

WOSSAA CONSTITUTION - BYLAWS

Revised: June 2011

ByLaw 1 - Competition

- 1.1 The Association shall co-ordinate inter-conference competition in the following sports:

Badminton	Coeducational
Basketball	Boys and Girls
Cross Country Running	Coeducational
Curling	Boys and Girls
Field Hockey	Girls
Golf	Boys and Girls
Hockey	Boys and Girls
Nordic Skiing	Coeducational
Rugby	Boys and Girls
Soccer	Boys and Girls
Swimming	Coeducational
Tennis	Coeducational
Track and Field	Coeducational
Volleyball	Boys and Girls
Wrestling	Boys and Girls

- 1.2 a) Association Championships must follow the Standing Rules as outlined in the ByLaws of each sport.
- b) Sports may apply for Championship status as outlined in Appendix 2.
- 1.3 If OFSAA makes changes in activity regulations, WOSSAA will adopt the changes unless a motion is put forth objecting to the changes.
- 1.4 WOSSAA Champions shall proceed to the OFSAA Championship. Host entries will be determined by the Conference within WOSSAA which is hosting the event.
- 1.5 The Association shall, in consultation with the Directors, be responsible for maintaining a three-year calendar of Championships and Conference Convenorships. The list shall be approved annually by the Legislative Assembly. See Appendix 3.

- 1.6** Schools hosting tournaments or meets are encouraged to have that event approved by WOSSAA and OFSAA. Application forms are available from the WOSSAA Directors.

ByLaw 2 - Eligibility

2.1 Eligibility of Schools

- a) To be eligible for any WOSSAA Championship a school must be on the official school membership list as submitted by their Conference.
- b) Schools can only compete in sports approved by their Conference as indicated according to Article 3.1 (b) (iii) (iv).
- c) Conferences which are unable to fulfil a commitment to a WOSSAA Championship must notify the Convenor at least four weeks prior to the Championship. Teams withdrawing after this deadline must pay their entry fee to the Convenor and the situation will be reviewed by the Board of Directors for possible sanction.
- d) WOSSAA will adopt the levels of classification of schools (A, AA, AAA, AAAA) as determined by OFSAA (see Appendix 8).
- e) Prior to the start of each playing season, each conference will notify WOSSAA if they do not intend to send a representative to the WOSSAA championship in a particular sport. The sanction for non-compliance will be that the representative school in question cannot attend the next years WOSSAA championship in that particular sport."

2.2 Eligibility of Players

- a) General
 - i) A student must compete for the school at which he/she is registered. However, students attending WD Sutton, Thames Secondary School or Ross Secondary School may compete in team sports at their neighbourhood secondary school as determined by their Conference when the activity is not offered at their school.
 - ii) A student may only compete at a WOSSAA Championship in a sport approved by their Conference.
 - iii) A student taking courses simultaneously at more than one school must compete for the school at which he/she takes the majority of classes as long as the two schools are in the same Board of Education. A student taking an equal number of credits at each school must compete for the entire year at the school which he/she first participates.
 - iv) If a student is taking classes at two or more schools under the jurisdiction of two or more Boards, he/she must compete for the school in the Board holding the registration and OSR.

b) Age

- i) Midget: The individual's birthday indicates that he/she has not yet reached his/her 14th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held. Students may compete in this category for one year only.
- ii) Junior: The individual's birthday indicates that he/she has not yet reached his/her 15th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.
- iii) Senior: The individual's birthday indicates that he/she has not yet reached his/her 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.
- iv) With regard to special education schools namely, Robarts, Thames, and Ross; WOSSAA shall accept their teams regardless of age, provided that each school has approval of its Conference.
- v) A student is eligible for a maximum of 5 consecutive school years from the date of entry into grade 9.
- vi) The age classifications which have been established by TVRA and by Huron Perth will be honoured by WOSSAA for team sports. No grade eleven (11) students will be eligible for WOSSAA junior Championships.

c) Entry

All WOSSAA entries shall include date of birth and be declared eligible through the Principal's accompanying signature. Entries must be submitted to the Convenor prior to the competition and the current WOSSAA Eligibility Form must be used. Schools not complying with the above will not be allowed to compete.

d) Participation

- i) A competitor must be eligible under the Constitution and ByLaws of the Conference they represent.
- ii) A player who plays more than one league game with a higher age class in any season may not revert to the lower age class in the same sport in that season. A player, to qualify for a WOSSAA Championship, must have played in one of the regular league games for the team for which he/she is to play. In any WOSSAA Championship, a player may compete in only one age classification. (Exception: age class of relays in Track and Field and Swimming)

e) Course Requirements Policy - Academic Standing/Attendance

In order to be eligible for WOSSAA participation, a competitor must satisfy the following:

- i) Students who have fewer than twenty-two (22) credits must be taking courses which define them as full time students under the Ministry of education definition. Namely, a student in a traditional school must be registered in a minimum of six (6) full day school credit courses; in a semestered school, a student must be registered in a minimum of three (3) full day school credit courses in the semester in which he/she participates.
- ii) Students who have achieved twenty-two (22) credits must be taking four (4) non-semestered full day school credit courses over the school year or two (2) full day school credit courses per semester.
- iii) A competitor must satisfy the school authorities as to his regular attendance and academic standing.

f) Penalties

Any contest in which an ineligible player participates shall be forfeited. This penalty shall be applied, subject to appeal to the Board of Reference. A formal protest need not be made.

- g) All competitors at WOSSAA Championships must be eligible under the rules of OFSAA. This includes being eligible according to the OFSAA Transfer Policy. (see Appendix 9) The Transfer Eligibility Appeal process is outlined in Appendix 4. [Exception: Thames, Ross as outlined in ByLaw 2.2(a)(i)]

2.3 Eligibility of Coaches

- a) "Coach" is defined as one who obviously influences the players and/or team during competition.
- b) The coach shall be a certified member of the teaching staff of the school concerned. If a school is not able to secure the services of a member of the teaching staff, an outside coach, who is a qualified teacher from the school board, may be used provided that the school advises its Conference.
- c) The Association is opposed to the principle of employing a coach from outside the school system to handle the school teams.
- d) Each Conference shall have the autonomy to suffice its coaching needs and shall assume the responsibility and liability of the coaching staff.
- e) In WOSSAA Championships, it is mandatory that a staff member of the school involved be in attendance and be responsible for the students of his/her school.

ByLaw 3 - Code of Behaviour at WOSSAA Championships

- 3.1**
- a) The teacher-coach bears the responsibility for preparing athletes in such a way as to leave no doubt whatsoever of precisely what conduct is expected of them at the Championship.
 - b) The teacher-coach bears the responsibility for supervising his or her athletes for the entire period during which they are absent from school or home.
 - c) The appropriate set of "Playing Regulations" will, of course, continue to regulate the conduct of student athletes during an actual contest.
 - d) A player who is ejected from a WOSSAA match by an official for unsportsmanlike conduct will automatically be ineligible for the next WOSSAA match. A written referee's report shall be given to the Convenor immediately.
 - e) If the Convenor determines that the suspension outlined in section a) is the result of gross misconduct, he/she may suspend a player for additional matches or the remainder of the tournament.
 - f) Suspensions that occur in the final WOSSAA game of a player's season shall be applied to OFSAA competition or shall carry over to the beginning of next year's season. Suspensions that occur in the final WOSSAA game of a player's career in that sport may be carried over to another WOSSAA sport later in that school year. Suspensions that occur in the final game of a player's career as an athlete should be dealt with by the Principal of the player's school.
 - g) Any suspensions may be appealed to a WOSSAA Board of Reference.
 - h) In the event of a disciplinary disqualification of an individual or team, a letter outlining the reasons for this action will be sent to the Principal of the school concerned with a copy to the appropriate Conference representative.
 - i) The cost resulting from any property damage occurring at a WOSSAA Championship as a result of the misconduct of any individual's associated with that Championship, will be forwarded to the appropriate Conference at which point that Conference will assume full financial responsibility.
 - j) Uniform change policy: Student athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate attire/team uniform in the competition area, AND use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire.

ByLaw 4 - Protests

4.1 Protests may be made on:

- a) Violations of the WOSSAA Constitution, ByLaws, and Standing Rules.
- b) Interpretation of the WOSSAA Constitution, ByLaws and Standing Rules.

4.2 Procedure

- a) All protests must be made in writing to the Executive Director of WOSSAA within 72 hours of the violation. Copies of the protest should be forwarded to the Executive of the Conferences involved, the Convenor of the event, the school concerned and the referees concerned, if applicable.
- b) All protests must be signed by the Principal of the school and the coach of the team making the protest.
- c) Each protest must be accompanied by a fee of \$25.00.
- d) Where games are conducted under unusual circumstances, protests will be considered if the attention of the referee is drawn to the condition prior to the game and the game is played under protest, and such a statement signed by the referee appears on the official activity report form. Such a statement should contain the date, the time (by clock and period of game), the conditions under which the protest is made, and the signature of the referee in charge of the competition. Where two officials are used, both should sign.

ByLaw 5 - Awards

- 5.1 The number of awards in each activity shall be consistent with the number of players per team as provided in the Standing Rules. Fifty per cent (50%) of the awards' cost is considered to be an expense which is to be covered as an operating expense by the Convenor. The other fifty per cent (50%) is covered by the WOSSAA office.
- 5.2 Standing Rules for each activity should outline the awards pertaining to it.

ByLaw 6 - Coaches

6.1 Duties

- a) Shall know the Constitution, ByLaws and Standing Rules of WOSSAA and coach accordingly.
- b) Shall coach according to the WOSSAA Code of Ethics.

Code of Ethics

1. The game is played for the sake of enjoyment.
 2. The rules of the game are to be regarded as mutual agreements, the spirit or letter of which no one should try to evade or break.
 3. Visiting teams and spectators are guests and should be treated as such.
 4. No advantages, except those of superior skill, are to be sought over others.
 5. Officials and opponents are to be regarded and treated as honest in intention.
 6. Decisions of officials, no matter how unfair they may seem, are to be accepted without outward appearance of vexation.
 7. To win is always desirable. But to win at any cost, defeats the purpose of the game.
 8. Losing can be a triumph when the best has been given.
 9. The greatest good to the greatest number is the ideal.
 10. The Golden Rule in sport is to treat other persons as you, yourself would like to be treated.
- c) The coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her team.
 - d) Coaches shall not display unethical or flagrantly unsportsmanlike behaviour in their role as coaches.
 - e) Coaches shall not be involved in any form of recruitment of students from other schools for athletic teams.
 - f) Coaches and assistant coaches shall be knowledgeable of and comply with the ByLaws of their sport.

6.2 Discipline

- a) Failure to comply with (a-f) of Duties of Coaches may result in the citing of the coach involved.
- b) Person(s) concerned with a coach's behaviour shall notify the Executive Director in writing.
- c) The need for a "citing" meeting will be determined by the screening committee:
 - 1. Three (3) Directors of either Conference who are Principal reps or Superintendents.
 - 2. WOSSAA Executive Director (as a non-voting chair).
- d) It is the prerogative of the screening committee to decide a course of action upon receipt of the letter objecting to a coach's behaviour. This committee may upon review of the evidence:
 - 1. Dismiss the complaint and so inform the complainer in writing.
 - 2. Interview the two parties concerned and follow-up in writing.
 - 3. Refer the issue to the Board of Reference - General.
- e) The Board of Reference - General shall invite to the hearing the following:
 - 1. The screening committee.
 - 2. Principal(s) of the school(s) involved.
 - 3. Executive(s) of the Conference(s) involved.
 - 4. The coach involved.
- f) Decisions of the Board of Reference - General may be appealed to the Board of Reference - Sanctions.

6.3 Eligibility

See ByLaws 2.3.