

**BY-LAW ARTICLE VIII**  
**Sanctioning Procedures for Athletic Competition**

**Sect. 1: National Federation Requirements**

- A. Request for Sanction: Only a member school of an NFHS member state association, or a school approved by such an association, or such an association itself, is eligible to request sanctioning through the NFHS Interstate Sanctioning Program.
- B. Interstate Competition: Interstate competition occurs when either teams or individuals who represent their schools travel across state lines to participate in competitive sports events, including but not limited to such events as “shoot-outs,” “showcases,” “round-robin tournaments” etc.<sup>1</sup>
- C. Co-Sponsorship Sanction Requirement: Any interstate competition involving two (2) or more schools which is co-sponsored by an organization outside the high school community (e.g., a university, a theme park, a shoe company), in addition to being sponsored by a member school, an approved school or a state association, shall require sanction of the NFHS Office.
- D. Non-Bordering State Sanction Requirement: Subject to Paragraph 3, no sanction is required from the NFHS office if all competing schools, regardless of the number of competing schools, are from states which border the host state.<sup>2</sup> Each state association shall sanction through the NFHS office interstate competition by a member school involving either:
1. Nine (9) or more schools, at least one (1) of which is from a state that does not border the host state; or
  2. Five (5) or more states, at least one (1) of which does not border the host state.
- E. Financial Report: When NFHS sanction is required, the host school shall submit a financial report about the event to the NFHS on the accompanying form within 90 calendar days of the completion of the event.<sup>3</sup>
- F. Equal Treatment: Schools participating in interstate competition, as well as the schools’ employees and agents, shall be treated equally. Examples of such shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
1. Reduction or waiver of entry fee for one school must result in reduction or waiver of entry fee for all schools;
  2. Appearance fee paid to one school must result in equal amount of appearance fee paid to all participating schools;
  3. Expense reimbursements, if any, must result in equivalent payments to all participating schools, subject to reasonable adjustments for differing distances traveled;
  4. Share of proceeds/live gate paid to one school must result in equal share of proceeds/live gate paid to all participating schools.
- G. Names and Addresses of Invited/Participating Schools: All Sanction requests submitted to the NFHS office must be accompanied by the names and addresses of all invited/participating schools. In the case of cross country and track and field events, the host school will complete the sanction application and forward it to the host state association office with the list of invited schools so that it will arrive in the NFHS office 60 days or more prior to the event. The final list of actual entries will be due to the NFHS office 20 days prior to the event. If the list is not received five (5) days prior to the event, the application for sanction will be disapproved, and the meet director will be notified that they are running a non-sanctioned event.
- H. Timelines/Fees: The event sponsor must go online at the NFHS website, register as an event manager, create an event and fill out the online application (identical to the paper version). An e-mail will be sent to the host school’s principal and host state association. The state association reviews the application online and determines if they will approve or deny the application, once approved the event sponsor is notified by the host state association that payment is required. Credit Card payment and electronic check are the only forms of payment accepted. Once the payment is received by the NFHS, the invited states/schools are notified that they have been invited and it is listed on the NFHS website. As the invited states respond to the sanction it is automatically updated on the NFHS website. Once every invited state has responded, the application is approved for sanctioning. The sanction application must

- I. be completed on-line at the NFHS website 90 calendar days or more prior to the event. The following fees apply:

**High School Sponsored Events:**

60 days prior to NFHS Office = \$100

15-59 days prior to NFHS Office = \$100 + \$100 late fee = Total \$200

Less than 15 days prior = \$100 + \$100 late fee + \$100 no list fee = Total \$300

**Non-High School Sponsored Events:**

60 days prior to NFHS Office = \$200

15-59 days prior to NFHS Office = \$200 + \$100 late fee = Total \$300

Less than 15 days prior = \$200 + \$300 late fee + \$100 no list fee = Total \$600

The sanction application payment will only be accepted by credit card or electronic check. The list of invited schools/states will not be forwarded or appear on the NFHS website until the payment is made. Master Card, Visa and American Express are the only credit cards accepted for payment.

If the NFHS does not receive the forwarded sanction application within five (5) calendar days prior to the event, the event will not be sanctioned, and the meet director will be notified they are running a non-sanctioned event.

**NOTE:**

<sup>1</sup>NFHS By-Law 17 provides that each member state association shall approve and receive NFHS approval for competition by a member school against a school from a foreign country, except for two (2) and three (3) school competition with a school or schools from Canada or Mexico, which necessitates a round trip of less than 600 miles. Games against Canadian or Mexican schools involving travel of greater than 600 miles, or an event involving more than three (3) schools, one or more of which are from Canada or Mexico, requires a request to the NFHS for international sanction and notice to and sanction by the appropriate National Governing Body.

<sup>2</sup>Competition involving Border States, and all other configurations of interstate competition not requiring the sanction of the NFHS office, shall be sanctioned by the state associations involved according to their own procedures. A specimen state association sanction form is included in the handbook.

<sup>3</sup>If a state association, rather than a school, sponsors or cosponsors the event, it should submit the financial report. For additional financial report forms, contact the NHIAA or the NFHS.

**Sect. 2: Interstate Events (Between States) FORM A**

**For Use When NFHS Approval is not required**

- A. Application *must be submitted to the NHIAA Office no* later than ninety (90) days prior to the interstate event.
- B. The NHIAA will consider the application, and if approval is recommended, will sign and forward copies to the high school association office for each state from which schools are to be invited.
- C. The NHIAA will be responsible for notifying member schools of the approval. *Schools must verify sanction of the event prior to participation by reviewing the approved sanctioned events on the NHIAA website.*
- D. When a school applies for a National Federation sanction, it agrees to conduct the interstate competition in compliance with conditions, which have been adopted by the constituency of the National Federation.

**Sect. 3: Intrastate Competition (New Hampshire Schools Only) FORM B**

- A. Procedures of the NHIAA will be followed.
- B. Application for sanction must be initiated by the host school *and submitted 30 days prior to event.*
- C. Only competition sponsored by member high schools will be considered.
- D. Only *holiday, sub-varsity and spirit competitions* involving athletes from more than two schools need to be sanctioned.

#### **Sect. 4: Pre-season Contests**

All *pre-season* jamborees and similar competition *involving four (4) or more schools* in any NHIAA sport must be sanctioned *by the* NHIAA. All such contests shall not count on the regular season's record. An application for sanction must be received in writing to the NHIAA Executive Director from the principal *or athletic director* of the school no less than 90 days prior to the event.

#### **Sect. 5: International Events**

The close relation with foreign countries and ease of travel have resulted in increased participation of high school students in international athletic competition. The National Federation and the NHIAA support the development of international understanding and goodwill through athletic exchanges.

APPLICATION FOR SANCTION must be submitted to the National Federation 90 days prior to the event. If the National Federation does not receive the late penalty fee within 10 days of receiving the sanction application, the sanction application will be denied and the event sponsor will be notified that they are running a non-sanctioned event.

CRITERIA FOR NATIONAL FEDERATION EVALUATION of international events are established by the National Federation. If any of these standards are ignored, the sanction is void. Competition shall be evaluated by these standards:

- A. Competition in the United States shall be sponsored by a high school or state association-approved non-school organization.
- B. Competition shall be administered by qualified officials under the domestic or international playing rules and safety requirements approved for that competition by the National Federation and the state association.
- C. Appropriate provisions shall be made for validation of records which may be established during the competition.
- D. Entries shall be limited to competitors and/or schools from the states for which sanction has been granted.
- E. Each participant representing a New Hampshire high school shall be eligible under the rules of the NHIAA.
- F. Foreign competitors shall qualify as amateurs and, if students comply with the eligibility standards prevalent in the host state(s) concerning age, year in school, etc.
- G. A complete report, including a detailed financial statement, involving all phases of the competition shall be filed with the National Federation and the involved state association(s) within 30 days following final competition.

### **SANCTIONING INTERPRETATIONS**

**Request for Sanction** – Only a member school of an NFHS member state association, or a school approved by such an association, or such an association itself, is eligible to request sanctioning through the NFHS Interstate Sanctioning Program. *A member high school, approved high school or state association must sponsor any event seeking NFHS sanction.*

**INTERSTATE ATHLETIC EVENT  
SANCTIONING GRID**

For Events Sponsored or Co-Sponsored Only by National Federation Member Associations or Their Member Schools

No. of Schools	No. of States	State Associations Sanction Required?	NFHS Office Sanction Required?	Form
2 or More	1	No	No	-
2-8	2-4	Yes	No	A
9 or More	5 or More	Yes	Yes, unless all states border the host state. (At least one criteria must be met.)	On-line
Holiday, Sub-Varsity & Spirit Tournaments 2 or More	1 or More	Yes	No, as long as they all border.	A or B
Preseason 4 or More	1 or more	Yes	No	A or D

**NOTE:** For events co-sponsored by an individual organization outside the high school community (e.g., a university, college or corporation), sanction by the NFHS office is required for any interstate competition involving two (2) or more schools, even if all the schools involved are from states which border the host state.

**ANY SANCTION REQUEST THAT NEEDS NFHS APPROVAL NEEDS TO BE SUBMITTED ON-LINE WITH A \$200.00 ON-LINE PAYMENT**

Holiday, Sub-Varsity and Spirit Tournaments require sanction.

Pre-season jamborees and festivals involving more than two (2) schools require sanction. If out of state schools are invited, use form A and indicate type of event, i.e. pre-season, jamboree, etc.