

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTH SUBURBAN CONFERENCE

PREAMBLE

PART I **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Constitution and By-Laws is to define the governing body of the North Suburban Conference, its mission, and its operational procedures and policies.

PART II **THE INTERSCHOLASTIC COCURRICULAR PROGRAM**

1. The North Suburban Conference will serve its member schools by providing leadership in and the organization of interscholastic, co-curricular activities and sports which enrich high school experiences and promote educational goals.
2. Co-curricular participation should enhance, not interfere with, the academic programs of member schools and the academic commitments of their students.
3. Co-curricular activities should be conducted according to the principles outlined in the N.S.C. Sportsmanship Mission Statement and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Illinois High School Association.

CONSTITUTION

Article I

This Association shall be known as the North Suburban Conference.

Article II

This Conference shall be composed of the following schools, with their respective colors, nicknames, and Division alignment:

<u>School</u>	<u>Colors</u>	<u>Nickname</u>	<u>Division</u>
Antioch	Cardinal and Gray	Sequoits	Prairie
Grant	Scarlet and White	Bulldogs	Prairie
Lake Forest	Royal Blue and Gold	Scouts	Lake
Lake Zurich	Blue and White	Bears	Lake
Lakes Community	Royal Blue, White, Red	Eagles	Prairie
Libertyville	Orange and Black	Wildcats	Lake
Mundelein	Scarlet and Gray	Mustangs	Lake
North Chicago	Red and White	Warhawks	Prairie
Round Lake	Navy and Gold	Panthers	Prairie
Stevenson	Forest Green and Gold	Patriots	Lake
Vernon Hills	Royal Blue and Silver	Cougars	Prairie
Warren	Blue and Gold	Blue Devils	Lake
Wauconda	Purple and Gold	Bulldogs	Prairie
Zion-Benton	Maroon and White	Zee-Bees	Lake

Section 1 - Conference Membership

Membership in the North Suburban Conference shall be granted, maintained, or revoked by a two-thirds (2/3) majority poll vote of the Superintendents or designees. Each Superintendent or designee must be present to vote and will receive one vote.

Section 2 - Conference Division Alignment

Conference Division alignment in the North Suburban Conference shall be decided by a two-thirds (2/3) majority poll vote of the Superintendents or designees. Each Superintendent or designee must be present to vote and will receive one vote. Four primary factors will be considered, all of equal value: enrollment, geography, competitiveness, and number of programs offered. The vote for Division alignment will be a part of the vote for Conference membership provided in Article II, Section 1.

Section 3 - Conference Division Alignment Review Process

Division alignment will be reviewed after the first year of each two-year scheduling cycle. A joint annual spring meeting of Athletic Directors, Principals, and Superintendents will be held to consider major Conference issues and concerns.

Article III

Section 1 – Administrators

<u>Superintendents:</u>	Responsible for policy changes, financial needs, and Conference alignment.
<u>Principals:</u>	Responsible for the management of the Conference.
<u>Athletic Directors:</u>	Responsible for administering the athletic programs.
<u>Assistant Athletic Directors:</u>	Responsible for assisting the Athletic Director in coordinating the athletic programs.
<u>Head Coaches:</u>	Responsible for making recommendations to the Athletic Directors/Assistant Athletic Directors at their end-of-season meetings.

Section 2 - Meetings

The Superintendents normally meet the third Thursday of each month, the Principals the third Wednesday of each month, the Athletic Directors/Assistant Athletic Directors the first Wednesday of each month, and the Head Coaches at the conclusion of their sports seasons.

Article IV

The North Suburban Conference firmly adheres to and believes in the Illinois Sex Equity Rules and the Affirmative Action Policies and guidelines of the Illinois High School Association.

Those guidelines, as applied to Conference sports and competitions, are as follows:

1. If a Conference school offers both a boys' team and a girls' team in a sport, that school may allow a girl to participate on the girls' team only, even though the girls' and boys' teams may participate in different seasons.
2. If a Conference school offers a boys' team, but not a girls' team, in any sport, that school may allow a girl to participate on the boys' team only if it receives written verification of compliance with the Illinois Sex Equity Rules from the Illinois State Board of Education. Approval for participation in a State tournament series must be obtained from the Illinois High School Association.
3. Conference schools will not allow a boy to participate on a girls' team in any sport.

A copy of the State policies and guidelines, and their respective rationales, may be obtained from any of the Athletic Directors of member schools.

Article V

Section 1 – North Suburban Conference Sports

Any sport (24) in which half or more than half of the schools in the North Suburban Conference participate.

Boys

Football (Fall)
Cross Country (Fall)
Soccer (Fall)
Golf (Fall)
Basketball (Winter)
Wrestling (Winter)
Swimming (Winter)*
Track (Spring)
Tennis (Spring)
Baseball (Spring)
Volleyball (Spring)
Water Polo (Spring)*

Girls

Cross Country (Fall)
Tennis (Fall)
Volleyball (Fall)
Swimming (Fall)*
Golf (Fall)
Gymnastics (Winter)*
Bowling (Winter)*
Basketball (Winter)
Softball (Spring)
Soccer (Spring)
Track (Spring)
Water Polo (Spring)*

Competitive Cheerleading (Winter)

* These sports have been granted an exception to this guideline based on Conference participation prior to realignment.

Section 2 - Championships

Each sport shall maintain a set of guidelines to govern the organization of play, scheduling procedures, meetings, and championship criteria in that sport. These guidelines shall be reviewed biennially by the Head Coaches at their end-of-season meetings, unless more frequent changes are dictated by the I.H.S.A. By-Laws or Terms and Conditions, the National Federation, or legal precedents. Recommendations for changes shall be brought to the Athletic Directors/Assistant Athletic Directors by the Resource Athletic Director for each sport.

For sports with less than full participation of all member schools, Divisional competition and championships will be conducted only if the total number of competing schools is greater than or equal to ten, with at least five schools in each Division. A difference in the number of participating schools in each Division will result in an equivalent change in the formula for determining All-Conference and Honorable mention selections.

Section 3 - Adding Sports

A member school adding a sport must declare its official intention at or before the N.S.C. scheduling meeting (September of each year) to be added to the official Conference schedule for the following school year. If member schools add sports after this time, Conference schools will add the new team(s) as their schedules may allow. Individual participants from these schools will be allowed to compete at Conference tournaments for individual awards whenever possible. Changes in Conference schedules to reflect member schools which cease to offer sports or levels will be made only at the beginning of a scheduling rotation.

Article VI

Section 1 - Trophies and Medals

Team trophies, and medals in certain individual sports, shall be awarded for North Suburban Conference and /or Division championships, as indicated in the individual sport guidelines. Duplicate trophies shall be awarded in the event of a tie for a team championship. Medals shall be awarded according to the procedures outlined in the individual sport guidelines and Appendix A of this Constitution.

For a total conference membership greater than or less than fourteen schools, the number of medals shall be increased or decreased by 1/14.

Section 2 - All-Conference

All-Conference certificates shall be awarded in certain team sports according to procedures developed by the Head Coaches of these respective sports. These procedures may be found in the sport guidelines. The number of awards to be given is outlined Appendix B of this Constitution.

Article VII

Admission and Assessments

Section 1 - Admission

Admission charges for North Suburban Conference contests shall be established by each respective school or Board of Education. Faculty and Staff shall be admitted with a North Suburban Conference pass. Admission charges for I.H.S.A. state tournament series contests (Regional, Sectional, Super Sectional, State Final) shall be as established by the Illinois High School Association. North Suburban Conference passes are not valid at I.H.S.A. contests.

Section 2 - Receipts and Expenses

The host school shall be responsible for expenses incurred for all Conference meets and games including the Conference tournament. The expense for the following Conference tournament officials shall be paid by the host school as well:

Cross Country	1 Starter
Wrestling	1 Official per mat
Gymnastics	4 Judges
Swimming	3 Officials/1 Diving
Track	1 Starter/1 Meet Referee
Water Polo	2 Officials per match

Section 3 - Annual Conference Membership Assessment

The yearly Conference membership assessment to cover the cost of awards, assignment chairmen, and other expenses, shall be approved and set by the Conference Board of Control.

Article VIII

Assignment Chairpersons

The duty of assigning all officials shall be vested in the assignment chairpersons. Each assignment chair shall be selected by the Athletic Directors and approved by the Board of Control. The salary and duties of each assignment chairman shall be stated in a Contract (Appendix D) and Job Description (Appendix E) which shall be developed by the athletic directors, approved by the Board of Control, issued by the Resource Athletic Director, and forwarded to the Conference Treasurer.

The Resource Athletic Director for each respective Varsity sport shall be responsible for compiling and distributing Conference Varsity standings and scores on a weekly basis. Each school shall be responsible for reporting Varsity scores to the Resource Athletic Director each week. The North Suburban Conference only recognizes championships at the Varsity level.

Article IX

Eligibility

A player may participate at only one level of competition on any given playing date or round of play against a Conference opponent, except where noted in individual sport Guidelines. In sports where there is a Conference tournament at the Varsity level, if a Conference school also hosts a Prairie-Lake (under-level) Invitational in that sport, an athlete is prohibited from competing at more than one level. Only freshmen may compete at the freshman level in any sport or contest. Member schools are required to field teams in recognized levels from the top down.

Article X

School Facilities and Equipment

The schools of the North Suburban Conference agree to act as both gracious hosts and visitors, respecting the property, facilities, and staff of each school and accepting responsibility for the conduct of its participants and fans. It is agreed by all member schools that the use of video equipment for the purpose of scouting by anyone other than the participating team is prohibited.

Article XI

Banners and Signs

Use of banners, signs, and noisemakers by both home and visiting teams shall be according to the Terms and Conditions of the I.H.S.A. set for each individual sport. Any sign may be removed at the request of either school's administrator on duty. The use of air-horns, whistles, fan megaphones, and manufactured noisemakers is strictly prohibited, as are any artificial noisemakers which interfere with play or are used in an unsportsmanlike manner.

Article XIII

Officers

The officers of the Conference, selected from the member Principals of the Conference Board of Control, shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers shall have terms of office of one year.

Article XIV

Supervision

An administrator representing each participating school shall be present at all home and away Football games, Boys' Basketball games, and all other sports as needed. The visiting administrator(s) on duty must report to the scorer's table, press box, and/or home administration for identification.

For all outdoor sports, the North Suburban Conference has adopted the IHSA Severe Weather Safety Guidelines. Administrators, coaches, and school officials should familiarize themselves with these guidelines and be prepared to give a copy of them to game officials if weather conditions warrant their potential application.

Article XV

Open Gym

A member school may conduct an open gym program provided that such program adheres to the Open Gym Policy of the Illinois High School Association.

Article XVI

Protest Policy

A member school may officially contests(i.e. ineligible player utilized, player participating in two events, etc.) with specific evidence the result of a North Suburban Conference Varsity event through the following guidelines:

Section 1 The protest committee will consist of four (4) Principals from the Board of Control and three (3) Athletic Directors.

- A. None of the committee members shall be affiliated with a school involved in a protest.
- B. The chair person of the committee will be the highest ranking officer from the Board of Control. (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer)
- C. The remaining members of the committee will be drawn at random by the committee chair person.

Section 2 Procedure for Filing and Conducting Protests

- A. Protests may be filed by the Principal or Athletic Director of any member school under the following conditions:
 - 1. The basis for the protest shall be an alleged violation of the North Suburban Conference Constitution/Guidelines for a Varsity contest. The protest is to be specific and supported by evidence.
 - 2. The protesting school must verbally file its intent to protest immediately with the officials and/or the administrator on duty involved unless circumstances preclude immediate knowledge of the infraction. The Principal or Athletic Director must be notified.
 - 3. The protesting school must verbally notify the Athletic Director of the school involved within 48 hours of the alleged violation, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and school holidays.
 - 4. A written protest must be filed with the Athletic Director of the school involved and the President of the Athletic Directors within 72 hours of the alleged violation, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and school holidays.
 - 5. The President of the Athletic Directors will conduct a fax poll or call an emergency meeting to discuss the protest. A majority vote of the athletic directors is required for the protest to move on to the protest committee.

6. Following a majority vote of athletic directors, the president of the athletic directors will forward the protest to the president of the BOC or the next ranking official not involved in the incident.
 7. If an alleged violation is reported after the 48 hour time limit as stated in step three, the incident will be reviewed at the next athletic directors meeting. If, by majority vote, the athletic directors feel there is sufficient evidence for reporting the incident, the president of the athletic directors will forward the information to the Board of Control. The Board of Control can write an official letter of reprimand to the offending school if they deem necessary by majority vote.
- B. After notification from the Athletic Directors, the protest committee shall meet within five (5) days of notification or sooner if directed by the committee chair person.
1. Schools involved in the protest should be represented, as appropriate, by:
 - a. Coaches of each team of each school
 - b. Athletic Director of each school
 - c. Principal or other selected designee.
 2. School initiating protest shall state and explain grounds for protest.
 3. School charged in protest shall respond.
 4. Members of the protest committee shall make inquiries.
 5. Protest committee will meet in private to reach its decision.

Section 3 Disposition of Protest

- A. If by majority vote the protest is upheld, the protest committee has the following authority:
1. Censure the offending school and/or coaches.
 2. Order one or more contest forfeited.
 3. Suspend the school from eligibility for Conference Championship or Conference Awards in one or more sports.
 4. Take any other action deemed appropriate within the constitution of the North Suburban Conference.
- B. If by majority vote the protest is denied, the protest is dismissed.
- C. If a majority cannot be reached, the protest is dismissed.

Section 4 Decisions by the protest committee are final.

Article XVII

Sportsmanship

The North Suburban Conference holds high expectations for sportsmanship among conference schools, coaches, officials, participants, spectators and spirit leaders (see attached Sportsmanship Mission Statement). Questions of contest related unsportsmanlike behavior will be addressed between the participating schools respectively. Further review may be requested at the Conference Board of Control.

