

MISSOURI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES AND BY-LAWS

(September 2021)

The following guidelines will be in effect for any activities involving MCSAA member schools. A proposed change to the by-laws may be put forth by either obtaining petition signatures from two-thirds of all member schools, or by vote from two-thirds of member schools attending the summer conference, provided a quorum of MCSAA schools are represented. In either instance, the proposed change will be submitted to all MCSAA member schools for consideration and will be deemed to pass with a majority affirmative vote.

I. Purpose Statement (3/05)

The purpose of the MCSAA is to provide a comprehensive statewide competitive program of athletics in a Christian environment in accordance with I Corinthians 10:31 – “Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”. All member schools must agree to the doctrinal statement approved by the membership of the MCSAA. This agreement will be signed annually by each member school.

II. Member Application and Enrollment Information (8/2020)

Schools interested in joining the MCSAA must fill out a New Member Application. Applicants must agree to field at least two (2) teams in MCSAA sanctioned sports before being considered for membership. The MCSAA Executive Committee will review the application and, if affirmed, submit it to member schools for a vote. Applications must be approved by a majority of member schools to obtain Association membership. A fee of \$190 per team will be charged to participate in Association state tournaments.

- A. The Annual Participation Intent Form must be fully completed and returned by September 10th each year for MCSAA tournament participation.
- B. Schools in the Kansas City and St Louis Metro areas that are located in Kansas or Illinois may participate in the MCSAA provided all of the requirements stated in these guidelines are met and are located within the boundaries given below.
 1. Kansas City Metro Kansas Boundary – any school inside the I-435 Loop of the KC Area.
 2. St. Louis Metro Boundaries in the State of Illinois – South Border – Hwy 158; East Border – Hwy 4; North Border – Hwy 140.
- C. Schools outside of the area outlined in Section B may petition to join the association. Petitioning schools must be affiliated with an athletic conference containing MCSAA member schools. If the executive committee approves the petition, it will be submitted for consideration. The request must be approved by two-thirds of the member schools.

III. Student Eligibility Requirements (11/16)

Student athletes must be enrolled in your school as a certified student. They must meet your eligibility standards and be a student in good standing. Students who do not attend your school as either as a part time or full-time student will not be eligible for MCSAA play.

- A. A full-time student that may participate in MCSAA team sports must take at least four classes in the following areas of core subjects: Bible, English, History, Mathematics, and Science.
- B. To participate in sports with a MCSAA school, a student (full time or part time) must be working toward graduation from the MCSAA member school.
- C. If a student starts to attend your school and it was determined that they need to be held back a grade academically so that student will now turn 19 during their senior year, you must file a letter stating the circumstances and send it to the executive director. You must also communicate that fact to schools you schedule games with during their senior year.
- D. A student has 7 consecutive years of eligibility beginning with their 6th grade year.
- E. A student may be 6th grade or above to participate in MCSAA events. The main concern of the MCSAA is the safety of all student athletes. If a member school opts to use 6th, 7th, or 8th graders on their varsity team, the member school must have a signed statement from the student's parents/

guardians allowing that student to play varsity sports understanding that they could be playing against high school seniors. They must also communicate to the parents that they are required to travel to Joplin for the state tournaments as a part of the varsity team.

- F. A part time student may participate for your school if they are:
 - 1. A junior or senior who is not attending another high school
 - 2. A junior or senior taking at least 3 core credit hours in your school classroom and meeting credit requirements for graduation from your school. (Core classes from the disciplines of Bible, History, Language Arts, Mathematics and Science which are taught on at least the 9th grade level.)
 - 3. A junior or senior who provides documentation of being dually enrolled in college courses and is taking at least 3 core credit hours at your school.

IV. Home School Participants (09/22)

Member schools will be allowed to use homeschool athletes under the following guidelines:

- A. School Enrollment Guidelines:
 - 1. Schools with an enrollment of 8 or less female students (9th – 12th grades) would be allowed to use up to 3 homeschoolers for each sport.
 - 2. Schools with an enrollment of 8 or less male students (9th – 12th grades) would be allowed to use up to 3 homeschoolers for each sport.
 - 3. Schools with an enrollment of 9-15 female students (9th – 12th grades) would be allowed to use up to 2 homeschoolers for each sport.
 - 4. Schools with an enrollment of 9-15 male students (9th – 12th grades) would be allowed to use up to 2 homeschoolers for each sport.
 - 5. Schools with an enrollment of 16-20 female students (9th – 12th grades) would be allowed to use 1 homeschooler for each sport.
 - 6. Schools with an enrollment of 16-20 male students (9th – 12th grades) would be allowed to use 1 homeschooler for each sport.
- B. Requirements that must be met by schools using homeschooled students:
 - 1. Schools will add the number of homeschoolers used to their enrollment count as indicated on the Sports Registration Form.
 - 2. Schools who use home school students will not be allowed to play up into other divisions.
 - 3. Once a homeschooler is placed on a roster for a sport, that homeschooler may not be replaced on the roster with a different homeschooler for the school year.
- C. Homeschooled students must meet the following requirements to be eligible to play with a MCSAA member school:
 - 1. All age and grade requirements must be met as set forth in Section III of these guidelines.
 - 2. Homeschooled students may be requested to submit a copy of their birth certificate.
 - 3. Homeschooled students may not play for more than one school during a school calendar year.
- D. Any school who abuses these requirements will be suspended from the MCSAA for one year. A school may reapply for association admission after having served their suspension.
- E. MCSAA member schools will review this policy annually at the summer conference.

V. Tournament Information (08/13)

The MCSAA currently sanctions the following tournaments: Boys Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Cheerleading, Boys Track, Girls Track, Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Boys Baseball, and Girls Soccer. Boys and girls may not participate on the same team with the exception of golf under the following guidelines. In golf competition girls may play with boys to complete a team but must hit from same tee as boys. If there are not at least five individual girls playing, girls must hit from boys' tee to be eligible to place in tournament. If five girls play, they may hit from ladies' tee and three places will be awarded. Awards will be increased as number of participants increase to a maximum of 10 awards. The tournament host will be responsible to publicize the MCSAA events and to inform colleges across the region of the events. In case of inclement weather that does not allow championship games to be played on their scheduled day, the championship contest will be held on the Tuesday following the championships at the

tournament host site UNLESS the two schools participating can come to a mutual agreement on a site and location prior to leaving the tournament.

A. Tournament Dates:

Boys Soccer & Volleyball, Disc Golf – Fourth Saturday in October
Boys & Girls Basketball, Cheerleading – Third Saturday in February
Baseball, Girls Soccer, B & G Track, B & G Golf – Saturday before Mother's Day

B. Tournament Entry Fees: (03/10)

The tournament host for each MCSAA sponsored event will set the entry fees. This fee shall not exceed **\$190** per team. The payment of your MCSAA dues by the deadline will hold a spot for you in the MCSAA tournaments on a first come, first served basis, if space is available. The tournament entry fee must be made out to the MCSAA and sent to the executive director by the roster due dates. If not paid by that date the fee will increase 1 ½ times payable before the roster addition date. The host will be responsible for the running of the tournament. The executive director will approve the tournament gate fees.

C. Statistical Information

Teams are to report scores weekly on Mondays to the executive director. These will assist the executive director and committee when seeding the tournament. Individual stats are encouraged but not required. Member schools must report those scores by the end of school day on Monday. If scores are not reported by roster addition due date, the school will be fined a total of \$50 per sport. This fine must be paid by seeding form due date or team will forfeit MCSAA championship participation and tournament fees. All scores are to be reported on www.maxpreps.com weekly.

D. Tournament Workers

The tournament host will assign workers for each game of the tournament. It should be the responsibility of the home team of each game to check with the scorer's table to make sure that the book and clock are covered. If not, we would hope that the home team would provide someone qualified for that.

E. Tournament Seeding: (10/06)

The executive committee along with the tournament host will seed the tournament championship no later than 10 days prior to the tournament. The executive committee has the authority to appoint a helper from a different class than their school to assist him in the seeding process. Coaches will be sent a seeding form to rank teams in their class whom they have seen and will return it to the Executive Director prior to the seeding date. Seeding forms should include game by game results along with schedules of games played. These sheets will be made available to the executive committee prior to the seeding meeting.

Seeding Guidelines used by the Executive Committee:

1. Head to Head competition within classifications
2. Common Opponents
3. Strength of Schedule
4. Won/Loss Record
5. Past Performance in tournament
6. Conference Affiliation – to avoid playing teams regularly played during the season in the first round

Executive committee has the authority to adjust byes in MCSAA tournaments to allow for natural enrollment breaks in classifications.

Game times will be set according to seedings. First game time of the day will be 4 vs. 5, -second game time will be 2 vs. 7, third will be 1 vs. 8, and fourth will be 3 vs. 6. (Exceptions may be made to prevent teams from the same school playing at same time)

F. Tournament Classification: (10/01)

The tournament brackets will be set up based upon a school's enrollment figures. These figures will be used to set up classes when needed for the tournament. There will be an enrollment survey form sent out to member schools each fall to determine enrollment of grades 9 – 12. At the present time, the tournament host has the capability to handle 56 teams, 4 divisions of boys and 3 divisions of girls. When team numbers exceed 56, the smallest 2 divisions of boys and smallest division of girls will have their own championship weekend. These tournaments will remain on the following weekends: **Soccer/Volleyball – Fourth weekend in October, Basketball – All Divisions Third weekend in February; Spring festival – First weekend in May.** A team can request to play up in a higher classification but will only be moved if a team in that higher classification agrees to move down. This will be offered to the lowest seeded team in the upper division first and then progress upward with a limit of 2 teams. If the 7th or 8th seeded team does not want to move down, the request will be denied.

G. Tournament Drop-outs: (11/2010)

If a team withdraws from a tournament, the following penalties will apply:

1. Prior to registration deadline – Loss of membership dues
2. After registration but prior to roster due date – Tournament Fee still due. Also, possible SCHOOL exclusion from tournament.
3. Any school withdrawing from a MCSAA tournament before their entire game commitment has been completed will be subject to additional punishment from the executive committee which at the least will be letter of reprimand and officials cost reimbursement to tournament host.
4. Schools that play a varsity schedule and do not bring a team to the MCSAA State Championship Tournament will be subject to the following actions:
 - a. If a school has at least one senior on the team, that team must be considered a varsity sport.
 - b. The first time a school does not bring an actively participating varsity team in any sport to the MCSAA tournament, that school will be given a warning.
 - c. The second time a school does not bring an actively participating varsity team in any sport to the MCSAA tournament, that school will be suspended from participating in any MCSAA tournament for the remainder of that school year and for the following school year.
 - d. If and when a school is approved by the MCSAA membership to return to the organization after the suspension, that school will remain on probation.

H. Selection of All-State Teams: (09/21)

Athletic Directors from each school will be asked to nominate any of their own players that they feel are deserving of All-State consideration prior to the tournament. These names will be collected by the executive committee and passed on to the selection committee. The selection committee will be comprised of MCSAA executive committee members and JSA personnel. Input from coaches will be solicited selecting players based upon the athletic abilities and their representation of Jesus Christ on the field or court. First team, second team, and honorable mention teams **may** be named. These awards will be presented at the awards ceremony at the conclusion of the tournament. First team will be recognized with a trophy or plaque; second team and honorable mention will receive certificates. The committee will also be responsible for choosing a Sportsmanship Award during any team sports championships for the school who demonstrates the most enthusiasm and support for their teams. This will include the cheerleaders and fans but will not be given for routines, and stunts performed by the cheerleaders. It will be given based upon the enthusiasm generated during the playing time for the sport. This will be given to a school in each division for both the boys and girls teams.

I. Athlete Supervision (3/05)

Each school must provide a staff member in addition to the coach for each sport that their school enters in a MCSAA event. (I.e. – if a school enters a soccer and volleyball team, they must have two staff members in addition to the coaches for those teams)

It is our desire that there would be no problems during the tournament but this way there is someone not involved in the contest that can handle problems that may arise during a contest. Each school must submit a tournament contact form to the host prior to the tournament with the names and phone numbers of the supervisors for their school.

J. Tournament Hosts (3/05)

If a new city is interested in bidding on MCSAA tournaments, the following guidelines must be followed: (current contract with city of Joplin expires in spring of 2010)

1. The contract will be a 3-year contract.
2. The executive committee will appoint a site inspection committee that would make sure facilities and lodging are adequate and acceptable.
3. The potential host submits a \$5000 surety that MCSAA will hold for guarantee that tournaments will be held. This money will be refunded to the host at the completion of contract if all tournaments were held.
4. Proposals must be received by April 15th prior to year of contract expiring so that executive committee can look over proposals and sign new contract.

VI. Executive Committee (3/05)

The executive committee will be composed of 5 members from different regions of the state and the executive director. The committee members do not have to be affiliated with any member schools but should be familiar with the organization and goals. The host city will have consulting members involved in meetings in the case that facility questions or schedule issues arise. These committee positions will be 3-year positions voted on by members in the region. Executive committee positions will end on May 31st at the end of their current three years. Executive committee members can be re-elected indefinitely. New members take over on June 1st. The executive committee will be responsible to conduct business during the school year. They have the authority to review proposals that the entire body will consider at the MCSAA meetings. After reviewing the proposals, they will make a recommendation to the membership concerning recommending for passage. All proposals will be discussed at membership meetings. If a proposal is not recommended by committee but voted by membership to go onto the ballot, the issue will go onto the ballot. All recommended proposals will be placed on a ballot that will go out to all member schools. The votes from these ballots will be published following the voting. The executive committee has the authority to legislate punishment (including fines, suspensions, and expulsions) for all MCSAA activities for acts of misconduct towards the MCSAA or tournament host sites. These acts could include but not limited to vandalism in hotels, gyms, fields, etc. disrespect towards officials or host, etc.

They will also be involved in the final seedings of tournaments that involve 3 or more classifications using the coaches' input on those seeds. They will also be available to member schools from their region to answer questions regarding association business.

It was determined that the executive director will be elected at each winter meeting. The executive committee must nominate the executive director. The membership will then vote on that nomination at the winter meeting. If the membership does not vote in the nomination, the executive committee must re-submit a nomination. The director will receive a \$5 per team stipend as compensation for the work involved in running the association. This will be paid semi-annually following the fall and spring sports based upon the teams registered for tournament play.

The following representatives currently make up the executive committee:

Northern Missouri	John Knipker	Formerly w/Crescent Lake Christian
KC Area – 2021	Dave Schiefer	Formerly w/ Christian Fellowship School
St. Louis Division I	Leonard Payne	Christian Academy of Greater St. Louis
St. Louis Division II	Justin Cornell	Christian Fellowship School
Central Missouri	Tim Scott	Formerly w/ Show Me Christian School
Southern Missouri	Andrew Mellies	Eagle Ridge Christian School
Executive Director	Tim Asher	Plaza Heights Christian Academy

The following is a list of the schools that each executive committee is responsible for. They will be able to assist the schools with any questions that they may have and to keep them informed of any

upcoming responsibilities. Schools are encouraged to call with questions or with new member possibilities.

John Knipker – Blue Ridge Christian School, Christian Learning Center, Heartland Christian School, South Park Christian Academy, Training Center Christian School

Dave Schiefer – Agape Boarding School, Center Place Restoration School, Clinton Christian Academy, Plaza Heights Christian Academy

Leonard Payne – Christian Academy of Greater St. Louis, Heartland Christian Academy, Heritage Classical Christian Academy, North County Christian School, Providence Classical Christian Academy, Rivers of Life Christian School

Justin Cornell - Christian Fellowship School, Crosspoint Christian School, Liberty Christian Academy, Lighthouse Preparatory Academy, Maranatha Baptist Academy, Victory Christian Academy

Tim Scott – The Daniel Academy, El Dorado Christian School, Overland Christian School, Show Me Christian School, Victory Road Christian Academy

Andrew Mellies – Aurora Christian Academy, Berean Christian Academy, Christian Ministries Academy, Eagle Ridge Christian School, Lighthouse Christian Academy, Ozarks Christian Academy, Westwood Baptist Academy

VII. Practice Dates, Game Limits, and Rosters (02/02)

- A. It was determined that each sport should have beginning practice and game dates. Soccer, volleyball, cross country, basketball, baseball, and track teams are required to practice on ten different dates before the first contest is played for any given sport. (Practice dates in a sport immediately preceding the new season can count toward the ten days for a new sport season, i.e., a boy's soccer player does not have to practice for ten dates before he can play basketball.) (09/22)

	<u>Beginning Practice Dates</u>
Fall Sports	August 1
Winter Sports	Monday following the Fall State Tournament
Spring Sports	Monday following the Winter State Tournament

	<u>First Game Dates</u>
Fall Sports	August 15
Winter Sports	November 15
Spring Sports	March 15

- B. Rosters, Schedules, and entry fees need to be postmarked or faxed to the Director by September 15th (for fall sports), December 15th (for winter sports), and April 1st (for spring sports) or prior to the sports first scheduled game, whichever comes first.
- C. No Additions to rosters may be made after the following dates: (prior to these dates, roster additions must be sent to the Executive Director)

Fall Sports – October 1	Winter Sports – February 1
Spring Sports – April 15	

VII. Governing Sport Rules (3/05)

It was determined that each participating MCSAA school must follow the sport guidelines of the National Federation. This includes the state of Missouri adaptations to those rules. These will be followed for all contests played against MCSAA member schools during the season to ensure uniformity for all schools. The NFHS guidelines regarding lightning and suspension of games will be followed. If the host city has stricter guidelines those must be followed. The host has final say as to whether field conditions are playable or not. In the case of suspended games, semifinals and finals will take precedence over consolation side games in rescheduling remainder of tournament. Registered MSHSAA officials will be used for all MCSAA games. The officials will send MSHSAA misconduct reports, if needed, to the athletic directors of the schools involved as well as the executive

committee representative for the offending school. The executive committee member will follow up on report and give final report to Executive Director.