

AACS Guidelines

1. Name

- a. The name of this organization shall be the Arkansas Association of Christian Schools

2. New Membership

- a. Steps to become a member
 1. Submit Application to the Board.
 2. Perspective schools must receive 4 out the 5 votes from the board.
 3. Read handbook and sign AACS contract.
- b. New member's status
 1. New members will be able to compete for championships during their first season.
 2. New schools are on probation and will be observed by fellow AACS schools.
 3. Things to be observed are Christian spirit, sportsmanship of all school personnel, student bodies and parents, professionalism of coaches and athletic directors, and the honoring of commitments and agreements.
 4. After the first year, the state board will vote on the official acceptance of each school.

3. Voting Protocol

- a. New rules and policies will be voted on by the board.
- b. Each school will present their proposals to the state secretary for board approval.
- c. Each protocol or rule that is voted on by the board must be a simple majority 3 out of 5 votes.

4. Eligibility

- a. The athlete must be enrolled at the school at which they are competing on a full-time basis, subject to registration fees and tuition fees.
- b. The athlete must attend daily classes in pursuit of graduation.
- c. Each school is expected to enforce its own individual policy concerning conduct and grades.

5. Student-Athlete Eligibility

- a. Age/Grade
 1. Varsity -The athlete may not turn 19 before September 1 of the current academic year.
 2. Jr. High—The athlete may not turn 16 before September 1 of the current academic year or be in the 10th grade.
 3. Elementary – The athlete may not turn 13 before September 1 of the current academic year or be in the 7th grade.
 4. Age Exception
 - i. If a student is in the 10th grade and is 14 before September 1 then they are eligible to play down on Jr. High
 - ii. If a student is in the 7th grade and is 11 before September 1 then they are eligible to play down on Elementary
 - iii. Birth Certificate must be submitted to the board
- b. Can't be enrolled or pursuing graduation from another school or entity.
- c. The student must attend school at least half a day on everyday that your school meets.

6. Rosters

- a. Rosters must be submitted to the Vice President of the State Board before the first district game.
- b. Roster Additions –must be submitted 4 weeks prior to State Tournament – no exceptions.
- c. To be on the roster they must meet the eligibility guidelines at the time of submission.

7. Officials

- a. All tournament hosts must use AAA certified officials.
- b. No official associated with a host school can officiate home games at the varsity level.
 1. This includes but is not limited to... relatives, alumni, church members, or anyone tied to the ministry or school.
- c. Minimum requirements for number of AAA certified officials at district and state tournaments
 1. Volleyball 1- Junior High 2- Varsity
 2. Football 4 Junior High 5- Varsity
 3. Basketball 2 Elementary 2- Junior High 3- Varsity
 4. Baseball 2-Jr. High 2-Varsity
 5. Softball 2-Jr.High 2-Varsity
- d. Minimum requirements for number of AAA certified officials at district games
 1. Volleyball 1- Junior High 2- Varsity
 2. Football 3- Junior High 4- Varsity
 3. Basketball 1-Elementary 2-Junior High 2- Varsity
 4. Baseball 2-Jr. High 2-Varsity
 5. Softball 2-Jr.High 2-Varsity
- e. If all the officials do not show to an AACS contest
 1. If there is only 1 official missing the contest must be played
 2. If there are 2 less in varsity basketball or football then it will be up to the visiting school whether or not you play or reschedule the game
 - a. If the visiting school doesn't have a date to reschedule the game, it will be considered a forfeit
 3. All instances must be reported to the league president
 - a. If this is a re-occurring problem, the league will handle it with each school on a case by case basis

8. Tournament Security

- a. Each school participating in a state championship game will have representative from school leadership (AD, Principal, or Administrator) who is not participating in the game itself to help monitor the crowd due to the excitement of this event.
- b. The State Board will hire a security officer to work each major sport state championship game.

9. Individual Sport Rules

- a. AACS sports will play all games according to the rules set forth by the National High School Federation.
- b. Any ties that result from regular season play that need to be decided for tournament seeding will be broken according the AAA handbook
- c. All games between 2 AACS member schools (whether non-conference or conference) are considered an AACS sanctioned game and are subject to ALL AACS rules and regulations.

10. Conduct

- a. Ejections - In the event a player, coach, or fan is ejected from a conference game, match, or event, they will be suspended from the team's next conference game. In the event a player or coach is ejected from two conference games in a season, they will be suspended for the remainder of the season (sport), including conference tournament games.
- b. If a fan receives 1 technical foul in a game, they will be removed from the gym or field. A total of 2 technical fouls for a fan in a given year will result in that fan being banned from attending an AACS event for the remainder of the year. Failure of the fan, coach, or player to follow these rules will result in forfeiture of each game that this rule is not followed.
- c. Basketball coaches and players are limited to 3 technical's per basketball season. After the third technical the coach or player will be suspending from participating in that particular sport for that season.

11. Fees

- a. Each school will pay a yearly fee of \$350 to the AACS Treasurer.
 1. If the school comes to both the spring and fall meetings then they will only pay \$200 for that upcoming year.
 2. Penalty for nonpayment is \$10 weekly until payment is made.
- b. Each school that qualifies for an AACS event must pay a \$50 entry fee.
- c. Preseason tournaments will cost \$75 per team.

12. Districts and district games

- a. All district games will be decided by the board and schedules will be handed out at their respective sport meetings.
- b. Game times: this is for a uniform start time in sports involving multiple games per night.
 1. If there are 3 games or fewer Teams will start at 5:30pm for weeknights.
 2. If there are 4 games the start time will be 4:30pm for weeknights.
 3. If there are more than 4 games that night it will be up to each school what the start time will be.

13. Tournament Qualifications

- a. If there are not enough schools participating in a particular sport to split the schools into districts, then all schools will participate in the state tournament
- b. If the schools are split into districts then a designated number of teams (set by the board) must qualify for the tournament in order to participate.
- c. If an AACS school participates in a sport and qualifies for the state tournament in that sport, it must participate in that particular state tournament.
 1. If a school refuses to participate in an AACS event that they qualified for, then they will be suspended the following season from participating in any AACS sanctioned tournament.
- d. EVERY school or team who commits to and participates in an AACS sanctioned sport will HAVE to participate in ALL AACS sanctioned tournaments.
 1. This includes but is not limited to... preseason, midseason, or post season tournaments
 2. Not participating in an AACS event in a particular sport will cause them to not be able to participate in that AACS sport for that season (see also rule 13.c.1)

14. Penalty for forfeiting a game and not traveling for an away competition.

- a. Schools are exempt from this if they protest to playing the game due to weather problems.

- b. The following are not grounds for exemption
 - 1. Coach being unable to make it.
 - 2. No one to drive the bus.
 - 3. There is another function that night that conflicts.
- c. These issues need to be handled internally, so as not to punish the opposing school that is prepared and ready to compete.
- d. Penalty:
 - 1. First offence: Forfeit of game and pay referee contract for the opposing school
 - 2. Second offence: referee contract to be paid and no postseason play for that school
 - 3. Third offence: Removal from the AACS. The board will vote to remove that school from the AACS. All that is needed is a simple majority vote.

15. Board member elections

- a. Each board member will nominated by and elected from the entire governing body of schools.
 - 1. Treasurer and Vice President to be elected each even year.
 - 2. Secretary, President, and Tournament Coordinator to be elected each odd year.
- b. Elections will take place during each spring meeting and will be voted on by the entire body of the AACS.
 - 1. The election will go into affect July 1st
- c. Special elections will be made in the event that a board member is removed, retires, or is elected to another position.

16. All-State, All-District, Academic All-American requirements

- a. Coaches submit their players to Treasurer.
- b. The Treasurer will send a list to AD's for ranking and voting.
- c. Number of athletes per sport
 - 1. Volleyball – 10
 - 2. Football – 16
 - 3. Golf – Score
 - 4. X-country - Time
 - 5. Basketball – All district will have 10 per region / 10 All-state
 - 6. Baseball / Softball – 9 each
 - 7. Track – TBD
 - 8. Soccer - 10

17. Mandatory AACS meetings

- a. each school must have a representative at each AACS meeting (Spring & Fall).

18. Gate Maximum

- a. All sports will have a gate maximum of \$4 for adults and \$2 for students
- b. Gate maximum exception is for football, \$7 for adults and \$5 for students
- c. State tournament maximums
 - 1. Basketball – \$5 for adults and \$3 for students

19. Committees

- a. Each sport will have a committee head elected by the board.
- b. Committee heads will run the sport they are assigned by the board.
- c. All questions, concerns, brackets, and trophies will be addressed to or through each committee head.
- d. For a list of committee heads see officers on the AACS website.