



PINELLAS COUNTY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

CONSTITUTION

AMENDED August 8, 2023

The Pinellas County School System provides equal opportunity for all students to participate in an interscholastic athletic program.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CONSTITUTION
PINELLAS COUNTY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
AMENDED July 1, 2022

ARTICLE I – NAME

This Conference shall be known as the Pinellas County Athletic Conference.

ARTICLE II – AIM

The aim of this Conference shall be to promote, develop, direct, and control interscholastic activities of member schools and to promote good sportsmanship among members of the participating schools.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this Conference shall be limited to secondary schools within the confines of Pinellas County. Schools holding membership in this Conference shall not hold membership in any other conference. Any new school desiring membership in the Conference must submit an application, in writing, to the Executive Secretary at least thirty days before the date of the annual meeting. The Executive Secretary will notify member schools at least fifteen days before the date of the meeting. A favorable vote by two-thirds of the representatives of member schools of the Conference shall be necessary for approval.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section A – The officers of this Conference shall be a President, a Vice-President, and Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall be the Executive Director of Athletics.

Section B – The President and Vice-President shall be elected at the annual meeting, and each school that is a member of the Conference shall be allowed one vote to be cast by the principal, or his/her designee. If more than two candidates are nominated for one position, after a vote is taken, the lowest shall be dropped each time, and the vote shall continue until one candidate has the majority.

Section C – The officers shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the Conference, at which time new officers shall be elected. Current officers shall be eligible for re-election. No officer shall be eligible to hold office for more than two consecutive years.

ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section A – President. He/she shall preside at all Conference meetings. He/she shall appoint all committees needed for Conference functioning.

Section B – Vice-President. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall carry out the duties of the President.

Section C – Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Director of Athletics shall be the Executive Secretary and shall be charged with the responsibility of keeping on file, and up-to-date, all papers and records that are necessary to conduct the business of the Conference
2. He/she shall attend all meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee, and shall keep records of the actions of these bodies.
3. He/she shall investigate all charges of violations on the constitution bylaws, regulations of the Conference, and FHSAA constitution, and report his/her findings to the Executive Committee and to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designated assistant.
4. He/she shall receive all changes of schedules from individual schools, and all non-conference contests, in order to keep the master schedule up-to-date.
5. He/she shall declare official champions in each sport and provide awards as designated in the Constitution.
6. He/she shall receive the All-Conference selections from the chairperson of the selection committees for official press release.

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section A - The President, Vice-President, and one Principal shall be elected at each annual meeting and shall constitute the Executive Committee. Said Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint a person to fill any vacant office that might occur.

ARTICLE VII – DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section A – The committee shall determine any breach of the Constitution, bylaws, or regulations of this Conference and FHSAA Constitution, and assess fines and/or penalties. Any report of violations that involves the violation of FHSAA bylaws shall be reported to the commissioner of that association. Correspondence pertaining to FHSAA violations shall also be sent to the Executive Secretary of the PCAC.

Section B – Any complaint against a member school shall be submitted, in writing, by a member principal to the Conference President, Executive Secretary, and the school principal against whom the complaint is being made.

Section C - The Executive Director of Athletics shall conduct and investigate any report of misconduct, and report to the Executive Committee as soon as possible, but in no case, no more than fifteen (15) days after receipt of complaint. The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint a committee, along with the Executive Secretary, to further investigate before a decision can be rendered by the Executive Committee.

Section D - All parties involved in a reported violation shall be invited to the Executive Committee meeting to discuss the violation. The Executive Committee

shall render a decision after the open hearing. The Executive Committee, with the Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Operations sitting as a member, will hear appeals of decisions rendered.

Section E - Any action taken for violations must be by two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee. If members of the involved school are on the Executive Committee, they shall be excused from the committee, and the President shall appoint substitutes in their places.

Section F – Member schools that cannot comply with the Constitution because of facilities, finances, etc. shall present this information to the Superintendent or his/her designated assistant for further study.

Section G - Penalties

1. The Executive Committee may assess fines ranging from \$25.00 to \$250.00 against Conference members for violations.
2. They may place a member school on probation for a period not to exceed the following school year. Only one probation per school year is allowed.
3. Any team placed on probation shall not be eligible for Conference championship in that particular sport in which the violation occurred.
4. Each member of the Conference is required to have at least one member of its administrative staff at all varsity football and basketball games, whether it is home or away. Administrative staff consists of the principal and assistant principals. Violation of this policy may constitute a fine. The Executive Secretary is to be notified, in advance, if above cannot be carried out. The Executive Secretary may approve substitutes for above administrators.
5. A member school may not report a violation by another member school after June 30 of the current school year.

Section H – It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary to keep the Superintendent and/or his/her designated assistant informed of all violations by a Conference member, and the recommendations and action by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

Section A – Special meeting - The President shall have the authority to call a special meeting of this Conference, and having decided to call said special meeting, he/she shall immediately request the Executive Secretary to notify each Principal and Assistant Principal for Activities (APA), in writing, of the time and place of the meeting. Member schools must be notified at least one week in advance of any special meeting. When, in the judgment of the President, an emergency exists, he/she may suspend the requirement that a weeks' notice be given in writing, and call a meeting immediately.

Section B – Representation at Meetings – Each school shall be represented by the Principal of said school, and the APA. Each school shall be allowed one vote. If either the Principal or the APA cannot be present at the annual meeting of the Conference or a special meeting, then a proxy shall have all rights and privileges

of said absent party. The proxy must be a member of the staff of said school, and proxy authorization must be in writing.

Section C – Quorum – Two-thirds of the representatives of member schools of this Conference shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the Conference.

ARTICLE IX – SPORTS SPONSORED BY THE CONFERENCE

Section A – The following sports are the official sponsored sports of the Conference: varsity baseball, varsity and junior varsity (JV) boys basketball, varsity and JV girls basketball, varsity and JV cross country, varsity and JV football, golf, boys varsity soccer, girls varsity and JV soccer, girls softball, boys varsity swimming, girls varsity and JV swimming, boys and girls tennis, boys varsity track and girls varsity and JV track, girls varsity and JV volleyball, varsity and JV wrestling, and girls varsity and JV flag football.

Section B – Baseball

1. Each school shall play each other in division play for Conference standing.
2. When two or more teams are tied for first place, the winner of their Conference game shall be the division champion.
3. A north/south division winner shall play for Conference championship.
4. **Last game**: Each school shall complete its regularly scheduled game not later than the Saturday of the week preceding the beginning of their FHSAA classification play-offs.
5. Games shall be scheduled on days as designated at a Conference meeting.
6. **Summer Practice**. The Executive Director of Athletics will determine schedule and policies for summer .

Section C – Basketball

1. Each school shall play each other in division play one time for Conference standing. The championship trophy for boys' basketball shall be named the "Jack Wilson Trophy."
2. A north/south division winner will play each other for the Conference championship. The best record against division opponents will determine the division winner.

3. There shall be no Conference basketball tournament. This does not exclude holding or participating in an invitation tournament.
4. If there is a conference tie for the north/south representative that cannot be determined by head to head results MaxPreps rankings will be used to determine representative.
5. The Executive Director of Athletics will determine schedule and number of contests.
6. Last game: Each school shall complete its regularly scheduled game not later than the Saturday of the week preceding the beginning of their FHSAA classification play-offs.
7. Games shall be scheduled on days as designated at a Conference meeting.
8. Summer practice: The member schools shall adhere to FHSAA summer practice guidelines.

Section D – Cross Country (Boys and Girls)

1. The winner of the Conference cross country meet shall be declared the Conference champion.
2. There shall be a trophy for the team champions and appropriate awards for the seven members of the championship team.
3. There shall be fourteen medals for the first fourteen participants scoring in the Conference meet.
4. Cross country season shall end with the state meet.
5. Cross country meets shall be held on days designated at a Conference meeting.
6. Schedule and number of contests will be determined by the Executive Director of Extracurricular Activities

Section E – Football

1. Football practice shall be governed by the FHSAA regulations.
2. Spring football practice shall be limited to twenty (20) days to be completed within the month of May. Equipment worn shall be full equipment. Insurance must be provided. The twenty days of spring

practice may be terminated on the last day by a jamboree at which admission may be charged. Also, one inter-squad game with an admission charge is allowed.

3. Football games shall begin at 7:30 p.m.
4. JV football games shall be played on the days designated at a Conference meeting.
5. JV football games shall not exceed seven (7) games.
6. A conference championship game will be played at the end of the regular season between the top North and South Teams.
7. JV games shall begin at 7:00 p.m.
8. Tiebreakers may be used in JV contests.

Section F – Golf

1. The golf schedule shall be a fifteen (15)-match schedule with each team competing against the other Conference schools.
2. A PCAC boys and girls championship golf tournament will be held each season. The winner of the tournament will be declared the PCAC champion.
3. A golf match winner will be determined by adding the four (4) lowest scores of the five (5) members competing. The team with the lowest total will be declared the winner.
4. In the event of a tie, there will be a sudden death play-off with the four lowest scorers as determined by the scores of the nine-hole match. The first team to have the lowest total strokes by adding the strokes of the four players in the play-off will be declared the winner of the match. If more than one team is competing, each team will compete against each other until a winner is determined among the individual teams.
5. Matches: Schedule and number of contests will be determined by the Executive Director of Athletics

Section G – Soccer (Boys and Girls)

1. Soccer games shall be played on days as designated at a Conference meeting.

2. Conference champions will be decided by a tournament at the end of the regular season.
3. When two or more teams are tied for first place in a division, MaxPreps ranking will be used to determine a winner.
4. Matches: the Executive Director of Athletics will determine Schedule and number of contests. (See Appendix B)

Section H – Softball

1. Each school shall play each other in division play for Conference standing.
2. When two or more teams are tied for first place, the winner of their Conference game shall be the division champion.
3. A north/south division winner will play each other for the Conference championship.
4. Last game: Each school shall complete its regularly scheduled game not later than the Saturday of the week preceding the beginning of their FHSAA classification play-offs.

Section I – Swimming (Boys and Girls)

1. The swimming schedule shall consist of some triangular, quadrangular, and dual meets in order to shorten the season.
2. The Conference champion shall be determined by the Conference meet.
3. Last meet: Each school shall complete its regularly scheduled meets no later than the Saturday of the week preceding the district swimming meet.
4. Schedule and number of contests will be determined by the Executive Director of Extracurricular Activities. (See Appendix B)

Section J – Tennis (Boys and Girls)

1. Championship in tennis shall be determined by Conference season record.
2. Schedule and number of contests will be determined by the Executive Director of Extracurricular Activities (see Appendix B).
3. Last match: Each school shall complete its regularly scheduled matches no later than the Saturday of the week preceding the district tennis tournament.

4. Team play during the regular season shall be on the basis of five singles matches and two doubles matches. USLTA rules shall apply in all cases unless specifically set aside by an FHSAA regulation. Prior to each match, coaches will exchange their written lineups. It is understood that each coach will play his/her singles players at the positions relative to their ability at the time. No singles player may move more than one position either way from the previous Conference match. (Exception to this rule would be if two or more players, who had participated the previous week, were unable to participate).
5. When two or more teams are tied for first place, the winner of their dual match shall be the Conference champion.

Section K – Track (Boys and Girls)

1. One Conference track meet shall be held during the last week of the regular season. Qualifying times, distances, and heights shall be established for contestants. There shall be a maximum number of sixteen (16) contestants in each individual event. Points earned in the championship meet shall determine the Conference team champion.
2. Last meet: Each school shall complete its regularly scheduled meet no later than the Saturday preceding the district track meet.
3. Schedule and number of contests will be determined by the Executive Director of Athletics (see Appendix B).
4. There shall be a minimum of four and a maximum of six dual meets between member schools.
5. All dual meets between member schools shall consist of both the girls team and boys team. Participation shall be by alternating girl/boy events.
6. The trophies presented to the girls' and boys' championship teams shall be called the "George A. Strouse Trophy."

Section L - Volleyball

1. Volleyball shall be played on days as designated at a Conference meeting.
2. The Conference champion shall be determined by a playoff between the north division champion and the south division champion.
3. A JV schedule shall consist of ten (10) matches. The JV games shall be played prior to the varsity game. The starting time will be 6:15 p.m.

Section M – Wrestling

1. The Conference champion will be decided at a Conference tournament.
2. There shall be a trophy for the champion team and fourteen (14) medals for members of the championship team
3. The Conference wrestling championship trophy shall be called the “Russ Maugher Trophy.”
4. Last match: Each school shall complete its regularly scheduled match no later than the Saturday of the week preceding the district wrestling tournament.
5. Matches shall be scheduled on days as designated at a Conference meeting.
6. JV match shall be preliminary to the varsity match.

Section N – Flag Football

1. Conference schedule shall be played in divisions north/south.
2. Conference champion shall be determined by a game between the north winner and the south winner
3. Varsity and JV schedule shall be determined by the Executive Director of Athletics

Section O- Lacrosse

1. Lacrosse matches shall be played on days as designated at a yearly conference-scheduling meeting.
2. A boys and girls Lacrosse PCAC champion will be determined by a tournament each year. All boys and girls lacrosse teams will participate in the tournament. The date of the tournament will be determined at the conference scheduling meeting.
3. The Executive Director of Athletics will approve the schedule and number of contests for each school (See Appendix B)
4. Single matches will start at 6:30 pm and double headers will start at 5:30 pm.

Section P – Each member school must participate in basketball, baseball, football, track, and three (3) of the following: cross country, golf, soccer, softball,

swimming, tennis, lacrosse volleyball, wrestling, and flag football.

Section O – Policies, Regulations, and Interpretations

1. Saturday shall be used only for the purpose of making up events which become necessary to postpone, except where scheduling becomes necessary, and then it must be approved by the Executive Director of Extracurricular Activities. Specific Saturdays shall be designated in certain areas as schedule days.
2. In the case where a Pinellas County public school reaches the regional or state final play-offs in basketball, and this county is selected as a play-off site, all athletic activities scheduled to be played in the county on that play-off date shall be rescheduled. Those schools having a team in the district, regional, or state play-off shall reschedule all athletic activities which conflict with the date set for the play-offs,
3. All night practice shall be terminated so that all participants are off the school grounds by 9:30 p.m.
4. With the exception of tennis, no spring sports shall be rescheduled until after the weekend of the boys district basketball tournament.
5. A majority of schools in the Conference must participate in a sport for that sport to be recognized as a Conference sport and receive awards.
6. There shall be no circumventing of these regulations at any time.
7. There shall be no JV tournaments of any kind.
8. Starting dates for all sports shall comply with FHSAA regulations.

ARTICLE X – OFFICIALS

Section A – Basketball, Baseball, Football, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Girls Softball, Volleyball, and Wrestling. The Executive Secretary shall negotiate with officials' organizations for their services. He/she shall present the recommendations to the Conference for a decision on awarding the contracts for the ensuing year.

Section B – Cross Country, Golf, Swimming, Tennis, and Track. The host school shall select officials for the games or meets.

ARTICLE XI – ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

Section A- Baseball An All-Conference team shall be selected to include three

(3) pitchers, one (1) catcher, five (5) infielders, four (4) outfielders, and a designated hitter. These selections will receive awards. A second team shall be selected for publicity purposes only. No awards will be given second team members. North/South division teams will be chosen.

Section B – Basketball Three teams of six (6) players will be selected as All-Conference, and no honorable mention. Only first team selections shall receive awards. North/South division teams will be chosen.

Section C – Golf (Boys and Girls) An All-Conference team shall be selected. It shall consist of six (6) players, two of which will automatically qualify as a result of recording the lowest average score for the year. The remaining four (4) will be selected from a vote taken by the coaches. In order for a boy or girl to be eligible for such honors, they must participate in a minimum of two-thirds of their teams' Conference matches. These selections will receive awards. A second and third team shall be selected for publicity purposes only.

Section D – Soccer An All-Conference team shall be selected. The team shall consist of twelve (12) players in each division. A second team may be selected for publicity purposes only. Awards shall be given to first team members only.

Section E - Softball An All-Conference team shall be selected which will include a regular team plus one pitcher, one utility outfielder, and a designated hitter. These selections will receive awards. A second team shall be selected for publicity purposes only. No awards will be given to second team members. North/South division teams will be chosen.

Section F – Tennis An All-Conference team shall be selected. The team shall consist of five (5) singles and four (4) doubles honorees.

Section G – Volleyball An All-Conference team shall include six (6) players. These selections will receive awards. A second team shall be selected for publicity purposes only. North/South division teams will be chosen.

Section H – Wrestling An All-Conference team shall be comprised of the individual weight class winners of the Conference tournament.

Section I – Flag Football North/South division teams shall be selected. Teams shall be comprised of ten (10) players.

Section J – Eligibility for All-Conference Team Selection To be selected to any PCAC All-Conference team, the student/athlete must be academically eligible to compete for the entire season for the particular sport.

Section K – Football The All-Conference teams shall be divided into a Northern division (8 schools) and a Southern division (8 schools).

Section L- Lacrosse A Girls' and Boys all conference teams shall be selected each year by the lacrosse coaches at an end of the year meeting. The all-conference teams will consist of 12 players for both girls and the boy's teams.

ARTICLE XII – TROPHIES, MEDALS, AND AWARDS

Section A – All Sports

1. There will be a championship trophy for all sports and individual awards for the champions and members of the All-Conference teams.
2. Individual cross country, swimming, wrestling, and track champions shall receive plaques. Medals shall be awarded as follows for place winners: cross country 2-14, swimming 2-6, wrestling 2-4, and track 2-8.
3. It shall be the duty of the Executive Secretary to purchase all trophies.

ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be submitted, in writing, to the Executive Secretary at least thirty (30) days before the annual meeting of the Conference. The Executive Secretary shall notify members of the proposed amendment at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the meeting. A two-thirds vote of the representatives of the member schools of the Conference shall be required for approval.

ARTICLE XIV – PCAC COACH OF THE YEAR

At the conclusion of each sport season, the APA in charge of each sport shall meet with head coaches and choose the Coach of the Year for that sport.

ARTICLE XV – PCAC PLAYER OF THE YEAR

At the conclusion of each sport season, the APA in charge of each sport shall meet with head coaches and select the Player of the Year for that sport.

APPENDIX A

ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS – METHODS AND PROCEDURES

A. The method of selections for each sport shall be attached to Appendix A. Each chairperson should meet with his/her group and determine a procedure for selection. This procedure should be sent to the Executive Secretary for printing and distribution.

B. If a head coach does not attend the All-Conference meeting for his/her sport, the school will be fined \$100.00 for lack of representation at the meeting. A time line for payment shall be established. The payment of this fine shall be the responsibility of the school.

APPENDIX B

As of 2018 -19 school year, The maximum number of athletic contests funded from the district office will be as follows:

JV Football – 7 games
Volleyball – 16 matches
JV Volleyball – 10 matches
Cross Country – 13 meets
Swimming – 13 meets
Basketball – 16 games; JV Basketball – 15 games
Wrestling – 13 matches
Soccer – 13 games
Baseball – 16 games
Softball – 16 games
Tennis – 15 matches
Track – 13 meets
Golf – 13 matches
Flag Football – 10 games
JV Flag Football – 7 games
Lacrosse- 10 games

APPENDIX C

The All-Conference teams shall be divided into a Northern Division (8 schools) and a Southern division (8 schools).

APPENDIX D

A. PCAC SPECIAL AWARDS

1. Superintendents' Trophy – presented to the school with the best overall athletic program based on points given for place of finish in Conference standings.
2. Athletic/Academic Excellence Award – presented to the school with the highest GPA for the entire varsity athletic team program.
3. Henry Deck Award – presented to the outstanding senior male and female athlete.
4. Individual Sport Athletic/Academic Excellence Award – presented to the team with the highest GPA.
5. Mike McPherson Award – presented to a coach, athlete, or both – criteria includes courage, perseverance, and overcoming adversity.
6. Athletic Administrator of the Year award- presented to an Assistant Principal of Athletics or Athletic Coordinator for their dedication to Pinellas County thletics.
7. All other Conference awards are identified in various articles.

CONFERENCE DIVISION

*The Pinellas County Athletic Conference is divided into two divisions, the North and South. The alignment of the divisions is listed below. Please share this page with your coaches, as it is beneficial when developing schedules and ultimately determining division champions and Knology Cup points. This clarification comes from reviewing submitted schedules and the apparent confusion that exists by some.

The current alignment was developed as a result of reclassifying/redistricting in several sports by the FHSAA. These divisions do not apply to sports that have a conference championship event, such as swimming. It is necessary to compete once per season for conference purposes in sports with divisions and that game should be designated when submitting those schedules. Should conference division teams play twice in a season, only one is designated as a “conference” contest. That contest can be the first or second if the coaches agree, but it will be the second when no contest is designated or an incorrect designation is submitted. In a season, a schools “conference” record will only consist of seven contests; those designated when schedules are submitted.

South

Boca Ciega
Dixie Hollins
Gibbs
Lakewood
Northeast
Osceola
Pinellas Park
St. Pete

North

Clearwater
Countryside
Dunedin
East Lake
Largo
Palm Harbor University
Seminole
Tarpon Springs