

**2026 LHSAA Annual Convention Principal Submitted Proposal
Original Form/First Read**



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

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.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

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)

7.2.2

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

- 7.2.2** A member school principal may submit written proposals to the LHSAA for consideration at his/her class meeting or the general business session of the annual meeting no later than ~~August 31~~ **September 30** each school year. Only proposals timely submitted shall be presented at class meetings or at the general business session of the annual meeting. The principal proposing a rule change must appear before the Handbook Committee to present his/her proposal prior to the Fall Executive Committee meeting date, or the proposal will not be considered for vote at the annual meeting. No amendments to the Constitution can be proposed from the floor at the annual meeting. Prior to any author-principal appearing before the Handbook Committee, the LHSAA shall release to membership, or post to the LHSAA website, a copy of all proposals submitted.

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

7.2.2

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

This amendment changes the deadline for member school principals to submit proposals from August 31 to September 30. The purpose is to give principals additional time to address the significant responsibilities associated with opening a new school year and to develop thoughtful proposals based on issues identified during the first several weeks of school. The September 30 deadline still provides the LHSAA with sufficient time to review and prepare proposals for the annual meeting, while giving member principals a more practical opportunity to participate in the rule-making process.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

- Allows principals to focus on the beginning of the school year.** The August 31 deadline falls during one of the busiest times of the school year, when principals are focused on opening school, staffing, student schedules, enrollment, and other critical start-of-school responsibilities. Moving the deadline to September 30 provides an additional month for principals to identify and develop proposals without interfering with the demands of opening school.
- Provides more time for thoughtful and informed proposals.** An additional month allows member schools to identify issues that arise during the opening weeks of the school year and gives principals more time to discuss potential rule changes with their coaches, athletic

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- Moving the deadline to September 30 gives the LHSAA one less month to review and prepare proposals for consideration at the annual meeting.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

directors, and school leadership before submitting a proposal.

3. **September 30 still provides adequate time for the LHSAA to prepare for the annual meeting.** Moving the deadline from August 31 to September 30 does not prevent the LHSAA from reviewing, distributing, and preparing proposals for the annual meeting. The deadline has historically been later, including a period when proposals were due in November, demonstrating that a September 30 deadline provides the Association with ample time to complete its preparation.

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.

2026 LHSAA Annual Convention Principal Submitted Proposal
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Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

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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)

7.2.2 and 7.2.2.1

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

- 7.2.2** A member school principal may submit written proposals to the LHSAA for consideration at his/her class meeting or the general business session of the annual meeting no later than ~~August 31~~ **September 30** each school year. Only proposals timely submitted shall be presented at class meetings or at the general business session of the annual meeting. ~~The principal proposing a rule change must appear before the Handbook Committee to present his/her proposal prior to the Fall Executive Committee meeting date or the proposal will not be considered for vote at the annual meeting.~~ No amendments to the Constitution can be proposed from the floor at the annual meeting. ~~Prior to any author-principal appearing before the Handbook Committee,~~ The LHSAA shall release to membership, or post to the LHSAA website, a copy of all proposals submitted.
- ~~If a member principal writes a proposal to be voted on by the member principals in January and that proposal is deemed unconstitutional or any other reason given that would prohibit the proposal from being added to the Annual meeting agenda, the handbook committee must/shall give an explanation to the principal in writing, why the proposal was deemed unconstitutional. The Handbook Committee shall give guidance to the principal so the proposal will be deemed constitutional. This would allow member principals to submit proposals where the member principals could vote to approve or disapprove the proposal.~~ **If a member principal submits a proposal for consideration at the annual meeting and the proposal is determined to be unconstitutional or otherwise not in order for consideration, the proposal shall be reviewed by the appropriate LHSAA authority. Matters concerning the constitutionality of a proposal shall be reviewed by LHSAA legal counsel, and matters concerning parliamentary procedure shall be reviewed by the LHSAA parliamentarian. If a proposal is determined to be unconstitutional or not in order for consideration, the submitting principal shall be provided a written explanation identifying the specific constitutional provision, parliamentary rule, or other basis for the determination. The LHSAA shall provide the submitting principal with guidance regarding how the proposal may be revised to comply with the Constitution or applicable parliamentary procedure. A proposal that has been determined to be constitutional and in order shall be presented to the membership for consideration and vote in accordance with the LHSAA Constitution and bylaws.**

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

7.2.2, 7.2.2.1

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

The purpose of this amendment is to establish a clear and objective process for determining whether a rule proposal submitted by a member principal is constitutional or otherwise in order for consideration by the membership. The amendment removes the requirement that a principal personally appear before the Handbook Committee in order for his or her proposal to be considered. There is no need for a principal to appear before a committee simply to have a properly submitted proposal reviewed for constitutionality or parliamentary order. Those questions are matters of legal and parliamentary interpretation and should be addressed by the appropriate authorities. Under this amendment, constitutional questions would be reviewed by LHSAA legal counsel, while questions concerning parliamentary procedure would be reviewed by the LHSAA parliamentarian. If a proposal is determined to be unconstitutional or otherwise not in order, the submitting principal would receive a written explanation identifying the specific constitutional provision, parliamentary rule, or other basis for the determination. When appropriate, the



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

principal would also be provided with guidance regarding how the proposal could be revised to comply with the Constitution or applicable parliamentary procedure. The amendment does not guarantee passage of any proposal. It simply ensures that a properly submitted proposal that is constitutional and in order is presented to the membership for consideration, debate, and a vote. The ultimate decision remains with the member principals. The intent is to provide clarity, consistency, and transparency in the proposal process while eliminating an unnecessary requirement that a principal appear before the Handbook Committee merely to have a proposal considered.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

1. **Creates a clear and objective review process.** The amendment establishes who should address two different types of questions: legal questions concerning constitutionality would be reviewed by LHSAA legal counsel, while parliamentary questions would be reviewed by the LHSAA parliamentarian. This provides a defined process rather than leaving the submitting principal uncertain about how or by whom a proposal will be evaluated.
2. **Provides transparency to the submitting principal.** If a proposal is rejected as unconstitutional or otherwise not in order, the principal would receive a written explanation identifying the specific provision, rule, or other basis for the determination. This allows the principal to understand why the proposal cannot be considered.
3. **Gives principals an opportunity to correct a proposal.** When a proposal can be revised to comply with the Constitution or parliamentary procedure, the submitting principal will receive guidance regarding the necessary changes. This gives the principal an opportunity to correct a technical problem rather than simply having the proposal removed from consideration.
4. **Protects the membership's right to consider properly submitted proposals.** The amendment does not guarantee passage of any proposal. It simply provides that a proposal determined to be constitutional and in order will be presented to the membership for debate and a vote. The ultimate decision remains with the member principals.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

1. The amendment could result in additional review of proposals and may require legal or parliamentary consultation before a proposal is placed on the annual meeting agenda.

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

Date: 08/18/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Phillip Freeman		Gueydan 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:

8.7.7 Schools Competing in Football with Class B/C Enrollment

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

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

- A school participating in varsity football whose certified October 1 enrollment would otherwise qualify the school for Class B or Class C classification under Article 8.7.5 shall remain classified according to the football classification criteria in Article 8.7.3 and 8.7.4 for the sport of football.
- For non-football sports in which the LHSAA provides separate Class B and/or Class C competition, districts, playoff brackets, or championships, the school shall compete according to its certified October 1 enrollment and shall be eligible for placement in the appropriate Class B or Class C classification.
- Participation in a Class B or Class C classification under this provision shall apply only to the applicable non-football sport and shall not alter the school's football classification.
- No school shall be permitted to compete below the classification mandated by its certified October 1 enrollment.
- The Executive Director and Classification Committee shall place eligible schools in the appropriate districts, divisions, or postseason structure in accordance with the rules governing each applicable sport.

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

- 8.7.1 Once classified, a school may choose to compete for postseason play in any classification higher than that based on its October 1 enrollment certified to the LHSAA under the guidelines of Article
- 8.3 – Enrollment Calculation. If a school chooses to compete for postseason play in any higher classification, it must do so in all sports.
- 8.7.5 provides that non-football schools below the lowest Class 2A enrollment shall be divided into Classes B and C according to enrollment.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

Under the current LHSAA classification system, schools that choose to sponsor football are classified as football schools and divided using the one-fifth principle, while non-football schools below Class 2A are divided into Classes B and C according to enrollment. This can result in schools with Class B or Class C enrollment numbers being required to compete as Class 1A schools in non-football sports solely because they sponsor football.

This proposal would allow a school whose enrollment qualifies it for Class B or Class C to compete in that enrollment classification for non-football sports where Class B and/or Class C competition is offered, while remaining in its assigned football classification for football.

The LHSAA already recognizes sport-specific classification structures, including volleyball and other sports that use enrollment-based divisions. This proposal would extend that same principle to ensure that similarly sized schools compete against similarly sized schools, regardless of whether a school chooses to provide football opportunities.

A school's enrollment, student population, and available athletic pool do not increase simply because the school sponsors football. This proposal promotes equitable competition, protects small-school athletic programs, and encourages schools to provide athletic opportunities in multiple sports.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

- Promotes true enrollment-based competition
- Creates more consistency across sports
- Encourages schools to offer more athletic opportunities.
- Does not require new classifications
- Maintains football classification

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- Class 1A football school would receive an unfair advantage by being allowed to compete in Class B or C in another sport.
- Schools sponsoring football have larger athletic budgets, facilities, and booster clubs and could therefore have an advantage over traditional Class B or Class C schools.
- The Handbook Committee may be concerned that approving this proposal could lead to numerous requests for schools to choose different classifications for different sports.

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Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

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)

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 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. The practical effect of this rule is that every LHSAA member school has the opportunity to accept an entering ninth-grade student who chooses to attend that school, regardless of whether the school is currently classified as select or non-select. The ability of a school to select its students is the basis for distinguishing select schools from non-select schools. Since 1.3.2 provides every LHSAA member school with the opportunity to accept an entering ninth-grade student of his/her choice, all LHSAA member schools shall compete together in enrollment-based classifications, and the separate select and non-select classifications shall be eliminated.

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

1.3.2, Section 10, Baseball; Section 11, Basketball; Section 14, Football; Section 19, Softball

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

The LHSAA currently separates member schools into select and non-select classifications. The fundamental distinction between the two classifications is the ability of a school to select the students who attend the school. If the ability of a school to select its students is the basis for distinguishing a select school from a non-select school, then the current School of First Choice provision has fundamentally changed the distinction between the two classifications. A school classified as non-select may now accept an entering ninth-grade student who chooses to attend that school, even when that student would not otherwise attend the school based upon traditional attendance-zone requirements. The question is therefore whether the LHSAA should continue to maintain two separate classifications when its own eligibility rules provide every member school with the opportunity to accept an entering ninth-grade student of his/her choice.

This proposal is submitted as an amendment to Bylaw 1.3.2 and does not propose an amendment to the LHSAA Constitution. The LHSAA Constitution does not establish or define a separate classification of member schools as select or non-select. The Constitution does not establish the select/non-select classification of schools, define which schools are select or non-select, establish criteria for assigning schools to either classification, or require that select and non-select schools compete separately. The only identified definition of "select" and "non-select" appears in the LHSAA Handbook glossary. The glossary does not contain a numbered constitutional or bylaw provision establishing the classification, nor does it constitute an operative provision separately adopted by the membership.

The intent is not to favor select schools or non-select schools, nor is it intended to restrict a student's ability to attend an LHSAA school of his/her choice. The intent is to recognize the practical effect of Bylaw 1.3.2 and eliminate a distinction that is no longer consistent with the eligibility opportunity provided to all LHSAA member schools. If every LHSAA member school has the opportunity to accept an entering ninth-grade student who chooses to attend that school, then the fundamental basis for separating schools into select and non-select classifications no longer exists. All LHSAA member schools should therefore compete together in enrollment-based classifications.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

Pros: (Must have at least one)

1. **Eliminates the select/non-select distinction.** All LHSAA member schools would compete under one classification structure rather than being divided into separate select and non-select classifications.
2. **Recognizes the practical effect of Bylaw 1.3.2.** The School of First Choice provision allows an entering ninth-grade student to establish eligibility at any LHSAA school of his/her choice. This gives every LHSAA member school the opportunity to accept such a student.
3. **Creates consistency in the LHSAA classification system.** If the ability to select students is the basis for distinguishing select schools from non-select schools, the current School of First Choice provision has substantially reduced the factual distinction between the two groups.
4. **Provides equal classification treatment for all member schools.** Public and private schools would be classified according to the same objective enrollment criteria rather than being separated into select and non-select categories.
5. **Simplifies the LHSAA classification structure.** A single enrollment-based classification system would eliminate the need to maintain separate select and non-select classifications.
6. **Returns the LHSAA to one membership competing under one classification structure.** The proposal recognizes that all LHSAA member schools are subject to the same School of First Choice eligibility provision and should therefore compete under the same fundamental classification structure.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

1. Combining select and non-select schools could create concerns regarding competitive balance because schools may have different enrollment, admission, and student-selection practices.

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

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

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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)

3.3.1.6

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

3.3.1.6 A full-time Strength and Conditioning Coach may also qualify as a faculty coach. A qualifying Strength and Conditioning Coach shall be a full-time employee of the school or school system whose primary responsibility is the development, implementation, supervision, and administration of strength and conditioning programs for student-athletes. The individual must maintain a current Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) certification through the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) and shall submit the current NSCA certification number to the LHSAA for verification. A qualifying full-time Strength and Conditioning Coach shall not be required to teach a minimum of three classes per day to qualify as a faculty coach. The individual shall be physically present and work at his/her school(s) during the school's normal hours of operation.

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

3.3.1

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

Strength and conditioning coaches are a vital and growing part of high school athletics. They need to be present in the weight rooms to create and implement strength programs, teach technique, and evaluate student athletes improvements. They should be certified in CSCS so that students are getting adequate instruction.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Creates a safer and better environment for student athletes in the weight room.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

Schools may have to pay more money to create this position.

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Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

Date: 8/24/26

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Carol Ann Dufrene		St. Scholastica Academy

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 3.4.3

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

3.4.3 A school shall not allow non-faculty coaches to serve as the head coach in the sports of football and boys' ~~and~~ ~~girls'~~ basketball.

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

None

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

Would allow schools to utilize a non- faculty head coach for the sport of girls' basketball.

Schools would be allowed to hire the most qualified coach available for girls' basketball. Candidates for girls' head basketball coach, who is also qualified to be a faculty member is limited. Other than football, boys'/girls' basketball is the only sport that requires the head coach to be a faculty member.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Schools would be able to hire the most qualified candidate to be the girls head basketball coach.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

Removes another teaching/coaching position.

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

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

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

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

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

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 and any school choosing to play up a division will be Division I.
A. This will apply to Division I 'select' and 'non-select'.
2. All other schools that are classified as 4A through 1A 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

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

Date: 8/13/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Steven Vrbka		Parkway 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)

7.1.1, 7.1.2

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

7.1.1

Sport	Team	Individual
Boys Cross Country Girls Cross Country	1 st and 2 nd and 3 rd place trophies in each class <u>division</u> .	Members of 1 st and 2 nd and 3 rd place teams in each class <u>division</u> in each sport and top 10 finishers in each class <u>division</u> .

7.1.2 Individual awards should be presented to coaches of state championship and state runner-up teams in all sports.

Individual awards in the sport of cross country will also be presented to the coach of the 3rd place team.

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

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

The current awards bylaws limit cross country to recognizing only the top two teams in each division. However, the creation of select and non-select playoffs in other sports has created a system that recognizes the top two teams in both select and non-select. Essentially, the LHSAA is awarding the top four teams in each classification by splitting those classes into two divisions for the playoffs and awarding two teams in each division. For example, the five classes that play football are split into 8 divisions for the purposes of the playoffs with each division awarding a state champion and state runner-up. Since the sport of cross country is not split into select and non-select divisions for the purposes of state championships, this amendment would reward the top three teams in each division. This would allow for more teams to be recognized for their successes and allow the number of teams recognized to be similar to those awarded in sports that are split into select and non-select.

This change in awards would also help us mirror the neighboring state of Texas, which also recognizes the top 3 team finishers in cross country. It also allows cross country to mirror its recognition of the top 3 individual runners as podium finishers by also recognizing the top 3 teams as podium finishers.

Unlike several other sports, a 3rd place finisher can be easily be determined in cross country without the need for any additional contests.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

- Allows the recognition of more teams for their performance at the State Cross Country Meet
- Allows us to mirror the state of Texas in how we award team performances in cross country
- Creates a podium finish recognition similar to how we recognize the top 3 individual athlete performances.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- The cost of awards would increase to cover the awarding of both a team trophy and individual medals for the 3rd place team in each division.

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

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.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

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)

Bylaw 8.4.13

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

8.4.13 In the event an LHSAA-sanctioned officials' association is unable to provide the required number of officials for a scheduled sub-varsity contest due to a shortage of available officials, the participating schools may mutually agree to secure officials from another LHSAA-sanctioned officials' association. All officials utilized under this provision shall meet all current LHSAA registration, certification, and sports-rule requirements. The use of an alternate officials' association under this provision shall apply only to the specific sub-varsity contest for which the contracted officials' association is unable to provide officials and shall not constitute cancellation of the school's existing agreement with its contracted officials' association. This provision shall not apply to varsity contests or postseason contests for which the LHSAA has established separate officials' assignment procedures.

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

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

With the decrease of officials over the past several years we have had some sub-varsity games (specifically in basketball) cancelled due to a lack of officials. Typically this happens when we are playing 3 games in a night (ex. Boys JV, Girls Varsity, boys Varsity). The officials will only do the 2 varsity games and the JV game gets cut. We are asking to be able to search for the opportunity to cover the sub-varsity games should that situation arise, by hiring from another association. We understand that may come with an increase in travel pay.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Sub-varsity players will get to play games that have been scheduled but may get cancelled later in the season.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

Home team may have to pay a larger travel fee to an get officials from a different association.

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

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)

10.1

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

10.1 IMPORTANT DATES		
2026-2027 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, August 10, 2026 – Sunday, January 10,	6 th – 28 th	Weight training/conditioning is permitted. No practice /contests are allowed.

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

4.1.4 4.4.1

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

1. To clear up language that conflicts with bylaws 4.1.4 and 4.4.1

Pros: (Must have at least one)

Cons: (Must have at least one)

1. Clears up conflicting language	1. None
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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

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. Between the 9th and the 13th week of the NFHS calendar, a school shall be permitted a pre-season evaluation period. The evaluation period shall run from the first Monday of the 9th week to the Friday of the 13th week and is limited to only 20 hours of coach/student-athlete contact during that period. There is no restriction on the type of baseball equipment that can be used during the evaluation period. An interschool scrimmage is not allowed during the evaluation. An evaluation period can be used as a tryout. There will no longer be a pre-season evaluation period. Tryouts may now be held anytime during the pre-season with the principal's approval.~~
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:

4.1.7

Explanation of proposed amendment(s):

1. To do away with the Evaluation Period that is no longer needed in baseball.
2. To clear up language about the timing of the Louisiana Baseball Coaches Association Convention.

Pros: (Must have at least one)

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

Cons: (Must have at least one)

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

Date: 8/31/2026

Amendment Author(s):

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Kenneth W. Henderson	<i>KW 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)

10.3, 10.8.1, 10.8.2, 10.8.3, 10.9, 10.11, 10.11.1, 10.11.4, 10.11.5, 10.11.6, 10.12, 10.13.2 and all of 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

~~10.3~~ ~~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 six equal or nearly equal divisions and compete in Divisions I, II, III, IV, V and VI. 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 sixths 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.

10.8.1 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	I	32
II	24	II	20	II	32
III	24	III	20	III	32
IV	24	IV	20	IV	32
B	20			V	32
C	20			VI	32

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 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, will not be eligible for the playoffs. Teams that are certified as the first-place representative from the district shall automatically qualify for postseason play from that district. If a district championship is tied, the district must select one champion to qualify for postseason play.

10.8.3 The remainder of the byes on the bracket shall be filled with wildcard teams (teams that did not automatically qualify) with the highest power rating in descending order to fill the bracket.

10.9 SEEDING THE BRACKET - In ~~Non-Select~~ all Divisions I – ~~IV~~ VI, 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.~~

10.11 PLAYOFFS – ~~NON-SELECT~~



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

- 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~~ **V and VI**.
- 10.12 ~~PLAYOFF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS~~ **—NON-SELECT**
- 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:
6. In Divisions I, II, ~~and III~~ **and IV**, 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 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 with another team that has a 'bye' on its bracket. ~~Division IV, Class B, and Class C~~ **V and VI**, 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 Class C~~ **V and VI** Quarterfinal winners shall play for the state championship in a single-elimination tournament. Divisions I, II, ~~and III~~ **and IV**, semifinal winners shall play for the state championship in a best two of three series.
- ~~10.14 — State Playoff — Select~~
- ~~10.14.1 The playoff system for Select Divisions shall be as follows:~~
- ~~1. — Regional Round — Best two out of three series at the home field of the higher seeded team. The Select Schools, or a committee chosen from their number, shall have the option to make this round of play a single elimination game for the lower enrollment division if necessary due to pitch count concerns.~~
 - ~~2. — Quarterfinal Round — Best two out of three series at the home field of the higher seeded team. The Select Schools, or a committee chosen from their number, shall have the option to make this round of play a single elimination game for the lower enrollment division if necessary due to pitch count concerns.~~
 - ~~3. — Semi-Final Round — Best two out of three series at the home field of the higher seed team.~~
 - ~~4. — Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, select baseball teams in all divisions shall compete for state championship honors at a site or sites selected by the select schools, or a committee chosen from their number. The tournament shall consist of a single elimination game in the final round of play in Divisions I, II, III, IV and V or the best two out of three series for Divisions I, II, III, and IV as determined by the select state championship committee.~~
- ~~10.14.2 The higher seeded team as determined under Bylaw 10.10, Power Ranking, shall be the home team.~~
- ~~10.14.3 The umpires utilized shall be selected and assigned by the LHSAA Director of Officials.~~
- ~~10.14.4 Game time for the regional and quarterfinal rounds of play shall be set by mutual agreement. If an agreement cannot be reached, the starting time shall be 6:00 p.m.~~
- ~~10.14.5 If a game is rained out, the home team shall have the authority to change the dates and/or tournament site.~~
- ~~10.14.6 The home team shall be responsible for the following:~~
- ~~1. — Organizing and managing the game~~
 - ~~2. — Managing game finances~~
 - ~~3. — Reporting each game's results to the LHSAA and media~~
- ~~10.14.7 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:~~
 - ~~1. — Officials Hotel Fee (if necessary)~~
 - ~~2. — Official Scorekeepers~~
 - ~~3. — Ticket Sellers and Takers~~
 - ~~4. — Security~~
 - ~~5. — Ground Crew~~
 - ~~6. — Baseballs and other items necessary to conduct the game.~~
 - ~~7. — Field Rental (if necessary)~~
 - ~~5. — The visiting team is responsible for its travel expenses.~~



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

10.14.8 The visiting team's principal or athletic director must make a request with the home team's principal or athletic director at the time the two schools mutually agree on the playing date and time to be guaranteed at least 30 percent of the stadium's seating capacity for a playoff game.

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

10.3, 10.8, 10.9, 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 six divisions based primarily on enrollment.

With approximately **351 schools currently playing baseball**, six divisions would consist of approximately **58–59 schools per division**. Each division would have a 32-team playoff bracket, meaning slightly more than half 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 six**. Rather than maintaining separate championships for select and non-select schools and additional Class B and Class C championships, the proposal creates six 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 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 is being added to the best-two-out-of-three format because the 2A schools currently compete in a best-two-out-of-three series**. This allows those schools to retain a playoff format with which they are already familiar while bringing them into the unified six-division structure.

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.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

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 6 while creating legitimate championships.**
Approximately 351 schools would be divided into six divisions of roughly 58–59 schools each. A 32-team playoff gives slightly more than half of the schools an opportunity to compete for a championship, while requiring five playoff victories to win a single-elimination state 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 Division IV recognizes that the current 2A baseball playoff already uses a best-two-out-of-three format. It allows that format to continue while incorporating those schools into the unified six-division system.
- 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 six 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

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

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)

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

Cons: (Must have at least one)

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

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)

- Creates equity: Division IV follows the same format as Divisions I-III.
- 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

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)

Will provide some financial relief for the traveling team.

Cons: (Must have at least one)

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

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

2026 LHSAA Annual Convention Principal Submitted Proposal
Original Form/First Read



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

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 next 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 -VII)	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.~~

11.8.5 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>		

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

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

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.

2026 LHSAA Annual Convention Principal Submitted Proposal
Original Form/First Read



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

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)

Cons: (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.

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

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

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.

2026 LHSAA Annual Convention Principal Submitted Proposal
Original Form/First Read



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

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

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	<u>16</u> 24	0
II(BOYS)	8	1 st	<u>16</u> 24	0
III(BOYS)	8	1 st	<u>16</u> 24	0
IV(BOYS)	8	1 st	<u>16</u> 24	0
<u>V(BOYS)</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>
I(Girls)	8	1 st	<u>16</u> 24	0
II(Girls)	8	1 st	<u>16</u> 24	0
III(Girls)	8	1 st	<u>16</u> 24	0
IV(Girls)	8	1 st	<u>16</u> 24	0
<u>V(Girls)</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</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.

2026 LHSAA Annual Convention Principal Submitted Proposal
Original Form/First Read



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

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)

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

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

- ~~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 six equal or nearly equal divisions and compete in Divisions I, II, III, IV, V and VI. 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 sixths 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.

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

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

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.

- ~~19.8.1 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-VI, 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.~~
- 19.11.4 The quarterfinal regional round winners in all classes shall play for the state championship in a single-elimination tournament.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

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

19.3, 19.7.1, 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 six divisions based primarily on enrollment.

Under the proposed system, schools would be divided into **six 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, creating a **48-team statewide championship event—Fastpitch 48**.

This concept brings back the spirit of 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 classification system. Six divisions. Six divisional champions. One statewide Fastpitch 48 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 six divisions in which all schools have the opportunity to compete for the same divisional championship.
- 2. Creates a major statewide championship event — Fastpitch 48.** The regional-round winners from each division would advance to the state tournament. With six divisions and eight teams advancing from each division, the state tournament would feature **48 of the best softball teams in Louisiana**. This brings back the concept and

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 opportunity. The response is that the proposal does not eliminate championship opportunities; it creates **six enrollment-based divisional championships open to all softball schools**, while also creating a much larger statewide championship event.
- 2. The 48-team state tournament will require significant planning and resources.** Bringing 48 teams to a state championship event will require substantial facilities,



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

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 slightly more than half 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 six 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.

scheduling, officiating, lodging and logistical planning. However, the size of the event is also its greatest strength. Fastpitch 48 could become one of the Association's premier championship events, providing a statewide showcase for softball and creating an atmosphere similar to the highly successful Fastpitch 56.

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

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

2026 LHSAA Annual Convention Principal Submitted Proposal
Original Form/First Read



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

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 Girl's 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.~~

~~21.6.2~~ 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.

2026-2027 LHSAA HANDBOOK - PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Date:	8/31/26
Amendment Author(s):	Dana P. Bourgeois, Matt Evans

Printed Name(s)	Signature(s)	School(s)
Dana P. Bourgeois	<i>Dana P. Bourgeois</i>	Ascension Christian High
Matt Evans	<i>Matt Evans</i>	Ascension Christian High

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)

21.5, 21.5.3, 21.5.4, 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 State tournament placement and seeding for singles shall be determined primarily by regional tournament finish.~~

~~21.5.4 State tournament placement and seeding for doubles shall be determined primarily by regional tournament finish.~~

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.

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 designated as Semifinalists (9-16); all remaining teams shall comprise the Remaining Field. Head-to-head results and current high school season performance shall serve as tiebreakers. Doubles teams from the same school/team shall not be placed in the same quarter of the state tournament bracket.

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 regions 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.

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.

Pros: (Must have at least one)	Cons: (Must have at least one)
• Maintains regional tournaments as the sole qualifying pathway. • Applies a consistent seeding standard across both singles and doubles.	

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.

2026 LHSAA Annual Convention Principal Submitted Proposal
Original Form/First Read



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

Date: August 28,
2026

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

21 9 1 - Tennis

Specific Article or Bylaw Number(s) to Amend:

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

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

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

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)

23.3.2 et al

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

23.3.2 Boys' and girls' outdoor track & field schools shall compete in Divisions I, II, III, IV, V, and VI. Boys' and Girls' track & field shall be divided into six equal or nearly equal divisions. Track & field 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 sixths shall begin with the lowest and end with the highest track and field school enrollment. All-girl schools shall be included in the counting to achieve equal divisions. All boy schools shall be classified according to their enrollment after the track & field schools have been divided. 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. A school may elect to play in a higher division if it submits a written declaration to the LHSAA. The declaration shall apply for the next 2 years.

1. Each of the six (6) Divisions shall contain nine (9) track and field-only districts, determined independently of the LHSAA's basic districts used for team sports. Districts 1 through 3 shall comprise Region 1; Districts 4 through 6 shall comprise Region 2; Districts 7 through 9 shall comprise Region 3. Division V and VI will not contest the 4x800m relay in postseason.

23.3.5 A regular season meet's starting time shall be left to the discretion of the host school. Regular season and non-~~district~~ regional scratch meetings shall not be conducted during a school day. A school shall not participate in a meet conducted during a school day.

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 I, 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 will qualify from each district to regionals and the next best times from each district meet(max of 16 per event) will fill out the field for regionals.~~

23.4.3 A district committee shall select a meet host, location, and starting time by the January LTFCA Coaches' Convention. The district meet shall be held prior to the deadline for qualifying individual contestants and relay teams to the regional meet.

23.4.4 In organizing the meet, the district committee shall comply with the order of events and time schedule explained in Bylaw 23.3.8.

23.4.5 A school may enter a maximum of two contestants for individual and one team in each relay event.

23.4.6 A district relay winning school may substitute contestants in that event at the regional meet if the substitute's name has been listed on the relay entry form submitted by the district meet director to the regional meet director.



Proposal to Amend Constitution or Bylaws

23.4.7 Schools may enter alternate contestants until the end of the scratch meeting.

23.4.8 At the conclusion of a district meet, the meet director shall immediately do the following:

1. Record first, second, third, fourth, and fifth place (if applicable) winner's times in running events.
2. Record heights and distances of first, second, third, fourth, and fifth place (if applicable) winners in all field events.
3. Send the results to the regional meet's director by 10:00 p.m. on the day after the deadline in which the district meet may be conducted.

23.4.9 This information shall be used to seed regional competitors.

23.4.10 If the district meet is conducted on a track constructed in yards, running events shall be conducted in metric or equivalent distances.

23.4.11 The English measurement system shall be applied in measuring heights and distances in field events.

23.4.12 Seeding for running events shall be established according to the seeding procedure explained in Bylaw 23.6.16(9). The meet director shall draw for lanes in the presence of witnesses from another school in the district when seeding the contestants in lanes.

23.4.13 The 200-meter dash shall be run on the curve.

23.4.14 A jury of appeals shall be formed to consider appeals filed at the meet and to make other decisions within its authority as specified in the Outdoor Track and Field Rule Book.

23.4.15 A coaches' scratch meeting shall be conducted prior to the meet. Coaches shall attend the scratch meeting.

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)

- 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

Cons: (Must have at least one)

- 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.