursday, May 6, 2027</u>	44 th	Bi-District Round Deadline
Wednesday, May 5, 2027 <u>Monday, May 10, 2027</u>	45 th <u>44th</u>	Regional Round Deadline
Saturday, May 8, 2027 <u>Thursday, May 13, 2027</u>	44 th <u>45th</u>	Quarterfinal Round Deadline <u>State Tournament - Quarterfinals</u>
Friday, May 14, 2027	45 th	State Tournament – Semi-Finals
Saturday, May 15, 2027	45 th	State Tournament - Finals

19.3 ~~GENERAL~~ Schools shall compete in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, B and C and Divisions I, II, III, and IV in districts as adopted by the LHSAA Executive Committee. The schools in each district shall consist of both select and non-select admission schools.

19.3.1 ~~For playoff competition, Class B and Class C shall be placed in separate brackets according to classes as approved by classification. The number of innings a pitcher may pitch during a calendar week (Sunday-Saturday) shall be determined by the school's principal.~~

19.3 General - Schools shall be divided into seven equal or nearly equal divisions and compete in Divisions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, and VII. Softball divisions shall be based on a school's October 1 enrollment that is certified to the LHSAA under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the Constitution Enrollment Calculation. Schools shall compete in districts as adopted by the LHSAA Executive Committee. Counting to achieve equal sevenths shall begin with the lowest and end with highest softball school enrollment. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line shall play in the lower division. A school may elect to compete in a higher division by submitting a written declaration to the LHSAA by noon on the day of the first classification meeting in a classification year. This declaration will remain in effect for the following two years.

19.5 DISTRICT PLAY – No Change

19.6 REPORTING TEAMS FOR PLAYOFF COMPETITION – No Change



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

19.7 QUALIFYING PROGRAM

19.7.1 Qualifying teams shall be allotted to each class and division as follows:

NON-SELECT DIVISIONS/ CLASSES	QUALIFIERS	SELECT DIVISIONS	QUALIFIERS	<u>DIVISIONS</u>	<u>QUALIFIERS</u>
I	26	I	24	<u>I</u>	<u>32</u>
II	26	II	24	<u>II</u>	<u>32</u>
III	26	III	24	<u>III</u>	<u>32</u>
IV	26	IV	24	<u>IV</u>	<u>32</u>
Class-B	20			<u>V</u>	<u>32</u>
Class-C	20			<u>VI</u>	<u>32</u>
				<u>VII</u>	<u>32</u>

If a bye(s) on the bracket exists due to any qualifiers not being represented from a district, the bye(s) may be filled using the remaining teams from those being considered for wildcard.

19.7.2 Criteria for Wildcard Selection – No Change

19.7.3 Determining Power Rating

The power rating for each school shall be determined as follows:

RESULT OF CONTEST	ADD	ADD
Win (20 points) Same Class & Division Higher Class & Division Lower Class & Division	N/A Add 2 points for each Class & Division up N/A	Opponent's Wins Opponent's Wins Opponent's Wins
Loss (0 points) Same Class & Division Higher Class & Division Lower Class & Division	N/A Add 2 points for each Class & Division up A	Opponent's Wins Opponent's Wins Opponent's Wins
Double Forfeit	Add 1 point to team that defeated both teams forfeiting	Opponent's Wins
Tie (5 points)	Add ½ point if opponents have a tie	Opponent's Wins

19.8 SEEDING THE BRACKET

19.8.1 Class B shall be seeded 1-20 and Class C shall be seeded 1-20. In Non-Select Divisions I-IV, In all Divisions I-VII, all teams shall be seeded 1-26 32 according to their power ranking. In Select Divisions I-IV, teams shall be seeded 1-24 according to their power rankings.

19.8.2 All teams that automatically qualify for the playoffs and those teams selected as wildcard teams shall be seeded in each class and division.

19.8.3 In completing the playoff bracket, all other teams qualifying for the state playoffs shall be selected on the basis of the established power rating system. Schools that fail to play 15 contests during the regular season, including district play and tournament games, shall be ranked separately using the same ranking system that is used to rank schools that played at least 15 contests or more during the regular season will not be eligible for the playoffs. These schools shall be ranked at the bottom of the bracket and seeded accordingly until all remaining positions on the bracket are filled.

19.8.4 No Change

19.9 PLAYOFFS – No Change

19.10 PLAYOFF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT – No Change

19.11 STATE TOURNAMENT

19.11.1 No Change

19.11.2 No Change

19.11.3 No Change

19.11.4 The ~~quarterfinal~~ regional round winners in all classes shall play for the state championship in a single-elimination tournament.

19.11.5 No Change

19.11.6 No Change



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

19.11.7 No Change

19.11.8 No Change

19.11.9 No Change

19.11.10 No Change

19.12 From the gross ticket receipts, ~~less the LHSAA Building Surcharge~~, the LHSAA shall receive 80% of the ticket receipts. The host organization shall receive 20% of the ticket receipts. From the 80% of the LHSAA share of the ticket receipts, each participating team shall receive 60% of the ticket receipts pro-rated on a per game played basis and **\$200 for a quarter final game**, \$200 for a semi-final game played, and \$300 for a final game played.

19.13 No Change

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

19.3, 19.7.1, 19.7.3, 19.8.1, 19.8.2, 19.8.3, and 19.11.4

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

The goal of this proposal is simple: bring softball back together and bring back a premier statewide softball championship event.

This proposal is intended to bring LHSAA softball back together under one classification and playoff system for all member schools. It eliminates the separate select and non-select softball structures, as well as the separate Class B and Class C playoff brackets and places all softball schools into seven divisions based primarily on enrollment.

Under the proposed system, schools would be divided into seven equal or nearly equal divisions based on October 1 enrollment. Each division would have a 32-team playoff bracket, with district champions automatically qualifying and the remaining playoff positions determined through the established power-rating system.

The proposal creates a legitimate and consistent statewide championship structure. A 32-team playoff provides a meaningful postseason opportunity while requiring teams to advance through multiple rounds of competition to reach the state tournament.

One of the most significant features of the proposal is that the regional round winners from each division would advance to the state tournament. Eight teams from each of the six divisions would qualify, returning to the Fast Pitch 56 team statewide championship event.

This concept brings back the former Fastpitch 56, which was one of LHSAA's most successful and well-regarded championship events. Rather than limiting the state tournament to only the final four teams in a division, the proposed format would bring together the top eight teams from each division and create a major statewide showcase for Louisiana high school softball.

The proposal also brings softball into greater alignment with the classification structure already used in track, cross country, soccer and other LHSAA sports, where schools compete in unified enrollment-based divisions rather than separate select and non-select classifications.

If this proposal and the corresponding baseball proposal are adopted, basketball and football would be the only remaining LHSAA sports using separate class-based structures. The proposal therefore represents another step toward a more consistent classification philosophy throughout the Association.

One sport. One system. Seven divisions. Seven divisional champions. One statewide Fastpitch 56 championship event.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

1. Brings softball back together. All softball schools would compete in one unified classification system based on enrollment rather than being separated by select and non-select status. This creates seven divisions in which all

Cons: (Must have at least one)

1. Some schools will lose a separate select or non-select championship opportunity. Schools accustomed to competing for a championship within their own classification may view the unified system as a loss of



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

schools have the opportunity to compete for the same divisional championship.

2. **Creates a major statewide championship event — Fastpitch 56.** The regional-round winners from each division would advance to the state tournament. With seven divisions and eight teams advancing from each division, the state tournament would feature **56 of the best softball teams in Louisiana**. This brings back the excitement of the former **Fastpitch 56**, one of LHSAA's premier championship events.
3. **Creates meaningful and legitimate state championships.** The 32-team divisional playoff provides approximately 2/3rds of the schools in each division with an opportunity to compete for a championship, while the state tournament brings the top eight teams from each division together. The result is a championship structure that provides both broad postseason opportunities and a highly competitive statewide event.
4. **Aligns softball with the majority of LHSAA sports.** The proposal brings softball in line with track, cross country, soccer and other sports that already use unified enrollment-based divisions. It removes the need for separate select and non-select softball championships.
5. **Simplifies the overall LHSAA classification structure.** The proposal eliminates the separate select/non-select and Class B/Class C softball structures and creates one system of seven enrollment-based divisions. If both the baseball and softball proposals pass, basketball and football would be the only remaining sports using separate class-based structures.

opportunity. The response is that the proposal does not eliminate championship opportunities; it creates **seven enrollment-based divisional championships open to all softball schools**, while also creating a much larger statewide championship event.

2. **The 56-team state tournament will require significant planning and resources.** Bringing 56 teams to a state championship event will require substantial facilities, scheduling, officiating, lodging and logistical planning. However, the size of the event is also its greatest strength. Fastpitch 56 should return to one of the Association's premier championship events, providing a statewide showcase for softball and creating a great atmosphere.

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-15

Date: 7/20/26

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
John Robert Warner	John Robert Warner	Oak Grove High School
Teri Lowe	Teri Lowe	Ruston High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaw 19.9.5 (new)

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a

bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

19.9.5-Playoff Reseeding

All playoff brackets shall be reseeded following the completion of each playoff round.

Following the completion of each round:

- The remaining playoff teams shall be ranked according to their original LHSAA Seeding.
- The highest remaining seed shall play the lowest remaining seed.
- The second-highest remaining seed shall play the second-lowest remaining seed.
- This process shall continue until all playoff pairings for that round have been determined.
- The higher remaining seed shall host the contest in accordance with existing LHSAA home-site playoff procedures.
- This reseeding process shall occur following each round of the playoffs until the state championship participants have been determined.

All original LHSAA Seeding established at the conclusion of the regular season shall remain unchanged throughout the duration of the playoffs.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

The LHSAA Power Ranking System was created to reward schools for their performance throughout the regular season. Under the current playoff structure, those rankings determine playoff qualification, seeding, and home-field advantage, but once the bracket is set, upsets elsewhere can diminish the benefit of earning a higher seed. This proposal preserves the value of regular-season performance by ensuring that the highest remaining seed always receives the lowest remaining seed after each playoff round. This proposal does not change the Power Ranking formula, playoff qualification process, or home-field advantage. It simply continues to reward teams for earning a higher seed throughout the postseason. Professional leagues, including the NFL, utilize this playoff format. Additionally, with a static bracket, the higher seed does not guarantee extra time to prepare, as upsets could change who teams play. This levels the playing field for all teams.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Rewards regular-season excellence throughout the entire postseason. Preserves the integrity of the LHSAA Power Ranking System. Ensures every regular-season game remains meaningful. The highest remaining seed always receives the lowest remaining seed. Eliminates situations where bracket upsets unintentionally create an easier path. Requires no changes to the existing Power Ranking formula. Requires no additional playoff games or rounds. Maintains the current home-field advantage procedures.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

Future playoff opponents cannot be determined until each playoff round has concluded.
Travel assignments may change from what would have occurred under a fixed bracket.
The LHSAA would need to publish updated playoff pairings after each round.

DEADLINE: Forms are due **August 31, 2026**. Email the completed form as a **word document** to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on **September 9, 2026**.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-16

Date: 8/31/26

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Martin Cannon	<i>Martin Cannon</i>	St. Thomas More Catholic HS
Karari Hanks	<i>Karari Hanks</i>	Neville High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

21.1, 21.3.2, 21.4, 21.5, 21.5.1, 21.5.2, 21.5.3, 21.5.4, 21.6, 21.6.1, 21.6.2, 21.6.3, 21.6.4, 21.7, 21.8, 21.8.1, 21.8.2, 21.8.3, 21.9, 21.9.1, 21.9.2, 21.9.3

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a

bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

21.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2026-2027 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
1 st Day of School	1 st Day of School	1 st Official Practice/Match (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file; Eligibility must be submitted online)
Monday, January 4, 2027 – Sunday, January 17, 2027	27 th -29 th	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Monday, January 4, 2027 – Thursday, February 18, 2027	27 th -33 rd	Spring Sports – Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions Due
Monday, March 1, 2027	35 th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
<u>Monday, February 22, 2027</u>	<u>34th</u>	Deadline to submit the schedule online
<u>Tuesday, March 9, 2027</u>	<u>36th</u>	<u>Boys' and Girls' deadline to submit individual regional tournament entry form and entry fees due</u>
<u>Monday, March 15, 2027 – Tuesday, March 16, 2027</u>	<u>37th</u>	<u>Boys' and Girls' Individual Regional Playoffs</u>
<u>Thursday, March 18, 2027</u>	<u>37th</u>	<u>Boys' and Girls' Individual State Qualifying Entries Due by Regional Directors only through LHSAA member site</u>
<u>Monday, March 22, 2027 – Friday, March 26, 2027</u>	<u>38th</u>	<u>Boys' and Girls' Individual State Championships</u>
<u>Saturday, April 19, 2027- Wednesday, April 21, 2027</u>	<u>42nd</u>	<u>Round of 16 Team Playoffs match much be played on one of these dates at higher-seeded host site</u>
<u>Monday, April 26, 2027 – Friday, April 30, 2027</u>	<u>43rd</u>	<u>Boys' and Girls' Team State Championships (Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals)</u>

21.3.2 ~~Teams shall qualify from the regional tournament to the state tournament.~~ Teams shall qualify for the team state tournament according to bylaw 21.9.

21.4 SCORING TEAM AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

21.4.1 ~~The point system shall be used to decide overall team honors in tournaments.~~



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

- ~~1. A school shall be credited with one point per winning match in boys' or girls' competition.~~
- ~~2. No entry shall count as a bye. One point shall be awarded for a bye only if the team wins the next match.~~
- ~~3. Two points shall be awarded to a player winning a second match and having a bye in the first round in both regional and state competitions.~~
- ~~4. If a team is "entered," the entry shall be official. If a team fails to compete after entering, one default point shall be awarded to the other team in the bracket. The other team shall not have to win the next round match to be awarded this point.~~
- 5.1. If the LHSAA declares a team ineligible prior to the start (posted time of team's event) of a tournament, or after play has started, the entry becomes a "no entry" and is treated as a bye.
2. School teams that fail to play 4 regular-season contests will not be eligible for the team state tournament.
3. Individual players who fail to compete for their school team in 3 regular-season contests will not be eligible for the team state tournament or the individual regional or state tournament.
- 21.5 INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT SEEDING
- 21.5.1 Criteria for Seeding Singles at the Individual Regional Tournament
 - ~~1. Players shall be seeded according to their (a) UTR singles rating unless there is verifiable evidence of head-to-head competition and (b) their current high school performance.~~
 2. The tournament's regional chairman shall notify all head coaches in their region of the location, date, and time of the seeding meeting.
- 21.5.2 Criteria for Seeding Doubles at the Individual Regional Tournament
 - ~~1. Players Doubles teams shall be seeded according to their (a) combined UTR doubles rating unless there is verifiable evidence of head-to-head competition and (b) their current high school performance.~~
 - ~~2. In seeding doubles teams for the regional tournament, a school's first and second place teams shall be placed on opposite sides of the bracket.~~
 - ~~3. The third place team shall be placed on either side of the bracket and in a different quarter of the bracket.~~
 - ~~4. Teams from the same school shall not meet in the first round of play.~~
- 21.5.3 Criteria for Seeding Singles at the Individual State Tournament
 - ~~1. The LHSAA will place regional qualifiers on the pre-determined state tournament bracket. Players shall be seeded according to their UTR singles rating unless there is verifiable evidence of head-to-head competition.~~
 2. All players will be seeded 1-32 and placed in the bracket according to their UTR.
 2. The LHSAA will post unofficial brackets and allow for a regional dispute time before making brackets official.
 - ~~3. Regional runner-up contestants qualifying for the state tournament shall be placed in the opposite half of the bracket from the same region's champion.~~
- 21.5.4 Criteria for Seeding Doubles at the Individual State Tournament
 - ~~1. Seeding for the state tournament shall specifically be in the following order: Doubles teams shall be seeded according to their combined UTR doubles rating unless there is verifiable evidence of head-to-head competition.~~
 - ~~a. All Regional Qualifiers will be seeded on a pre-determined bracket.~~
 - ~~b. All other entries shall be placed on the bracket per their regional finish.~~
 - ~~2. In seeding doubles teams for the state tournament, a school's first and second place teams shall be placed on opposite sides of the bracket.~~
 - ~~3. The third place team shall be placed on either side of the bracket and in a different quarter of the bracket.~~
 - ~~4. Teams from the same school shall not meet in the first round of play.~~
- 21.6 INDIVIDUAL REGIONAL TOURNAMENT PLAY
- ~~21.6.1 Each year's regional tournament winners shall select the site and host the tournament the following year.~~
- 21.6.21 In individual competition, each of the four (4) regions shall qualify the first through eighth place players in girls' singles competition and the first through eighth place players in boys' singles competition to advance to state competition; giving thirty-two (32) automatic qualifiers to the state competition.
- 21.6.32 In doubles competition, each of the four (4) regions shall qualify the first through eighth place teams in girls' doubles competition and the first through eighth place teams in boys' doubles competition to advance to state competition; giving thirty-two (32) automatic qualifiers to the state competition.
- 21.6.43 The coaches of ~~e~~Each region shall be responsible for determining the regional host team and securing its regional tournament site. ~~The previous year's regional champions shall automatically be the regional chairperson and be responsible for either hosting the tournament or securing another school within his/her respective region to be the regional tournament's host. When a previous year's regional champion changes districts or classifications in a~~



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

~~classification year, that region's schools shall meet to determine the site and host for that year's regional meet.~~ All tennis regional sites and hosts shall be determined by January 1 each year. No entries shall be accepted from schools outside an area.

21.7 STATE TOURNAMENT PLAY

21.7.1 The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the boys' and girls' state tennis tournaments and present them to the Executive Committee for selection. The boys' and girls' state tennis tournaments shall be conducted by hosts selected by the Executive Committee.

21.7.2 A player competing in the regional or state individual tournament may substitute on a doubles team if he/she has not participated in any regional tournament event and all eligible substitutes shall be listed on the LHSAA entry form.

21.7.3 Only regional individual tournament qualifiers shall be entered to compete in the state individual tournament.

21.7.4 Immediately following each regional individual tournament, the director shall provide the LHSAA with the names of all participants in all four categories who qualify for the state individual tournament.

21.8 INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT REGIONAL AND STATE PLAYING RULES

21.8.1 A coaches' meeting shall be held at the court site 30 minutes prior to tournament time.

~~21.8.2 Players on the same school team competing in boys' or girls' regional/state tournament shall be attired in the same color shirts and the same color pants or shorts; the pants or shorts may be a different color from that of the shirt. Players shall not be allowed to wear blue jeans or "cutoff" shorts. The same color shirts shall be worn by all team members the entire first set; a member may then change shirts with the referee's approval. A player that is not in compliance with this rule shall not be allowed to compete in the regional/state tournament.~~

21.8.32 The ~~meet~~ tournament director may delay a match's starting time up to 30 minutes if he/she is notified of a possible delay by the contestant(s)' school representative and if the delay is considered unavoidable.

21.9 REGIONAL & STATE CHAMPIONS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY:

~~21.9.1 Using the basis of one point per win, calculate the most points scored during the tournament:~~

- ~~1. The winner of the finals match shall receive 1.5 points and the runner up receives 0.5 points.~~
- ~~2. If the total points scored is tied, the team with the most individual overall winners shall be the champion.~~
- ~~3. If total points scored and most individual overall winners are tied, the team with the most semifinalists shall be the champion.~~
- ~~4. If total points scored, individual overall winners, and semifinalists are tied, the teams shall be co-champions or co-runners up.~~

21.9 TEAM STATE TOURNAMENT

21.9.1 The LHSAA Tennis Team State Champions shall be determined by a divisional team tennis format tournament consisting of 16 teams from each division, I-IV.

1. Each Boys' and Girl's team wishing to compete in the state tournament must submit to the LHSAA, no later than two weeks prior to the first possible date of a Round-of-16 playoff match, a team lineup consisting of the following: (a) No. 1 singles player, No. 2 singles player, (b) No. 1 doubles team, No. 2 doubles team, No. 3 doubles team. (c) players may only compete once in each round of the tournament

2. Sixteen (16) teams from each division (I-IV) will be chosen to compete in the team state tournament according to the following criteria (a) each of the top three (3) teams from the four (4) regions in each division based on each team's "Power 8 UTR" which would be calculated by adding together the singles UTR of both singles players and the combined doubles UTR of each doubles team (b) the remaining four (4) teams in each division will be wildcard entries awarded to the next 4 highest Power 8 UTR rated teams, regardless of region.

3. Teams in each division will be seeded 1-16 according to their Power 8 UTR.

21.9.2 The Round-of-16 matches shall be hosted by the higher-seeded team at the location of their choice. The visiting team is responsible for their own travel expenses.

1. Both schools shall mutually agree upon the playing date and time of the contest, provided the match date chosen adheres to the date window set by the LHSAA. If the date of the match cannot be reached by mutual agreement, the match will be played on the deadline date determined by the LHSAA. If the match time cannot be reached by mutual agreement, the starting time shall be 3:30pm. Playoff matches shall not be played on dates that conflict with district, regional, or state track and field meets without the mutual agreement of both schools.

2. If a Round-of-16 playoff match is postponed due to inclement weather or some other approved unforeseen reason, the Executive Director may grant an extension for the match.

3. Winning teams of the Round-of-16 shall progress to the team state tournament to be held in a location determined according to bylaw 21.7.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

21.9.3 The winning teams of each round shall be determined by overall outcome of all 5 matches played. The team that wins at least 3 of the 5 courts shall be the winner.

1. All five matches shall be played at the same time whenever possible. Each line will compete against the opposing team's line of the same position (e.g. Singles No. 1 will compete against opposing Singles No. 1).

2. No "stacking" shall be allowed: coaches may not manipulate lineups by placing lower UTR-ranked players above higher UTR-ranked players (e.g. Singles No. 1 must have a higher singles UTR than Singles No. 2).

3. Coaches may change lineups and substitute players in between rounds, provided they adhere to 21.9.3.2 above.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

21.1, 21.3.2, 21.4, 21.5, 21.5.1, 21.5.2, 21.5.3, 21.5.4, 21.6, 21.6.1, 21.6.2, 21.6.3, 21.6.4, 21.7, 21.8, 21.8.1, 21.8.2, 21.8.3, 21.9, 21.9.1, 21.9.2, 21.9.3

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

We propose separating the tennis championship into two separate tournaments: an individual state championship and a team state championship.

1. An Individual State Championship, in which players compete for individual singles and doubles titles regardless of how their team fares as a whole. This event rewards individual excellence and ensures that standout players – even those on teams that don't qualify for or advance in the team bracket – have a path to postseason recognition.
2. A Team State Championship, more closely aligned with other sports, featuring a 16-team playoff bracket per division, as outlined above, in which schools compete head-to-head across five lines (No. 1/No. 2 Singles, No. 1/No. 2/No. 3 Doubles). This event recognizes the best total team in each division and rewards overall program depth, coaching strategy, and the ability to win across multiple lineup spots.

Splitting the state contest into individual and team events would allow for recognition of both our strongest individual players as well as our strongest teams.

Pros: *(Must have at least one)*

- Creates increased participation in high school tennis because more than just the very top players would be able to participate.
- Creates a true "team championship" in which teammates compete side-by-side to determine which complete team is the state champion.
- Allows for true team competition where line 1 would play line 1, line 2 would play line 2, etc., and each player would have the opportunity to contribute equally to their team's success.
- Improves the perception of high school tennis as a true team sport.
- Gives teams and schools the opportunity to compete together, not just as individuals, improving overall team culture.
- More closely aligns with the team tennis structure of college tennis and the state tournaments of neighboring states.
- Improves the likelihood that quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals feature the strongest available competition.
- Prevent singles players from playing in three matches in a single day.
- Removes the possibility of team ties and the need for state championship tie-breakers.

Cons: *(Must have at least one)*

- UTR ratings may be less reliable for players with limited verified match histories.
- A second tournament would be an added expense for some teams.
- Establishing a team tournament would require additional administrative procedures.
- Coaches, athletes, and schools may need time to adjust to a new designation and seeding system.
- Maintaining appropriate school separation or other bracket protections may require secondary rules.
- Some smaller schools or schools with smaller tennis teams may not have enough players to comprise an 8-player team, but they would have the opportunity to compete in the individual tournament.

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-17

Date: 8/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Dana P. Bourgeois		Ascension Christian High

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaw 21.5, 21.5.3, 21.5.4, and 21.5.5

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in red, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

- 21.5.3 Criteria for Seeding Singles at the State Tournament:** Regional tournaments shall determine state tournament qualifiers. Once qualified, singles players shall be seeded using verified UTR ratings as the primary criterion. Top 8 qualifiers shall be designated as Reseed Champions/Co-Champions (1-8); qualifiers ranked 9-16 shall be designated as Semifinalists (9-16); all remaining qualifiers shall comprise the Remaining Field. Head-to-head results and current high school season performance shall serve as tiebreakers. Singles players from the same school/team shall not be placed in the same quarter of the state tournament bracket.
1. The LHSAA will place regional qualifiers on the pre-determined state tournament bracket.
 2. The LHSAA will post unofficial brackets and allow for a regional dispute time before making brackets official.
 3. Regional runner-up contestants qualifying for the state tournament shall be placed in the opposite half of the bracket from the same region's champion.
- 21.5.4 Criteria for Seeding Doubles at the State Tournament:** Regional tournaments shall determine state tournament qualifiers. Once qualified, doubles teams shall be seeded using verified UTR ratings as the primary criterion based on an LHSAA-approved combined team calculation. Top 8 qualifying teams shall be designated as Reseed Champions/Co-Champions (1-8); teams ranked 9-16 shall be
1. Seeding for the state tournament shall specifically be in the following order:
 - a. All Regional Qualifiers will be seeded on a pre-determined bracket.
 - b. All other entries shall be placed on the bracket per their regional finish.
 2. In seeding doubles teams for the state tournament, a school's first and second place teams shall be placed on opposite sides of the bracket.
 3. The third place team shall be placed on either side of the bracket and in a different quarter of the bracket.
 4. Teams from the same school shall not meet in the first round of play.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

21.5, 21.5.3, 21.5.4, 21.5.5

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

This amendment shifts the primary state tournament seeding metric from regional finish to verified UTR ratings once regional qualification is complete. Under the current system, highly rated players from different regionals meet in early rounds (such as the quarterfinals between top competitors Parker Bryan and Reed Macalester) rather than later in the tournament. Using objective statewide UTR ratings ensures fair bracket placement, protects top seeds from early matchups, and aligns with current LHSAA seeding practices. Additionally, this rule explicitly prevents teammates in singles or doubles from being placed in the same quarter of the bracket, preventing premature elimination between players from the same school.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

- Establishes an objective, transparent statewide seeding process.
- Prevents top-tier players from meeting in early elimination rounds.
- Ensures school separation by preventing teammates from meeting before the semifinals.
- Maintains regional tournaments as the sole qualifying pathway.
- Applies a consistent seeding standard across both singles and doubles.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- Requires administrative oversight to establish cutoff dates and verify match minimums.
- UTR ratings may vary for players with limited off-season match history.
- Bracket adjustments for same-school separation may slightly alter pure UTR numerical ordering.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-18

Date:

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Elise LeBoeuf		Vandebilt Catholic High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

21.9.1 - Tennis

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make **ALL** changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

Using the basis of one point per win, calculate the most points scored during the tournament.

1. The winner of the finals match shall receive 1.5 points and the runner up receives 0.5 points.
2. If the total points scored is tied, the team with the most individual finals matches won during the state championship tournament shall be the champion.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

21.9.1

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

Clarifying the term "individual overall winners" to mean number of finals matches won during the state championship tournament will reduce confusion in tie-breaker situations.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

- Prevents disputes and official protests by replacing ambiguous wording with explicit criteria for state championship tie-breakers.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- Requires coaches and officials to adapt to updated scoring protocol language during live tie-breaker scenarios

DEADLINE: Forms are due **August 31, 2026**. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on **September 9, 2026**.

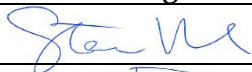


Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-19

Date: 8/13/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Steven Vrbka		Parkway High School
Emmett Beggs		Benton High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

22.5.5

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

22.5.5 A school shall be required to compete in a preliminary qualifying meet in order to compete in the state indoor meet. ~~Only those meets hosted by Louisiana State University and McNeese University during the current indoor season shall be recognized as qualifying meets.~~ Qualifying meets shall include meets hosted by Louisiana State University, McNeese University, or an LHSAA member school, regardless of the location or ownership of the facility where the meet is conducted, provided the meet is sanctioned by the NFHS and conducted in accordance with all applicable LHSAA and NFHS rules.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

The current Indoor Track & Field bylaw limits recognized preliminary qualifying meets to those hosted by Louisiana State University and McNeese University. This amendment would provide additional opportunities for LHSAA member schools to host qualifying indoor track and field meets by allowing an LHSAA member school to host an NFHS-sanctioned meet that may be recognized as a qualifying meet for the LHSAA State Indoor Track and Field Meet.

This amendment is intended to provide greater geographic access to indoor track and field facilities for LHSAA member schools. New indoor track and field facilities have been constructed in neighboring states that may provide a closer and more accessible competition opportunity for member schools, particularly those located in northern Louisiana. Additionally, the potential development of additional indoor track and field facilities within Louisiana would provide LHSAA member schools with another opportunity to host qualifying competitions.

The proposed amendment would not change the current state-meet qualifying process, number of qualifiers, qualifying standards, or entry restrictions. The current bylaws already establish that the top 12 performances from all qualifying meets are used to determine qualifiers in both running and field events.

The amendment would simply expand the number of competitions that may be recognized as qualifying meets while maintaining the requirement that qualifying competitions be conducted under applicable NFHS and LHSAA rules.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

- Allows LHSAA member schools to utilize additional indoor track and field facilities, including facilities in neighboring states that may be geographically closer to certain Louisiana

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- Additional qualifying meets may require increased administrative oversight to ensure that member-school-hosted competitions are properly



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

schools than the currently recognized qualifying-meet locations. • Provides LHSAA member schools with the ability to host qualifying competitions rather than limiting recognized qualifying opportunities to meets hosted by LSU and McNeese University. • Allows the LHSAA to utilize additional indoor track and field facilities that may be constructed in Louisiana in the future without requiring another bylaw amendment identifying a specific facility or host institution. • Does not alter the existing qualifying process. Performances from an approved qualifying meet would simply become part of the existing pool of performances from which the top 12 qualifiers are selected. • Requires a qualifying meet hosted by an LHSAA member school to be NFHS sanctioned and conducted in accordance with applicable LHSAA and NFHS rules, providing a consistent standard for competitions whose performances may be used for state-meet qualification.	sanctioned and conducted in accordance with all applicable LHSAA and NFHS requirements. • Expanding the number of qualifying meets may increase the number of performances that must be reviewed, verified, entered, and managed in determining the final state-meet qualifiers. • Indoor facilities and meet-management procedures may vary from one venue to another, which could require additional attention to ensure that qualifying competitions are conducted consistently with NFHS and LHSAA requirements.
--	---

DEADLINE: Forms are due August 31, 2026. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on September 9, 2026.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-20

Date: 8/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Walt Lemoine		Brusly High School

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaw 23.4.2 and 23.4.16

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

23.4 DISTRICT MEETS (Boys and Girls)

23.4.1 Boys' and girls' track and field teams shall compete in the LHSAA Track and Field only assigned districts in Divisions 1, II, III, IV, V, and VI.

23.4.2 Schools within their assigned districts in all divisions may qualify individual competitors and relay teams for the state meet. ~~In all divisions, each district in outdoor track and field shall qualify the same number of individuals (4) and relay teams (4) to the regional meet, regardless of the number of districts in a region. In all divisions the top 4 finishers in each event will qualify from each district to regionals and the next best times and marks from each district meet (max of 16 per event) will fill out all events for regionals.~~

23.4.16 Because many track and field facilities are without lights and, therefore, cannot be used for night competition and because more than one division and/or district may be required to use the same facility on the same day, district track and field meets may begin at 1:00 p.m. with the scratch meeting beginning no earlier than 12:00 ~~noon~~ p.m.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

9.2.1(2) Instructional time exception for district meets would no longer apply

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

This amendment provides for an updated qualification method for the regional track & field meets. The top 16 athletes and relays per event will qualify for regional meets based on a head-to-head competition. Regional meets will then qualify the top 3 athletes and relays in head-to-head competition as normal to the state meet. Minimum standards are also included for the high jump and pole vault to not only provide a goal for those participants, but also to maintain the integrity of this new qualifying event.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- Allows for the best athletes from a District to Regional
- Allows additional athletes opportunity to qualify for state.
- Already have two heats/flights in events and it fills unused lanes in a second heat

- Takes in a few extra athletes

DEADLINE: Forms are due **August 31, 2026**. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on **September 9, 2026**.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

III-21

Date: 08/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Executive Committee		

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Select Amendment Section: (double click box to select) ☐ Constitution ☐ Administrative Bylaws ☒ Athletic Bylaws

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

(Note: List all Bylaws within the section selected above that will be amended)

Bylaw 23.7.8 Note 2

Proposed Amendment Details: (Note: To amend a bylaw please make ALL changes in **red**, strike through any deletions, and underline any additions. If proposing a new amendment to add to the Constitution or Bylaws select a new number in sequence with the section article or bylaw.)

Proposed Amendment Changes

23.7.8 Note 2: **It is recommended that** the size/**weight** of the discus and shot put and javelin for wheelchair participants ~~shall~~ be the same as **the NFHS middle level/junior high school specifications for both all other** male and female participants.

Please list ALL bylaws and/or articles that are affected by this amendment:

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

This proposal was recommended by Pam Carey, who serves as the wheelchair and adaptive sports representative for our state and as the LHSAA liaison for students with disabilities who qualify for the State Track & Field Meet.

Due to the constraints and safety concerns associated with throwing field event implements from a wheelchair or a specialized chair anchored to the ground, it is recommended that high school participants with disabilities use the NFHS middle school-level sizes and weights for the discus, shot put, and javelin. This modification would provide a safer and more appropriate competition environment while allowing these student-athletes to participate in the field events.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

- Provides a safer environment for our athletes with disabilities to participate in track & field throwing events.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- Current athletes may need to purchase or borrow new implements, however this proposal is a recommendation.

DEADLINE: Forms are due **August 31, 2026**. Email the completed form as a word document to Kathie Smith at ksmith@lhsaa.org. Per LHSAA Handbook Article 7.2.4, a principal submitting a proposal must present that proposal to the Handbook Committee on **September 9, 2026**.