

WOSSAA CONSTITUTION - BYLAWS

Revised: June 2018

ByLaw 1 - Competition

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

Badminton	Coeducational
Baseball	Boys
Basketball	Boys and Girls
Cross Country Running	Coeducational
Curling	Boys and Girls
Field Hockey	Girls
Football	Boys
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 WOSSAA Constitution and WOSSAA Playing Regulations for that sport/activity.
- b) Sports may apply for Championship status (see Appendix 2).
- 1.3 If OFSAA makes changes in Playing 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.
- 1.5 **The Executive Director shall, in consultation with the Board of 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 Any request for changes to the WOSSAA Championship dates as approved at the June Legislative Assembly must be made by the Championship Convenor to the WOSSAA Executive Director, with a rationale for the change.
- 1.7 WOSSAA Championships wishing to use split locations must advise the WOSSAA Executive Director of the split locations and provide a rationale. It is advised/expected that the WOSSAA Championship Convenor has obtained support from their Conference when selecting split sites.
- 1.8 Schools hosting tournaments or meets are encouraged to have that event approved by OFSAA. Application forms are available on the OFSAA website.

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).
- c) Conferences or schools which are unable to fulfil a commitment to participate or host a WOSSAA Championship must notify the WOSSAA Executive Director. If a Conference is unable to host a Championship, the opportunity to host will go to the next Conference in the "Rotating Calendar of WOSSAA Convenorships".
- d) WOSSAA will adopt the levels of classification of schools as determined by OFSAA (see Appendix 8).

2.2 Eligibility of Players

- a) General
 - i) A student must compete for the school at which he/she is registered.
 - 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) A student is eligible for a maximum of 5 consecutive school years from the date of entry into grade 9.
 - v) 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 name, grade, and date of birth and be declared eligible through the Principal and Physical Education Head/Athletic Director accompanying signature. Entries must be submitted to the Convenor prior to the competition. Schools/teams not complying with the above will not be allowed to compete.

- d) Participation
 - i) A competitor must be eligible under the Constitution (HP) or Participation Agreement (TVRA) for the Conference that 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) A competitor must satisfy the school authorities as to his/her 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 ByLaw 5, Section 4. Students in the SWAC, SWAU, LDCSB Aviation program or attending WD Sutton are not considered transfer students and are eligible to participate for their home school while attending these programs.

2.3 Eligibility of Teams

All teams at WOSSAA Championships must be eligible under the rules of OFSAA ByLaw 5, Section 3.

2.4 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 may be used provided that an OCT certified teacher from the school or athlete's participating Board is present on the bench or in the coaching area for all games and takes responsibility for the student athletes representing his/her school.
- 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.

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 will automatically be ineligible for the next WOSSAA match. An official's report shall be given to the WOSSAA Convenor, along with the gamesheet, immediately after the game/contest.**

- e) 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.
- f) **In the event of the disqualification of a 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.**
- g) The cost resulting from any property damage occurring at a WOSSAA Championship as a result of the misconduct of any individuals associated with that Championship, will be forwarded to the appropriate Conference at which point that Conference will assume full financial responsibility.
- h) 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 Playing Regulations.
- b) Interpretation of the WOSSAA Constitution, ByLaws and Playing Regulations.

4.2 Procedure

- a) **Protests will be considered if the attention of the official is drawn to the condition prior to or during the game, or within the defined time frame as outlined in the Playing Regulations of that sport. The game would then be played under protest. A statement signed by the official identifying the point in the game when the protest was made, as well as a statement from the protesting coach/school outlining the protest and the rationale for the protest should all be submitted to the Championship Convenor along with the game sheet, immediately after the game. The Convenor will then forward all of this information to the WOSSAA Executive Director later that school day. Copies of the protest information should be forwarded to the Executive of the Conferences involved, the officials and the Convenor of the event, as well as the Athletic Director, Administration and Coaches of the schools involved. Protests following 4.2a would be expected to also follow 4.2c and 4.2d.**
- b) **Notwithstanding 4.2a, protests may also be made in writing to the Executive Director of WOSSAA within 24 hours of the violation. Copies of the protest should be forwarded to the Executive of the Conferences involved, the officials and the Convenor of the event, as well as the Athletic Director, Administration and Coaches of the schools involved. Protests following 4.2b would be expected to also follow 4.2c and 4.2d.**
- c) All protests must be signed by the Principal of the school and the coach of the team making the protest.
- d) Each protest must be accompanied by a fee of \$100.00, paid by school cheque.

ByLaw 5 - Awards

- 5.1 The number of awards in each activity shall be consistent with the Playing Regulations for each sport. Seventy per cent (70%) of the awards cost is considered to be an expense which is to be treated as a fixed cost by the WOSSAA Convenor. The other thirty per cent (30%) is covered by the WOSSAA office.

5.2 Playing Regulations for each sport/activity should outline the awards pertaining to it.

ByLaw 6 - Coaches

6.1 Duties

- a) Shall know the Constitution, ByLaws and Playing Regulations 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 (ByLaw 6.1) may result in the coach being sanctioned.
- b) All matters pertaining to the potential sanctioning of a teacher coach and/or volunteer coaches shall be referred to the Superintendent of the School Board that employs that teacher coach and/or volunteer coach.