

SOUTHERN ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, AND RULES

Revised: November 2021

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**ARTICLE 1**

**NAME**

This organization shall be known as Southern Ontario Secondary School Association (SOSSA) hereinafter referred to as the Association.

**ARTICLE 2**

**AIMS AND OBJECTS**

To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas in regard to athletic tournaments, competitions and clinics between the Council Scolaire De District Du Centre Sud-Ouest, District School Board of Niagara, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, Niagara Catholic District School Board, Grand Erie District School Board (shared with CWOSSA), Couseil Scolaire De District Catholique Centre-Sud and Independent Schools within the Association.

To conduct competition for the election of the Association's representative to the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) regional eliminations and/or Championships.

To conduct other athletic tournaments, competitions and clinics sanctioned by SOSSA.

To promote fair play and equal opportunities for success in all high school competition across the Association.

To provide leadership on the behalf of SOSSA member schools in support of the educational value of school sports.

To encourage the recognition of the integral role of school sport.

**ARTICLE 3****3.01 Membership**

The Association shall consist of members' schools in that area so designated as SOSSA by the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations. The term "Secondary School" shall be taken to include all Collegiate Institutes, High Schools or equivalents, and Vocational Schools. The Executive may accept the membership of a school at any time during the school year on a temporary basis. Permanent membership may be gained after one full school year prior to the annual meeting on a 2/3 majority of all SOSSA members present.

**3.02 Structure**

Beginning with the 2019-20 school calendar year the four zones of SOSSA shall be:

Zone #1 - H.W.D.S.B. Schools and independent schools presently members of zone #1.

Zone #2 - N.C.A.A. member schools.

Zone #3 - N.R.H.S.A.A. schools and independent schools presently members of zone #3.

Zone #4 - N.R.H.S.A.A. schools and independent schools presently members of zone #4.

**OFFICERS****3.03**

The Officers of the Association shall be as follows:

President, First Vice-president, Second Vice-president, Third Vice-president, both the male and female OFSAA representatives, Administrative Director, Zone Representatives and the Principals Representative. The governing Executive shall consist of these officers plus the immediate past President. The male and female OFSAA representatives can also be the Secretary-Treasurer if there is no Administrative Director. (See Appendix for the rotation of President and Vice President).

The position of Administrative Director is a paid, advertised, non-voting position.

**3.04**

The regular Officers shall be chosen from the teaching staffs of the member schools. All voting members at Zone and SOSSA levels must be members of teaching staffs of member schools.

3.05

All Officers shall be elected for a period of one year except the positions of the OFSAA representatives which will be for a three-year period and will be automatically renewed unless two zones request an election in the form of a notice of motion from the zone Executive.

**POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

3.06

The Executive Committee of the Association as described in Article V, Section 1, shall exercise control over all funds and over all matters pertaining to the management of the Association subject to an appeal and subsequent direction of the Association as a whole, at the written request of at least three principals of member schools.

3.07

Special Committees shall be appointed by the Executive as may be found necessary to carry out the duties of the Association.

**ARTICLE 4**

**FINANCES**

4.01

A SOSSA affiliation fee which entitles the school to enter any SOSSA tournament shall be collected annually by the Administrative Director. These fees are due November 15th, with a period of grace extending to November 30th. At that time--the schools failing to pay will be subject to a late filing fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). As of February 1 of that school year, no school can enter any further SOSSA activities until such outstanding fees and late filing fees have been paid.

**Fee Scale**

- i) Basic Association Fee - \$350.00.
- ii) The fee structure will be based on a per student basis as of October 31st of each school year.
- iii) The fee structure will be \$0.75 cents per student.
- iv) SOSSA fees will be based on the October 31st enrolment figure and will be due on November 15, of the school year.

**Note:** Schools 200 and under assessment is \$65.00; Schools 201 and over assessment is \$125.00. This will subsidize the honorarium for the Administrative Director position.

There shall be a surcharge for insurance invoiced to each school in SOSSA that will cover the cost of the inter-board competition general liability insurance.

4.02

To be in good standing, a school must maintain affiliation. If a school does not maintain affiliation, and later applies for re-admission to SOSSA, the question of back fees will be dealt with individually by the SOSSA Executive.

4.03

The financial year will run from June 16th, one year, to June 15th of the next year. Any bills received after June 15th will be on the following year's budget. That the financial statement be certified by an accountant for the Annual General Meeting if requested by the executive.

## 4.04

Application must be made to the SOSSA Executive in order to use the SOSSA logo for monetary gain. (ie. SOSSA T-shirts)

**Funding Formula**

## 4.05

4.05 i) (a) That the amount of cost of a SOSSA championship paid through SOSSA fees be based on the number of schools within SOSSA which participate in that sport. The rate of payment will be four percent time the number of schools participating in the sport. (i.e.,  $25 \times 4\% = 100\%$  of cost) A school is defined as "participating" if it has a minimum of four competitors involved in the sport.

(b) If there are less than ten (10) schools participated in an activity, SOSSA Inc shall not pay the cost for a SOSSA Championship or OFSAA entry and participation fees.

4.05 ii) The numbers used to calculate the participation funding-formula is determined by participation numbers given in the OFSAA participation surveys.

The assessment for sports that are not fully paid by SOSSA will stay the same for three years. The percentage will be reassessed every three years.

4.05 iii) That portion not paid by SOSSA will be paid by those participating in the tournament. The method for allocating costs will be determined by the convenor.

**OFSAA Entry Funding****Team:**

4.05 iv) a) SOSSA shall remit a maximum of one half (50%) of entry fees for eligible OFSAA Championships only (note - no participation fee). The proportion of the entry fee for OFSAA Championships to be paid by SOSSA is based on the number of schools participating in the sport at the SOSSA level. The rate of payment will be two (2) percent times the total number of schools participating at the SOSSA level. Example: if 25 teams participate then  $25 \times 2\% = 50\%$  entry covered.

**Individual:**

4.05 iv) b) SOSSA shall remit one hundred percent (100%) of entry fees and participation fees for eligible OFSAA Championships only. The rate of payment will be four (4) percent times the number of schools participating in the sport at the SOSSA level. Example: 25 schools participating 25 X 4 = 100%.

**Note:** if there are less than ten (10) schools participating in an activity (team or individual), SOSSA shall not pay any of the OFSAA entry cost/fees.

4.05 v) If there is no SOSSA Championship in a sport, SOSSA will not cover any expenses incurred for OFSAA qualification.

4.05 vi) That costs for OFSAA/SOSSA Championships will not be charged to SOSSA: tennis, golf, Nordic skiing, alpine skiing and curling.

4.06

Executive and transfer committee members will be reimbursed for travel to and from meetings at a rate of 42 cents per kilometre.

**DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS**

4.07

**SOSSA Championships:**

4.07 i) All disbursements shall be made by the Administrative Director, subject to the approval of the Executive.

4.07 ii) Convenors must send a Championship Report Form to the Administrative Director or forfeit convening that sport the next time that sport is offered to that particular Zone.

4.07 iii) (a) Reimbursements for running SOSSA Championships are forwarded only after the SOSSA report form is received from the Convenor.

4.07 iii) (b) To receive reimbursement, schools shall submit SOSSA tournament costs and other expenses to SOSSA Administrative Director, no later than the first Executive meeting or September 30th whichever is earliest in the school year following the event.

4.07 iv) Since SOSSA is responsible for any losses incurred on SOSSA tournaments, then SOSSA should realize any profits. The monies earned at a SOSSA championship will be divided 60% (school), 40% (SOSSA) after expenses by any school convening a SOSSA competition.

4.07 v) That when SOSSA qualifies to enter two (2) teams to the OFSAA Championship, if there is extra game required, SOSSA shall be responsible for any expenses or profits realized.

4.07 vi) SOSSA will not reimburse expense monies for food and/or drinks for officials, volunteers and/or coaches.

#### **OFSAA Championships:**

4.07 vii) All monies earned, after costs are covered, in hosting an OFSAA championship shall be divided 80% to the hosting school(s) and 20% to SOSSA.

4.07 vii) (i) When SOSSA qualifies to enter more than one team to the OFSAA Championship (host entries) SOSSA shall pay one half of the entry fees for both teams.

4.07 vii) (ii) To receive reimbursement, schools shall submit entry fees to Administrative Director, no later than the first Executive meeting or September 30<sup>th</sup> whichever is earlier in the school year following the event.

4.07 ix) When OFSAA offers SOSSA an additional entry to an OFSAA Championship, beyond the OFSAA constitutional allotment, that team shall be responsible for the OFSAA entry and administrative cost.

4.07 x) It be resolved that SOSSA shall pay one half (1/2) the "host" team entry to OFSAA.

4.07 xi) Schools going on to OFSAA competition are responsible for any late entry fees or non-participation fees incurred with OFSAA.

#### **4.08**

The position of male and female OFSAA representatives shall receive an annual honorarium to the amount of six hundred and fifty dollars (\$650.00). The Administrative Director shall receive an annual honorarium in the amount of seven thousand dollars (\$7000.00). The monies' raised by the fee levy will subsidize the position of the Administrative Director. The Administrative Director will receive \$700 per month (September through June) and the remainder will be used for office supplies (i.e. phone bills, stamps, paper, basic office expenses, website, etc.).

#### **4.09**

SOSSA will not be obligated to pay bills from schools that bill SOSSA for occasional teacher services for OFSAA/SOSSA coverage.

4.10

The SOSSA Executive should maintain insurance and the incorporation of SOSSA

4.11

That should a school not give at least forty-eight (48) hours' notice of withdrawal from a SOSSA Championship Tournament, said school shall be responsible for cost incurred by the their non-attendance. Cost may include: referees; first aid; other team transportation; facilities; and may include other costs not listed herein.

4.12

SOSSA will reimburse emergency medical personnel for championships deemed high risk by OPHEA and will include the following: ice hockey; tackle football; rugby; wrestling; track and field; field hockey; cross country; gymnastics; and lacrosse.

**ARTICLE 5**

**MEETINGS**

5.01

There shall be a minimum of three Executive meetings for each school year, at least one meeting each competitive season. These meetings are to be held at places so designated by the Executive.

5.02

All special meetings of the Association Executive shall be held at the call of the Executive Committee or as a result of the request of the principals of three member schools.

5.03

Meetings of any special committee(s), shall be at the call of the Executive.

5.04

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be at the call of the president and/or the Administrative Director of the Association.

5.05

There shall be an annual General Meeting on a convenient date in June.

**ELECTIONS**

5.06 i) The election of Officers shall take place at the annual meeting.

5.06 ii) The newly elected Executive shall take office immediately following the conclusion of current business.

5.06 iii) Any vacancy occurring during the normal tenure of office of any member of the Executive shall be filled by an appointee of the Executive.

5.06 iv) The role of the Administrative Director will be filled on an annual basis.

**ARTICLE 6**

**CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

**6.01 Amendments**

The Constitution may be amended or changed only at the time of the Annual Meeting. All Notices of Motion to be presented at the annual meeting must be in the hands of the Administrative Director one month prior to the annual meeting. Any proposed amendment or change shall be preceded by a circularized Notice of Motion.

**6.02 Voting Procedures**

All Notices of Motion which affect the Constitution, in order to be carried:

- 6.02 i) Must have a quorum - 50% of Association schools;
- 6.02 ii) One vote per member school; and,
- 6.02 iii) Must have a 2/3 majority vote of the school present.

**6.03 Temporary Motions**

That membership may vote on and put into effect any motions brought forth as a result of discussion of the topics outlined for the SOSSA Annual General Meeting. These motions will be temporary for that year and put on the order paper for the following year for permanent ratification.

**ARTICLE 7**

**ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPETITION**

**7.01 School**

Each member shall be entitled to representation at each SOSSA championship.

**7.02**

Membership in an association and conformity with the constitution, by-laws and standing rules of the association concerned is a prerequisite for participation in any championship co-ordinated by SOSSA

**7.03 Classification (as per OFSAA)**

For all senior team sports championships coordinated by SOSSA schools shall be classified on student populations as follows:

- A - 500 or less students
- AA - 501 - 900 students
- AAA - 901 - and above

**7.04 Classification Appeals**

- 7.04 i) A school appealing for a change in classification must do so to the SOSSA Executive with written support from the zone in which the appealing school competes. The motion would be dealt with by the SOSSA Executive and its decision will be forward to OFSAA.
- 7.04 ii) SOSSA Inc shall hear appeals based on school composition. Schools wishing to appeal on any other basis (location of school, team composition, competition and OFSAA success) shall be appealed through SOSSA to OFSAA.
- 7.04 iii) Appeals to move down a classification, shall be as a school. There shall be no sport specific downward movement.
- 7.04 iv) The Appeals Committee will be composed of the Administrative Director as chair and a representative of each Zone.

7.04 v) Appeals shall be submitted by May 15<sup>th</sup> prior to the September of the year of the appeal.  
Appeals shall be submitted each year.

7.05

For all Junior Team Championships coordinated by SOSSA, the schools shall be classified as follows:

"A" school population 799 or under

"AA" school population 800 and over

**7.06 Declaration of Competition:**

7.06 i) The school's declaration of level of competition for the current school year shall be based upon the October 31st enrollment of the previous school year. This declaration shall be submitted to the Administrative Director by November 15 of that school year.

7.06 ii) Any school with Association approval, may elect to compete in a higher classification of activity.

7.06 iii) Fall Activities: Schools who wish to move to a higher classification (ie AA to AAA) for fall activities shall complete and submit a reclassification in writing by the Annual General Meeting prior to the fall of reclassification.

7.06 iv) Winter Activities: Schools who wish to move to a higher classification (ie AA to AAA) for winter shall complete and submit a reclassification in writing by November 15<sup>th</sup> of that school year.

7.06 v) Spring Activities: Schools that wish to move to a higher classification (ie AA to AAA) for spring activities shall submit reclassification in writing by the Friday before the March Break or March 15<sup>th</sup> whichever comes first in that school year.

7.06 vi) A school may participate in only one school classification of competition in any one activity during school year at the SOSSA level.

7.06 vii) For Co-educational championships coordinated by SOSSA an all Boys' school and an all girl's school may combine for entry. Zones must declare such school combination to the SOSSA Administrative Director by September 15<sup>th</sup> of the school year.

**7.07 Athletes****7.07a) Athletes Individual**

To represent a school in any championship coordinated by SOSSA, a student must:

7.07a) i) have had their name on Zone eligibility list for at least one competition.

7.07a) ii) be certified as eligible on the **ELIGIBILITY FORM** and signed by a principal of the school. Schools shall submit a SOSSA eligibility sheet dated within seven days prior to the SOSSA competition. This eligibility form must be brought to SOSSA competitions by participating coaches. A sample form may be obtained on our SOSSA webpage [www.sossa.on.ca](http://www.sossa.on.ca)

7.07a ) iii) meet the following requirements for individual activities:

Novice - the individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not yet reached his/her 14<sup>th</sup> birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the school year in which the Competition is held. Students may compete in this category for one year only in grade 9.

Junior - the individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not yet reached his/her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.

Senior – the individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not yet reached his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.

7.07a) iv) to move on to the SOSSA, Regional or OFSAA Competition, all student/athletes shall compete and qualify at the individual championship meet (badminton, swimming, golf, track & field, tennis and wrestling). There shall be no pre or post qualifying.

7.07a) v) A student may only play on one team in the same sport (team or individual) at the SOSSA level during a school year.

7.07 b) **Team**

To represent a school in any championship coordinated by SOSSA, a student must:

7.07 b) i) be certified as eligible on the eligibility form and signed by the principal of the school  
Schools shall submit a SOSSA Inc eligibility sheet dated within seven days prior to the SOSSA competition. ***This eligibility form must be brought to SOSSA competitions by participating coaches***

7.07 b) ii) meet the following requirements:

7.07 b) ii)

a) **Junior**

The individual shall be in either of their first two years of high school, based on the date of entry into grade nine,

and

The individual's birth certificate shall indicate that he/she has not reached his/her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday by August 31 prior to the start of the school year in which he/she is in either of their first two years of high school.

**Exception:**

a student who has been accelerated one year in elementary school shall be allowed to play at the junior level for a maximum of two (2) consecutive years in the first three (3) years of his/her high school career. The student shall meet the above age requirement (part b) and documentation of the acceleration shall be provided with the eligibility sheet.

7.07 b) ii)

b) **Senior**

The individuals' birth certificate indicates that he/she has not reached his/her 19th birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.

**Exception:**

are indicated in specific sports regulations

7.08

To represent a school in any championship, team or individual, co-ordinated by SOSSA, a student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- 7.08 a) i) be in grades 9-12  
 ii) have been enrolled no more than five (5) years from date of entry into grade 9;  
 iii) be eligible under the OFSAA transfer (see OFSAA web site);  
 iv) be registered and in attendance as a regular student in the day classes of the school for which he/she plays and:

achieves the following course requirements:

(a) 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 semester 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.

(b) Students who have achieved twenty-two (22) credits must be taking four (4) non-semester full day school credit courses over the school year or two (2) full day school credit courses per semester.

v) Any player who plays in a higher age classification for two season games shall not be eligible to play in the lower category in the same activity until the following year. Listing on the game eligibility sheet is to be considered as having competed.

vi) All students entering SOSSA competition shall furnish upon request of the Administrative Director, an official birth certificate.

vii) The Executive shall have the power to rule on any aspect of eligibility not specifically covered by any of the rules of competition.

viii) If an ineligible contestant participates in a SOSSA competition, it automatically results in a team loss for that game or activity and any prior game or activity in which the ineligible contestant participated.

ix) Any Junior must be listed as a Junior on the game sheet when playing in a Senior game. Violation of this rule makes him/her a senior for the duration of the season. If he/she plays a second senior game, he/she becomes a senior for the duration of the season. A Junior, to be eligible for senior playoffs, must be listed on the game sheet of one regularly scheduled senior league game.

x) A player may compete in only one age classification in any playoff or championship series in the same season in any one sport with the exception of Track and Field.

***Example:***

a school has both Junior and Senior Basketball teams participating in Zone playoffs. The Senior team wins their play-off game and continues. A junior player who has been Eligible for the senior team may NOT be called up to participate on the senior team during zone play-off and/or championship game(s). If the senior team is successful and wins the Zone Championship, the junior player may participate at the SOSSA and/or OFSAA level, including festivals.

- xi) Any suspension or disciplinary action in Zone play shall be carried forward into SOSSA competition. The Zone convenor shall be responsible for reporting such athletes and the nature of the disciplinary action on the SOSSA eligibility sheet.
- xii) Any student who registers and either (a) attends one full term or semester or (b) practice or plays with a team or an intercollegiate team at a post secondary institution and then returns to any high school is ineligible for SOSSA competition for the remainder of his/her high school career.
- xiii) That students in a systems/alternative education program, who intend on returning to their home school upon completion of the program, be allowed to compete for their home school until the activities season is completed.
- xiv) Unlimited number of players may be listed on the eligibility sheet, but there shall be the maximum number of players on the game sheet as per OFSAA playing regulations and/or as submitted on a single game sheet.

## 7.09 Championships

- 7.09 i) For team championships SOSSA shall provide the rotation for the tournament draw. See Appendix 3 of the SOSSA Constitution.
- 7.09 ii) At the conclusion of the SOSSA annual general meeting if there is an activity without a convenor then said activity will not run a championship in the upcoming school year.
- 7.09 iii) That if there is no SOSSA Championship in an activity for two consecutive years that the sport be removed from the SOSSA Championship list.
- 7.09 iv) Zone finals should be completed in the week prior to the SOSSA Championships. There should be a weekend between the Zone and SOSSA Championships.
- 7.09 v) The zone convenor in a sport must contact the SOSSA convenor in that sport, at least two weeks prior to the SOSSA competition if their zone will not be sending a representative in that sport to the SOSSA championship. If there is no zone competition in an activity, the zone secretary will contact the SOSSA Administrative Director.
- 7.09 vi) The SOSSA convenor should fill an open position at the SOSSA tournament (when a zone, for whatever reason, is unable to send a representative therefore leaving an uneven number of teams) with the second place team from the host zone's playoff schedule. If this is not possible, (ie. there is no second place for that sport in the zone) the fourth spot should be filled by the convenor in consultation with the SOSSA Administrative Director. There are no time lines involved in this decision.
- 7.09 vii) That if there are only two Zones represented for SOSSA competition, that additional teams from the said two Zones **NOT** be added. The game between the two zones will be the Championship.

- 7.09 viii) (a) An alternate date must be set for each championship in the event for some reason one of the schools involved, is closed or buses cancelled.
- (b) That championship dates set by Administrative Director shall not be changed without approval. Exception would be a tentative date set in conjunction with the championship date, in the event for some reason one of the schools involved is closed or buses cancelled.
- 7.10 That if a convenor steps down due to ill health, contract difficulties, etc., that his/her Zone will be encouraged first to take on that event. If no convenor is available, the other Zones will be offered to host the event. If within two (2) weeks of the SOSSA Championship there is **NO CONVENOR** - ALL Zone reps will be notified and they will have 48 hours to find a convenor, otherwise there will be **NO** event.
- 7.11 Where there is a SOSSA championship in an activity in order to represent SOSSA at an OFSAA championship, the team must compete at the SOSSA level in that SOSSA championship.
- 7.12
- 7.12 a) SOSSA championships are offered for "A", "AA" and "AAA", at the senior level in the following sports only:
- a) Girls' and Boys' Basketball
  - b) Girls' and Boys' Volleyball
  - c) Girls' and Boys' Soccer
- 7.12 b) SOSSA championships are offered for "A/AA" and "AAA ", at the senior level in the following sports only:
- a) Girls' and Boys' Hockey
  - b) Girls' and Boys' Rugby
  - c) Boys' Field Lacrosse
- 7.12 c) SOSSA champions are open (not classified) at the senior level for following sports only:
- a) Boys' Baseball
  - b) Girls' Field Hockey
  - c) Boys' Football

7.12 d) SOSSA Championships are offered for A & AA at the junior level (see Article VII, Section 1-5) in the following sports only:

- a) Girls" Basketball and Volleyball
- b) Boys" Basketball and Volleyball

**NOTE:** Junior team championships shall be one day tournaments.

7.13

For all SOSSA sports, when SOSSA qualifies to enter two (2) teams to the OFSAA Championship (excluding the host entry), the Second Entry will follow:

**OFSAA Second Entry Formula**

- a) The SOSSA Champion is an automatic entry.
- b) The SOSSA runner-up may be challenged for the second entry by the team losing to the champions in semi-finals.
- c) The challenge match shall be played the next day or on the alternate date noted on the website not on the Championship day.

**Unless:**

The two teams (challenger/runners up) are from the same zone.  
The team that finished higher in the zone championship is automatic second entry.

7.14

At all SOSSA Championships, the convenor will ensure that there MUST be, on sight, someone or group specifically responsible for athletic injuries.

7.15

The SOSSA Executive will acknowledge convenors at the end of each season.

7.16

**Host Team for OFSAA Championships**

The **host** team entry shall be defined as the team whose school is hosting the OFSAA Championship.

7.16 i) Host team shall have an automatic entry to the OFSAA Championship.

7.16 ii) Should the **host** team forfeit the right to go to the OFSAA Championship. The selection of two entries shall be through the use of the **two** entry formula.

7.16 iii) Should the SOSSA Champion be the **host** team for the OFSAA Championship, the selection of the second entry will be through the use of the second entry formula.

7.17

That if a school hosts an OFSAA Championship, the school has the first right of acceptance or refusal of the SOSSA Convenorship for that activity in the same school year as the OFSAA Championship.

7.18

That should the winner of a SOSSA Championship elect not to go to the OFSAA Championship, the **two** entry rule (Article VII, Section 3-12) shall be used to determine the OFSAA entry. It is expected that the convenor is given advance notice that a **said school** will not be attending OFSAA Championship.

7.19

That if SOSSA is offered a LATE second entry, SOSSA shall consider if there is suitable time to determine the second entry prior to OFSAA entry deadline.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **Transfer Policy**

#### 8.01

SOSSA has adopted the OFSAA Transfer Policy as a whole. Please refer to the OFSAA web site ([www.OFSAA.on.ca](http://www.OFSAA.on.ca))

#### 8.02

##### **SOSSA Transfer Policy Procedural Process**

- 8.02 i) All transfer students are ineligible for SOSSA competition until cleared by their Zone Transfer Appeal Board.
- 8.02 ii) Students not eligible under these criteria may appeal in writing. The appeal must be made by the principal of the athlete's school or principals' designate with proper documentation to the Association Transfer Appeal Board.

The deadline for any appeal of eligibility to the SOSSA Transfer Appeal Board is seven (7) days prior to the scheduled date of the Board meetings. Such appeals must be forwarded through the Zone Transfer chairperson. All documentation must be in the hands of the SOSSA Transfer chairperson within 24 hours of the appeal submission date.

An appeal to the SOSSA Transfer Appeal Board must be accompanied by a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) fee, refundable if the appeal is successful at the SOSSA.

8.02 iii) The SOSSA Transfer Appeal Board may consist of seven (7) members:

- 1 - Principals' Representative
- 1 - Vice-Principals' Representative (from different Zone than Principals' Representative)
- 1 - Association Representative to OFSAA Legislative Council
- 4 - Members at Large - the chair of each zone committee or one member of the zone committee

If SOSSA has a member on the O.F.S.A.A. Board of Reference then he/she will be one of these members if he/she does not fall into one of the other categories. This person would be the eighth member.

When a case is heard at the SOSSA level, a Board member who participated in the decision at the zone level must declare a conflict of interest. Such a member may be present while the case is presented to the Board and may ask or be asked questions with the approval of the chair. However the member must leave the room after the case is presented and must not participate in any decision which may influence the vote of the Board. The SOSSA Transfer Appeal Board will be established at the Annual General Meeting.

8.02 iv) The SOSSA Transfer Appeal Board will select a chairperson from within their group. The chairperson will set the dates for all association hearings and will notify all parties (Zone Transfer board, appealing school, and appealing student) of the decision.

8.02 v) The SOSSA Transfer Appeal Board will make the final decision for the Association.

8.02 vi) Athletes who wish to appeal the decision of the SOSSA Transfer Appeal Board may appeal in writing to the OFSAA Board of Reference - see the OFSAA Transfer Policy Procedural Process.

**ARTICLE 9**

## 9.01

**Protests**

All incidents occurring at a zone level shall be appealed initially through the zone within 48 hours of the incident in question.

If an ejection occurs in a zone championship which might affect that player's eligibility at the SOSSA championship, any appeal regarding the ejection must be heard at the zone level. The decision regarding the appeal must be forwarded to the SOSSA Executive in case a SOSSA appeal committee is needed.

All incidents occurring at a SOSSA competition shall be handled by a protest procedure at the site of the competition. If a further appeal is desired, refer to the Appeal procedures below.

9.02 **Protest Appeal Procedures**

9.02 i) Zone referred and SOSSA competition - all protest appeals at the SOSSA level must be made directly to the Administrative Director of SOSSA within 48 hours of the zone appeal hearing or the SOSSA competition.

9.02 ii) The protesting school(s) shall post a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) cash bond with the SOSSA Administrative Director in conjunction with the written protest. If the protest is successful, the one hundred dollar bond will be returned.

9.02 iii) All protests must include the Physical Education Head's and the Principal's signatures.

9.02 iv) The SOSSA Protest Committee will consist of a minimum of five (5) members of the SOSSA Executive.

9.03 **Ejections**

If a player is ejected from a SOSSA activity, that player will be suspended from the next championship competition **unless** after an appeal, the SOSSA Executive rules to the contrary. It is recommended that the referee is to make a special report to the SOSSA Administrative Director or the convenor on the back of the eligibility sheet. The onus of appeal is on the coach. If a player is ejected from a final competition of a SOSSA activity, that player will be suspended from the first league competition in that activity in the next year's schedule.

#### 9.04 **Misconduct**

Any player who strikes or threatens a coach or an official will be suspended from all further competition until such time as the SOSSA Executive can render a decision.

**ARTICLE 10**

**SUPERVISION / CODE OF BEHAVIOUR**

10.01

It is desirable that only teachers with the highest ideals be employed within the realm of interschool sport. If, however, a non-teacher undertakes this role, then a supervising teacher, who is a regular member of the teaching staff, must also be enlisted both to facilitate and maintain educational direction.

10.02

All players and team officials are open to censure for unsportsmanlike conduct by the Association. Censure can be brought to the Association by the individual zone.

10.03

**Code of Behaviour of Spectators:**

- 10.03 i) Cheer in a positive manner
- 10.03 ii) Respect officials' decisions
- 10.03 iii) Do not interfere with the competition
- 10.03 iv) Keep off the playing area
- 10.03 v) Be courteous and respectful

10.04

That Canada's, Ontario's and participating school's flags/banners shall be the only flags/banners displayed at SOSSA playoffs and championships.

10.05

No artificial noise makers are permitted at SOSSA Championship events.

10.06

Schools choosing to take student fans to a SOSSA Championship, shall do so with the advanced permission of the convenor and shall be expected to pay an entrance fee. The student fans shall be escorted with appropriate supervision (board policy re supervision of trips) and that an administrator/teacher in charge shall be present if there is more than one busload (40 students) of student fans.

**ARTICLE 11**

**GENERAL RULES**

11.01

The rules and regulations section of the constitution are to be interpreted as being part of the constitution and must be followed as such for any sport that continues beyond the zone level.

11.02

Each SOSSA Executive Officer will receive a copy of the constitution to be distributed appropriately to schools and their administrators within their Zone.

11.03

Any school team entering SOSSA sponsored or approved competitions must be under the control of a staff member of the school which it represents.

11.04

In the event of work-to-rule sanctions being imposed, the Administrative Director shall call a meeting of the Executive of SOSSA in advance to give direction to the membership and it may be necessary to establish an ad hoc committee of non-affected members.

Teams or individuals from schools and/or school boards that are in a work-to-rule or strike situation shall not be eligible to compete in SOSSA for duration of the job action. No penalties or additional fees shall be assigned in such cases.

Any remaining schools and/or boards are free to continue with league and championship play as per SOSSA Constitution and sport playing regulations. The funding model will be reviewed to assure equitable allocation of fees.

11.05

It shall be the duty of every member of SOSSA and the Convenors not to attend, organize, convene or participate in any manner, whatsoever, in any extra-curricular school activities, events or tournaments involving school(s) from within SOSSA or from other Association whose member schools have instituted a withdrawal of voluntary activities.

11.06

Anyone wishing to begin a competition in a new sport in the association must present it as a motion at the SOSSA Annual General Meeting.

11.07

In activities which receive medals, that medallions only be issued if there are two or more Zones represented at the SOSSA Championship.

11.08 a)

That a school who has competitor(s) at the SOSSA Track & Field Meet shall be expected to provide a trained adult official as part of their eligibility requirements.

11.08 b)

Track & Field Assigning of Officials and Responsibilities by Zone  
See Track & Field Rules and Regulations

11.09

That SOSSA schools hosting tournaments shall use the rules of eligibility set down by OFSAA/SOSSA and note that these rules will be adopted on the entry form for the tournament.

11.10

For team sports OFSAA rest times between games be used unless all coaches involved agree otherwise.

11.11

That the HOME team for all SOSSA Championship games shall be decided by a flip of a coin.

**11.12 Exhibition Tournaments Sanctioning**

That SOSSA schools hosting tournaments shall use the rules of eligibility set down by OFSAA/SOSSA and note these rules will be adopted on the entry form for the tournament.

11.13

Sport schools and sport academies are schools that offer flexible or modified time tabling to accommodate students' athletic training, competition and /or travel schedules; or schools that admit athletes due to their level of athletic status who are required to take additional credits in health and physical education specific to fundamental and fitness training principles.

## 11.14

Sport programs are considered to be a course or courses offered by a school which are sport-specific curricular programs.

- i) Any student enrolled in a sport school, sport academy, or sport programs will be eligible to compete in all sports provided they are attending the designated school according to school board boundaries (or the closest school where no boundaries exist).
- ii) Any student enrolled in a sport program and the school is not his/her designated school according to school board boundaries (or not their closest school where no boundaries exist), will be eligible to compete in any sport except the sport being provided through their sport-specific curricular program. The period of ineligibility will continue as long as the student attends the school where the sport program exists.
- iii) Any student enrolled in a sport school or sport academy and the school is not their designated school according to school board boundaries (or not the closest school where no boundaries exist), will be eligible to compete in any sport except their declared or designated sport of speciality. The period of ineligibility will continue as long as the student attends the sport school or sport academy.
- iv) The declared or designated sport of specialty shall be the sport played at the highest level. Schools must submit their students' declared or designates sport of speciality for approval by the local athletic association (e.g. district, zone) by September 15<sup>th</sup> of the current school year.
- v) An appeal of a student's declared or designated sport may be made by the school's athletic director, principal, or vice-principal to SOSSA by September 30<sup>th</sup> of the current school year.
- vi) Students who were registered in a sport school, sport academy, or sport programs as of September 4, 2012 shall be eligible for all sports provided they meet all rules of eligibility.

## 11.15

Teams or individuals shall adhere to minimum safety standards as outlined in OPHEA and/or OFSAA guidelines.

## 11.16

If adverse conditions cause the cancellation of school transportation or the closing of schools on any given day, all SOSSA championship events scheduled for said day which involve school(s) impacted by a cancellation or closer shall be rescheduled to the alternative date on the SOSSA website or the next school day if the alternative date has already been utilized.

**ARTICLE 12**

**EQUITY**

12.01

The SOSSA membership is to be aware of the equity issue.  
SOSSA supports equity in all aspects of its sports program.

12.02

A student may only play on one team in the same sport (team or individual) at the SOSSA level during a school year.

*APPENDIX 1*

**ROTATION OF COMPETITION FOR BOYS' AND GIRLS' SOSSA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

| YEAR      | ROTATTION | ROTATON |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| 2013 - 14 | 1 - 4     | 2 - 3   |
| 2014 - 15 | 1 - 2     | 3 - 4   |
| 2015 -16  | 1 - 3     | 2 - 4   |
| 2016 - 17 | 1 - 4     | 2 - 3   |
| 2017 - 18 | 1 - 2     | 3 - 4   |
| 2018 - 19 | 1 - 3     | 2 - 4   |
| 2019 - 20 | 1 - 4     | 2 - 3   |
| 2020 - 21 | 1 - 2     | 3 - 4   |
| 2021 - 22 | 1 - 3     | 2 - 4   |
| 2022 - 23 | 1 - 4     | 2 - 3   |
| 2023 - 24 | 1 - 2     | 3 - 4   |
| 2024 - 25 | 1 - 3     | 2 - 4   |

*APPENDIX 2*

ROTATION OF SOSSA PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

| YEAR      | PRESIDENT | VICE-PRESIDENT |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| 2014 - 15 | 3         | 4              |
| 2015 -16  | 4         | 1              |
| 2016 - 17 | 1         | 2              |
| 2017 - 18 | 2         | 3              |
| 2018 - 19 | 3         | 4              |
| 2019 - 20 | 4         | 1              |
| 2020 - 21 | 1         | 2              |
| 2021 - 22 | 2         | 3              |
| 2022 - 23 | 3         | 4              |
| 2023 - 24 | 4         | 1              |
| 2024 - 25 | 1         | 2              |
| 2025-26   | <b>2</b>  | 3              |
| 2026-27   | <b>3</b>  | 4              |

**APPENDIX 3**

**SOSSA AWARDS**

Medallions will only be issued if there are two or more Zones represented at the SOSSA Championship

| ACTIVITY              | TEAM AWARD MEDALLIONS  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Badminton             | Boys' & Girls' Grade Nine, Junior, Senior<br><b>Total medals - 26 max</b>  |
| Baseball              | Boys' 18 max   |
| Basketball            | Jr Boys' A 15 max<br>AA 15 max<br><br>Sr Boys' A 15 max<br>AA 15 max<br>AAA 15 max<br><br>Jr Girls' A 15 max<br>AA 15 max<br><br>Sr Girls' A 15 max<br>AA 15 max<br>AAA 15 max |
| Cross Country (Co-ed) | 1) Girls' Overall<br>2) Boys' Overall<br>3) Aggregate SOSSA (2 <sup>nd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Ribbons)<br><b>Total medals - 36 max</b>   |
| Curling               | Boys' 5 max<br>Girls' 5 max<br><b>Total medals - 10 max</b>  |
| Field Hockey          | Girls' 18 max  |
| Football              | Boys' 40 max   |
| Golf                  | Boys' 5+1 max<br>Girls' 5+1 max<br><b>Total medals - 14 max</b>  |
| Gymnastics            | Girls' See Playing Regulations   |
| Hockey                | Boys' A/AA 20 max<br>AAA 20 max<br><br>Girls' A/AA 20 max<br>AAA 20 max  |
| Lacrosse              | Boys' A/AA 20 max<br>AAA 20 max  |

**APPENDIX 3 ...continued**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Rugby                  | Boys' A/AA 30 max<br>AAA 30 max<br><br>Girls' A/AA 30 max<br>AAA 30 max  |
| Skiing Alpine<br>Co-ed | Boys' & Girls' – Open<br><b>Total medals - 14 max</b>  |
| Nordic Skiing          | Boys' & Girls' Junior and Senior 24 max ( 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> Ribbons )  |
| Soccer                 | Boys' Sr A 20 max<br>AA 20 max<br>AAA 20 max<br><br>Girls' Sr A 20 max<br>AA 20 max<br>AAA 20 max  |
| Swimming               | 96 1 <sup>st</sup> place & 96 2-5 ribbons  |
| Track and Field        | 130 awards   |
| Tennis                 | Junior 8 max<br>Senior 8 max<br>Elite 8 max  |
| Ultimate               | Co-ed 20 max   |
| Volleyball             | Jr Boys' A 15 max<br>AA 15 max<br><br>Sr Boys' A 12 max<br>AA 12 max<br>AAA 12 max<br><br>Jr Girls' A 15 max<br>AA 15 max<br><br>Sr Girls' A 12 max<br>AA 12 max<br>AAA 12 max |
| Wrestling              | Boys' 16 max<br><br>Girls' 13 max  |

## **APPENDIX 4**

### **Accommodation for Grand Erie schools - beginning September 2019.**

#### **Senior Team Sports:**

- 1 - With no "AAA" classified schools, all senior SOSSA "AAA" team championships are not affected.
- 2 - At the "A" and "AA" senior level, our first strategy would be to fill any vacant zone bid to SOSSA with a Grand Erie school. Note: with no "A" schools the NCAA bid to SOSSA championships would be filled by a Grand Erie school. Other exceptions: boys' lacrosse and girls' field hockey would be filled by a Grand Erie school as not all SOSSA zones run these sports.
- 3 - Each zone of SOSSA will accommodate the Grand Erie schools on a set rotation basis, once every four years, with a "play in" or challenge match for their SOSSA bid. Grand Erie schools reserve the right to decline this "play in" game. A commitment date will be established so zones can schedule ahead for the possible challenge match.  
Proposed rotation beginning 2019-20 - zone 3, zone 1, zone 4, zone 2.
- 4 - Other considerations: Grand Erie schools do not participate in rugby or baseball, therefore those sports are not affected.
5. Boys' Football will remain an East and West semi-final, followed by the SOSSA championship.

#### **Junior Team Sports:**

- 1 - The only junior team sports in which SOSSA runs championships are boys' and girls' volleyball and basketball.
- 2 - With all Grand Erie schools being classified as "A" for junior sports, (enrollment under 800 students), there is no accommodation required for "AA" junior team sports.
- 3 - Therefore, the four year rotation strategy, as described above, will be used for junior "A" boys' and girls' volleyball and basketball. Again, Grand Erie schools reserve the right to decline the "play in" game.

**Individual Sports:**

1 - Individual activities may need to be address on a sport by sport basis. The elimination of zone "meets" in some activities will occur in the near future and is being proposed for others. Playing regulations will have ongoing revisions to reflect the new SOSSA structure.

2 - Activities including, tennis, badminton, and golf would use the rotation strategy - each zone sharing their entries or including Grand Erie schools in their qualifying tournament once every four years.

3 - Grand Erie schools have no curling, swimming, or alpine/snowboard athletes so those activities are not affected.

**\*Note:**

Grand Erie schools agree they will travel to all "play in" (challenge) games for the first two years of the agreement. After two years a more equitable travel agreement shall be created.