# POLICY COMMITTEE

**Committee Members**: Allen Plaster (Chair), Sam Jones (Vice Chair), Tracey Slade-Nixon, Matt Stover, Roy Turner, and Les Spell

**Staff**: Alfie Wheeler and Janna Fonseca

| Agenda Item | Recommendation | Impact Analysis Summary |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Conference Membership**<br><br>Submitted By: Chad Williams, First Flight High School<br><br>Attachment P1 | Discuss allowing football-only independent status for schools facing sustained participation and safety challenges, enabling them to rebuild and sustain their programs while maintaining membership in their conference for other sports. | **Rationale:** Improve student-athlete safety and ensure the long-term sustainability of the football program.<br>**Educational Impact:** Supports the stability and continued growth of the program.<br>**Student Safety Impact:** May help increase upperclassmen participation and improve roster depth.<br>**Equity Impact:** Supports continued participation opportunities for current student-athletes.<br>**Financial Impact:** No anticipated financial impact.<br>**Operational & Administrative Impact:** No significant operational or administrative changes.<br>**Legal or Compliance Considerations:** No known concerns.<br>**Effective Date**: Discussion Only |
| **2. Conference Membership**<br><br>Submitted By: John Hughes, Northwest Piedmont Conference<br><br>Attachment P2 | Discuss whether Rule 3.1.2 should be revised to clarify notification responsibilities during the conference realignment process when a school is accepted into a conference mid-cycle, including whether the school, conference administrator, or both should be required to notify the NCHSAA. | **Rationale**: Unclear who is responsible and when deadline was to add a new school to a conference.<br>**Educational Impact:** None<br>**Student Safety Impact:** None<br>**Equity Impact**: None<br>**Financial Impact**: None<br>**Operational and Administrative Impact:** None<br>**Legal or Compliance Considerations**: None<br>**Effective Date**: Discussion Only |

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| **3. Penalties for an Ejection**<br><br>Submitted By: NCHSAA Staff<br><br>Attachment P3 | Discuss whether NCHSAA staff should establish defined criteria for imposing additional penalties to promote consistency, transparency, and fairness in enforcement decisions. | **Educational Impact:** Could affect the outcome and consistency of ejection penalty decisions and associated sanctions.<br>**Student Safety Impact:** Establishing defined criteria may promote more consistent application of penalties intended to support sportsmanship and student safety.<br>**Equity Impact:** Clear criteria could improve fairness and consistency by ensuring similar violations receive similar consideration statewide.<br>**Financial Impact:** None anticipated.<br>**Operational and Administrative Impact:** May require the development, documentation, and communication of additional enforcement guidelines for staff and member schools.<br>**Legal or Compliance Considerations:** Clear standards may help support consistent application of NCHSAA policies and reduce the potential for disputes regarding penalty decisions.<br>**Effective Date**: Discussion Only |

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| **4. Amateur Rule and All-Star Contests**<br><br>Submitted By: Phil Weaver, NC Coaches Association<br><br>Attachment P4 | Allow juniors who participate in NCCA All-Star events to retain athletic eligibility or sanction the NCCA All-Star events. | **Rationale:** Allowing juniors to participate in NCCA All-Star events would support player development, increase exposure to college recruiters, and help offset declining senior participation due to early college enrollment and team commitments.<br>**Educational Impact:** None. Participation would occur during summer break and would not interfere with instructional time.<br>**Student Safety Impact:** Participation provides a valuable developmental experience, allowing juniors to compete against the state's top talent while enhancing their skills and understanding of areas for improvement.<br>**Equity Impact:** Expanding eligibility to juniors increases access to a meaningful recognition and development opportunity for student-athletes who may otherwise have limited opportunities to participate in All-Star competition.<br>**Financial Impact:** No financial impact to NCHSAA member schools. The NCCA covers all participant expenses associated with the event.<br>**Operational and Administrative Impact:** Minimal. Administrative responsibilities are limited to collecting required physical examination and concussion documentation.<br>**Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None identified.<br>**Effective Date**: Summer 2027 |

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| **5. Competitive Equity**<br><br>Submitted By: Jonathan Tribula, Nash Central High School<br><br>Attachment P5 | Explore classification adjustments, conducting a membership survey, and studying potential changes to the classification system relative to attendance zones. | **Rationale:** To ensure competitive equity by evaluating current classification system for differences in enrollment boundaries.<br>**Educational Impact:** Supports a more equitable competitive environment and promotes confidence in the fairness of championship opportunities.<br>**Student Safety Impact:** No direct student safety impact identified.<br>**Equity Impact:** Addresses perceived competitive advantages associated with schools that draw students from larger or less restricted enrollment areas.<br>**Financial Impact:** No direct financial impact anticipated.<br>**Operational & Administrative Impact:** May require data collection, membership feedback, committee review, and potential revisions to classification procedures.<br>**Legal or Compliance Considerations:** Any changes would need to align with existing NCHSAA governance and classification policies.<br>**Effective Date**: None |

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| **6. Pre-Participation Evaluation**<br><br>Submitted By: NCHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee<br><br>Attachment P6 | Adopt the 6th Edition of the AAP Pre-Participation Evaluation with edits suggested by the NCHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.<br><br>NOTE: The 2026-2027 PPE form may be used for physicals administered through June 30, 2027. | **Rationale:** The AAP and collaborating groups have reviewed and published an updated, evidence-based document for use in the pre-participation exam.<br>**Educational Impact:** Provides the most evidence-based approach to the PPE process.<br>**Student Safety Impact:** Adoption of this form will positively impact students because the form is the most current version published by experts in the field.<br>**Equity Impact:** Adoption of this form will positively impact students because the form is the most current version published by experts in the field.<br>**Financial Impact:** None.<br>**Operational and Administrative Impact:** There will need to be modifications made to DragonFly and other student registration/eligibility platforms, so that access to health history and medical examination information is limited to only licensed healthcare providers.<br>**Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None that have not already been addressed by NCHSAA legal counsel.<br>**Effective Date**: January 1, 2027 |

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| **7. Composite Teams**<br><br>Submitted By: Blair Propst, Carteret County Schools<br><br>Attachment P7 | Allow students to participate in a sport at the nearest in-district school that offers the sport when their home school does not. Eligibility would be limited to the closest school within the district offering that sport, with transportation provided by the student and family. | **Rationale:** To provide students with access to athletic opportunities unavailable at their assigned schools promoting participation and competitive equity.<br>**Educational Impact:** Allows students to remain at their assigned school without transferring to participate in a sport.<br>**Student Safety Impact:** Encourages continued athletic participation and its physical and social benefits.<br>**Equity Impact:** Expands access to sports unavailable at a student's assigned school.<br>**Financial Impact:** No anticipated cost to schools or districts; transportation costs remain the responsibility of families.<br>**Operational & Administrative Impact:** Minimal impact using existing eligibility and reporting processes.<br>**Legal or Compliance Considerations:** May require revision of State Board Policy ATHL-005.<br>**Effective Date:** 2027-2028 School Year |
| **8. Sanction Women's Dual Team Wrestling**<br><br>Tabled from Spring 2026<br><br>Submitted By: Tripp Rogers, NC Wrestling Coaches Association<br><br>Attachment P8 | Sanction women's dual team wrestling into subdivided championships based on schools' having six or more female wrestlers. | **Rationale:** There are sufficient women's programs to support a subdivided dual team championship.<br>**Educational Impact:** None<br>**Student Safety Impact:** None<br>**Equity Impact:** Provides women with the opportunity to compete for a dual team championship.<br>**Financial Impact:** May result in additional playoff travel costs.<br>**Operational and Administrative Impact:** Minimal<br>**Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None<br>**Effective Date:** 2027-2028 School Year |

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| **9. Women's Wrestling Competition**<br><br>Tabled from Spring 2026<br><br>Submitted By: Tripp Rogers, NC Wrestling Coaches Association<br><br>Attachment P9 | Women must only compete against women in regular season and post-season wrestling. | **Rationale:** Women's wrestling has matured as a sanctioned sport in North Carolina, and schools now have sufficient opportunities to schedule women-only competition. Requiring women to compete exclusively against women would reduce confusion related to records, dual meet participation, and postseason seeding.<br>**Educational Impact:** No impact on instructional time or academic participation.<br>**Student Safety Impact:** May provide a more consistent competitive environment by limiting competition to same-gender divisions.<br>**Equity Impact:** Supports gender-specific competition and reduces situations where women may be expected to compete on boys' teams to score team points.<br>**Financial Impact:** None<br>**Operational and Administrative Impact:** Simplifies roster management, recordkeeping, dual meet participation, and regional seeding by eliminating scenarios involving women competing in both boys' and women's competition.<br>**Legal or Compliance Considerations:** Would require updates to wrestling participation and eligibility rules to mandate women-only competition in regular-season and postseason wrestling.<br>**Effective Date**: 2027-2028 School Year |

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| **10. Football Equipment for Summer Workouts**<br><br>Tabled from Spring 2026<br><br>Submitted By: NCHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee<br><br>Attachment P10 | Discontinue the use of shoulder pads during summer football workouts. | **Rationale:** Summer football workouts should not include any contact drills at any level. Unless properly regulated, allowing the use of shoulder pads can imply that limited contact is acceptable. NCHSAA staff continues to receive photo and video evidence of impermissible levels of contact taking place during summer football workouts.<br>**Educational Impact:** None<br>**Student Safety Impact:** The NCHSAA does not currently mandate the presence of an LAT or FR during summer football workouts, with the exception of 7v7. While heat illness guidelines are expected to be applied during summer workouts, there is no formal acclimatization period for football during this timeframe.<br>**Equity Impact:** If the NCHSAA does not allow use of shoulder pads during summer workouts, it may limit opportunities for attendance at camps where shoulder pads are used.<br>**Financial Impact:** None<br>**Operational & Administrative Impact:** Coaches would be encouraged to explore and utilize drills that eliminate contact with other players and focus on conditioning and fundamental skills during summer workouts.<br>**Legal or Compliance Considerations:** Liability concerns may arise if an athlete wearing shoulder pads participates in impermissible levels of contact and sustains an injury.<br>**Effective Date:** Summer 2027 |