

NCHSAA Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) Information

2026-27 School Year

Application Window: February 2, 2026 – May 29, 2026

Please send all nomination materials and direct any questions to Janna Fonseca | janna@nchsaa.org | 919-240-7404

VISION:

The SAAC serves as the voice for student-athletes who participate in NCHSAA programs. This group discusses topics relevant to the high school student-athlete experience and develops ways to maintain and improve this experience. Each member is expected to exemplify leadership and sportsmanlike conduct while carrying out the mission of the NCHSAA.

NCHSAA MISSION:

To provide governance and leadership for interscholastic programs in North Carolina that support and enrich the educational experience of students.

REPRESENTATION:

The NCHSAA SAAC is comprised of no more than 26 members who represent each of the NCHSAA's eight regions and more than 200,000 participants.

Statewide representation and opportunities for the 2026-27 school year are as follows:

Region 1	2 Members	Both positions filled
Region 2	2 Members	2 positions available
Region 3	4 Members	3 positions available
Region 4	2 Members	Both positions filled
Region 5	4 Members	1 position available
Region 6	4 Members	2 positions available
Region 7	2 Members	2 positions available
Region 8	2 Members	1 position available
At-Large Members	4 Members	2 positions available (Regions 3&4 and Regions 5&6)

SELECTION PROCESS:

Selected SAAC members will come from a diverse pool of rising high school sophomores and juniors who meet the following criteria:

- Meet all eligibility standards as outlined in the NCHSAA handbook
- Possess leadership characteristics
- Are viewed as positive role models within their school and community
- Are capable of working with a variety of social groups
- Exemplify the tenets of Student Services and Sportsmanship (character, integrity, citizenship, and respect)

Efforts will be made to ensure that as many of the NCHSAA sports are represented across the eight regions. Application materials are due May 29, 2026 and selected members will be notified by June 18, 2026. Once selected, a student-athlete's membership on the SAAC is maintained until his/her graduation unless he/she decides to opt out of participation.

MEETING DATES (tentative) AND EXPECTATIONS:

SAAC members are expected to attend all meetings. A tentative meeting schedule is below. Lunch will be provided for in-person meetings. Meeting attendance and participation are critical; please consider the following dates as part of the application process.

August 16, 2026	11 AM	In-Person NCHSAA Office (Chapel Hill)
September 20, 2026	7 PM	Virtual
October 18, 2026	7 PM	Virtual
November 15, 2026	11 AM	In-Person West Location
December 13, 2026	7 PM	Virtual
January 10, 2027	7 PM	Virtual
February 21, 2027	11 AM	In-Person East Location
March 21, 2027	7 PM	Virtual
April 18, 2027	7 PM	Virtual
Late April, 2027		Student Leadership Conference
May 18, 2027	7 PM	Virtual
June 13, 2027	11 AM	In-Person NCHSAA Office (Chapel Hill)

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Members of the NCHSAA SAAC will be expected to volunteer for at least one championship per semester. Please [click here](#) for the 2026-27 sports calendar (as of January 2026).

REGIONAL MEETINGS:

SAAC members will be asked to present at their respective Regional Meetings in September. In most cases, the school administrator will transport the SAAC member to the site of the meeting, which will take place during the school day.

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

The following are projects that each member will be expected to participate in some capacity during their term.

- Plan and host the student leadership conference (late April)
- Plan and host a speaking engagement at the NCCA Coaching Clinic (July)
- Plan and host a student-athlete meeting that coordinates with the NCHSAA Regional Meetings (September)
- Plan and execute a community service project (can be in collaboration with other regions)
- Implement sportsmanship initiatives

NCHSAA Student-Athlete Advisory Council Application Form

Application Window: February 2, 2026 – May 29, 2026

Each school may submit one (1) candidate who will be a sophomore or a junior in the 2026-27 school year and who meets the outlined criteria.

THIS SECTION IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT

Name:	Grade 2026-27:
School:	Region:
Home Address:	
City, Zip:	Phone:
Email:	
Gender:	Race:
Current Sport(s):	
Current GPA:	Class Rank:

Summary of school activities (NCHSAA and other):

Summary of community and service activities:

Current leadership positions:

Honors and awards:

In a separate document, please answer the following questions in essay form (200 words or fewer per response).

1. What are your views on sportsmanship and its importance in today's sports landscape? What do you think your role, as a member of the SAAC, would be to improve sportsmanship?
2. It is a commitment to uphold the mission of the NCHSAA. As an NCHSAA representative, you will be expected to gather input, discuss pertinent issues, and always serve as a positive role model. Describe how you will handle this aspect of the position. Please be specific in how you will handle unfavorable comments or perhaps uninformed opinions from your peers.
3. Describe a non-sports-related topic that is important to you as a high school student. In your response, please share how you plan to contribute to this area of interest.
4. If you could choose one thing to change about the education-based athletics experience at your school, what would it be? How would you implement that change?

SIGNATURES (all must be filled for the application to be considered complete):

APPLICANT:

By signing below, I acknowledge that I am willing to give sufficient time from my personal activities to devote the time and energy to the duties of the NCHSAA SAAC if I am selected.

I will follow all NCHSAA rules and those of my school.

Applicant Signature: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN:

I give my permission and pledge my support and cooperation to assist my child as a member of the SAAC if selected.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP:

As principal, I support this student's application for the 2026-27 SAAC:

Principal Signature: _____

As athletic director, I support this student's application for the 2026-27 SAAC:

Athletic Director Signature: _____