



Texas Trinity
LEAGUE

BYLAWS



Our Vision

TXTL provides a competitive platform for students to unite and utilize their athletic and academic abilities. This environment will assist in the development of the student's self-confidence, equip them for leadership and facilitate growth to reach their full potential. TXTL promotes sportsmanship, fair play, high character standards, and a level playing field for all.

Texas Trinity League
Board of Directors

NAME	TITLE
Chad Clark	CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR
Jack Parker	DIRECTOR
Jeff Bonner	DIRECTOR

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ARTICLE 1

Name, Purpose, Objectives and General Terms

1.1 NAME

The name of this corporation is “Texas Trinity League.”

1.1.1 Common References. This organization is commonly referred to as “Texas Trinity League,” the “Association,” or “TXTL.”

1.1.2 Location of Office. The TXTL Office is located at 18410 Sonterra Place, Suite 280, San Antonio,

Texas.

1.1.3 Type of Organization. TXTL is an association of middle/junior high schools, senior high schools and home education cooperatives physically located in Texas. TXTL operates as a not-for-profit corporation.

1.1.4 National Affiliation. TXTL shall seek and maintain membership in the National Federation of High Schools (“NFHS”).

1.2 PURPOSE

TXTL provides leadership for the development, supervision and promotion of all TXTL Events sponsored by its Member Schools. Participation in these programs enriches the educational experience of qualified students and student-athletes by providing them with opportunities to compete in an equitable, sportsmanlike and wholesome manner.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

To achieve its purpose, TXTL will:

- (A) Strive for all TXTL Events to be an integral part of the educational program;
- (B) Ensure the equitable conduct of all TXTL Events;
- (C) Promote an understanding that participation in TXTL Events is a privilege earned by those who meet the established requirements;
- (D) Provide rules for administrative control of, and responsibility for TXTL Events that are consistent with the rules of the Association;
- (E) Recognize the outstanding accomplishments of students, student-athletes, coaches, teams and Member Schools in all TXTL Events;
- (F) Protect Member Schools from exploitation by organizations and individuals whose purposes are not consistent with educational TXTL Events;
- (G) Encourage cooperation and friendship among students, student-athletes, coaches and Member Schools of the Association; and
- (H) Promote sportsmanship, fair play, high character standards and a level playing field for all TXTL Events.

1.4 GENERAL TERMS

1.4.1 Bylaws means all of these Bylaws and all rules, regulations, guidelines and policies, including all administrative policies, subparts, exhibits or other related documents referenced or incorporated into these

Bylaws, of this Association as determined and adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

1.4.2 School Year means the period of time that begins on July 1 and continues to June 30.

1.4.3 Academic/Athletic Year means the period of time which begins with the first day of practice for fall sports or the first day of classes, whichever comes first for an individual Member School, and continues until the last day of classes for an individual Member School.

1.4.4 Summer means the period of time which begins on the first day following the last day of classes for an individual Member School and continues through the Saturday preceding the first of day of practice for the fall sports.

1.4.5 Semester means the period of time approximately equal to one-half of an Academic Year (approximately 90 days), with August through December/January as the first Semester and January through May/June as the second Semester.

1.4.6 Team Sport means any sport in which competition is held between two collective groups of individuals in which winning or losing is by the group as opposed to by individuals (i.e., baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball, etc.). Team and individual honors may be awarded in Team Sports.

1.4.7 Individual Sport means any sport in which competition is held between or among individuals in which winning or losing is by individuals (i.e. cross country, golf, tennis, track & field, etc.). Team and individual honors may be awarded in Individual Sports.

1.4.8 Athletic Activities means contact between coaches and student-athletes including, but not limited to, conditioning, weightlifting, tryouts, practices, intra-squad scrimmages and contests.

1.4.9 School Residence and Physical Residence mean, as applicable, the school at which a student attends or represents or the location at which a student lives with his/her parent or legal guardian.

1.4.10 TXTL Calendar means the official calendar of the Association that is maintained by the Association, at the TXTL Office, and as determined and adopted by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 2

Principles for the Conduct of TXTL Events

2.1 EDUCATIONAL NATURE OF TXTL EVENTS

Association Events are designed to enhance the educational experience. The participating students and student-athlete are students first, an athlete or competitor second; and each and every practice and

competition is an extension of the classroom.

2.2 PARTICIPATION IS A PRIVILEGE

Participation in TXTL Events by a student is a privilege, not a right. To earn this privilege, students must abide by the rules and meet standards of academic performance and personal behavior that are related to school purposes.

2.3 SPORTSMANSHIP AND ETHICAL CONDUCT

Association Events must encourage good character, enhance the integrity of education and promote civility in society. Student, Student-athletes, coaches and all others associated with TXTL Events, as well as those who attend TXTL Events, should adhere to the fundamental values of honesty, integrity, respect, caring, cooperation, trustworthiness, leadership, tolerance and personal responsibility.

TXTL Events will be conducted in a manner free of gender bias and will adopt rules that enhance Member Schools' efforts to comply with applicable gender-equity laws.

2.4 ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY

Each Member School must operate all TXTL Events pursuant to the TXTL Bylaws, rules and guidelines. The principal, who is ultimately responsible for the administration of all aspects of the Member School's interscholastic athletic and academic programs, is responsible for ensuring this control, which extends to and includes responsibility for and control over the actions of:

- (A) The administration and faculty;
- (B) The interscholastic athletic and academic department staff, all students and all student-athletes;
- (C) The student body, parents and other spectators at interscholastic athletic and academic events; and
- (D) Any other individual or group engaged in activities representing, supporting or promoting the interscholastic athletic and academic interests of the Member School.

2.5 COMPLIANCE WITH RULES

Each Member School must comply with all applicable TXTL Bylaws. TXTL will assist Member Schools in their efforts to achieve full compliance with all Bylaws and will establish fair procedures for addressing alleged or identified failures in compliance. A Member School found to have violated the TXTL Bylaws will be subject to such disciplinary and corrective actions as may be determined to be appropriate by

TXTL.

2.6 NONDISCRIMINATION AND DIVERSITY

TXTL will promote an atmosphere of respect for and sensitivity to the dignity of every person. TXTL will not discriminate in its governance Bylaws, programs and employment practices on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, creed, sexual orientation or educational choice. TXTL will promote diversity of representation within its governance structure and substructures. Each Member School is responsible to determine independently its own policies regarding nondiscrimination and diversity.

2.7 COMPETITIVE EQUITY

TXTL rules will promote the opportunity for equity in competition to assure that individual students, student-athletes and school teams will not be prevented unfairly from achieving the benefits possible through participation in TXTL Events.

2.8 ELIGIBILITY RULES

TXTL will adopt and enforce eligibility rules that assure proper emphasis on educational objectives and promote competitive equity among Member Schools.

2.9 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES COMPETITION

The Association may conduct state championship series to determine the official state champion(s) in those sports and events that are sanctioned by the Board of Directors. The privilege to participate in the TXTL state championship series will be limited only to those Member Schools that are duly elected to full membership in TXTL. The Board of Directors will determine the sports in which TXTL state championship series are to be conducted and will establish the terms and conditions for each state championship series.

ARTICLE 3

Membership

3.1 MEMBER DEFINITIONS

3.1.1 Member School. A “Member School” is a senior high school, middle/junior high school or home education cooperative that is provisionally admitted or duly elected to membership in the Association. Member School not only refers to the institution, but also to its administration, faculty, athletic staff, student-athletes, student body and any other individual or group engaged in activities representing, supporting or promoting the interscholastic athletic and academic interests of the Member School.

3.1.2 Restricted Member. A “restricted member” is a Member School that has its membership privileges restricted in some manner because it fails to meet the qualifications, conditions and obligations of membership.

3.1.3 Full Member. A full member will enjoy all privileges of membership, unless otherwise specifically withheld according to these Bylaws. Membership privileges include, but are not limited to, the privilege to compete in TXTL Events, including the championship series, potentially hold certain positions in the TXTL structure and sub-structures, and the privilege to make application for and serve as host of TXTL Events.

3.1.4 Suspension. The Association may suspend a Member School that fails to meet one or more of the qualifications, conditions and/or obligations of membership until the deficiency is corrected.

3.1.5 Failure to Pay Dues and Fees. A Member School that does not pay its dues and fees by the deadline set by the Board of Directors will be suspended from membership. The suspended Member School may be reinstated at any time prior to January 31 by paying its dues and fees, and an additional reactivation fee set by the Board of Directors. Membership is terminated if the suspended Member School fails to pay all dues and fees by January 31.

3.1.6 Expulsion. The Board of Directors may expel a Member School that fails to meet one or more of the qualifications, conditions and/or obligations of membership or fails to support and adhere to the TXTL Bylaws.

3.2 TYPES OF MEMBER SCHOOLS

3.2.1 Senior High School. A “senior high school” is any school that provides instruction to students at one or more grade levels from 9 through 12.

3.2.2 Middle/Junior High School. A “middle/junior high school” is any school that provides instruction to students at one or more grade levels 6 through 8.

3.2.3 Home Education Cooperative. A “home education cooperative” is a parent-directed group of individual home education students that provides opportunities for interscholastic athletic and academic competition to those students and may include students in grades 61 through 12.

3.3 QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

3.3.1 Schools. A senior high school, middle/junior high school or home educated school in the state of

Texas may become a Member School if:

- (A) The school applies for membership on a form provided for that purpose;
- (B) The school is accredited and registered with the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission, is accredited by an accreditor approved by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission or has other acceptable registration and accreditation approved by the Board of Directors;
- (C) The governing body of the school adopts these Bylaws annually as the rules governing all TXTL Events;
- (D) The school pays all dues and other fees required of Member Schools;
- (E) The school maintains the insurance coverage required of Member Schools;
- (F) The school provides the principal and Athletic Director with the appropriate modes of communication;
- (G) The school, if applicable, successfully completes its provisional period; and
- (H) The Board of Directors elects the school to membership.

3.3.2 Exemption from Accreditation Requirement. A middle/junior high school is exempt from the accreditation requirement.

3.3.3 Home Education Cooperatives. A home education cooperative located in the state of Texas may become a member if:

- (A) The principal applies for membership on a form provided for that purpose;
- (B) The governing board of the cooperative adopts these Bylaws annually as the rules governing its interscholastic athletic and academic programs;
- (C) The cooperative pays all dues and other fees required of Member Schools;
- (D) The cooperative maintains the insurance coverage required of Member Schools;
- (E) The cooperative successfully completes its provisional period;
- (F) The cooperative provides the principal and Athletic Director with the appropriate modes of communication; and
- (G) The Board of Directors elects the cooperative to membership.

3.4 CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER SCHOOLS

(A) Senior high schools shall be classified by the average number of senior high school students enrolled by September 1st and February 1st of each School Year. Senior high schools shall be aligned based on those numbers in a District upon the next re-alignment year. Middle/junior high school students who participate in senior high school athletics shall not count toward the total senior high school enrollment numbers.

(B) A senior high school shall participate in its designated classification for two years. At the end of the two year period, the senior high school shall again report its September 1st and February 1st enrollment numbers for re-alignment for another two years.

(C) The classification of senior high schools shall be as follows:

1A	1-35	senior high school students enrolled;
2A	36-75	senior high school students enrolled;
3A	76-140	senior high school students enrolled;
4A	141-217	senior high school students enrolled;
5A	218-379	senior high school students enrolled; and
6A	380 or more	senior high school students enrolled.

(D) Home education cooperative groups shall be placed in the highest division. Each home education cooperative group shall have the ability to appeal their classification to the TXTL Commissioner.

3.4.1 Co-Participation. Member Schools may petition the TXTL Commissioner in an effort to combine their student populations or to use another student whose Member School does not offer the specific TXTL Event, provided the Member Schools meet the following criteria:

(A) Both are Member Schools of TXTL;

(B) Each Member School has less than 35 students enrolled at their respective Member School; and

(C) Both Member Schools agree to combine the Member School populations whether a student participates or not.

3.4.2 Approval of Petition. If the co-participation petition is approved by the TXTL Regional and District Chair Committees, the total enrollment for both Member Schools will be calculated in determining the classification in which the joint team will compete. The approval for fielding a joint team must be reviewed and approved every two years by the TXTL Regional and District Chair Committees in the respective sports.

3.5 MEMBERSHIP OBLIGATIONS

3.5.1 Administrative Control. A Member School must control its interscholastic athletic and academic programs in accordance with the Bylaws of TXTL. Responsibility for this control rests with the principal,

who is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the Member School's interscholastic athletic and academic programs.

3.5.2 Compliance with Rules. A Member School must comply with all Bylaws of the Association. The Member School must monitor its interscholastic athletic and academic programs to assure compliance with all TXTL Bylaws, must identify and report to the TXTL Office instances in which compliance has not been achieved and must take appropriate corrective actions regarding such instances of non-compliance. Staff members, student-athletes and other individuals and groups representing, supporting or promoting the school's interscholastic athletic and academic interests must comply with applicable TXTL Bylaws. The Member School is responsible for such compliance.

3.5.3 Eligibility of Students and Student-Athletes. A Member School must certify the eligibility of all students and student-athletes. The Member School must not permit a student or student-athlete to participate in interscholastic competition unless the student or student-athlete meets all eligibility requirements. Member Schools must submit online eligibility reports as outlined on the TXTL Events Calendar.

3.5.4 Cooperation with TXTL. A Member School must fully cooperate in the investigation of any alleged violation of the TXTL Bylaws. A Member School that refuses to permit the interview of any individual, to grant access to and inspection of pertinent records, to submit relevant information to the TXTL Office upon request or otherwise interferes with or obstructs the investigation, will be in violation of this provision.

3.5.5 Compliance Review. The TXTL Office and TXTL Commissioner may review and investigate Member Schools to verify compliance with TXTL Bylaws and other rules. A Member School selected for review or investigation must fully cooperate with the review or investigation. A Member School that interferes with or obstructs the review or investigation will be in violation of this provision.

3.5.6 Liability Insurance. TXTL will pay the premium on and be covered by a liability insurance policy for all official TXTL Events for which TXTL directly secures the site for the Event. TXTL insurance will not cover students, staff and representatives of Member Schools participating in any TXTL Events. All Member Schools will be required to obtain and provide evidence to the TXTL Office of sufficient liability and medical insurance coverage for all students, staff and representatives of the Members School before participating in any TXTL Event.

3.6 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

3.6.1 First-Time Membership. A school applying for first-time membership must submit a complete application packet as provided by TXTL. The application packet must be received in the TXTL Office on or before February 1st as established by the Board of Directors for the school to be considered for admission in the following School Year.

3.6.2 Application Form. The application form must be obtained from the TXTL Office. The form must

be fully completed and signed by the principal.

3.6.3 Insurance Coverage. The principal must provide photocopies of applicable insurance certificates showing that the school has purchased and continues to maintain the insurance coverage required of Member Schools. Continued membership in TXTL requires the purchase of required insurance coverage annually.

3.6.4 Continuing Membership. Each Member School must communicate its desire to continue as a Member School to the TXTL Office by June 1st as established by the Board of Directors. A Member School that does not communicate by the deadline may not be considered for reelection to membership for the following School Year.

3.6.5 Good Standing. A Member School must be in good standing with TXTL by the conclusion of the School Year to continue its membership without restriction.

3.7 MEMBERSHIP ELECTION PROCESS

3.7.1 Decision of Board of Directors. The decision of the Board of Directors whether to admit, elect or reelect a school to membership must be by majority vote. The decision will be final.

3.7.2 Annual Dues. The Board of Directors will determine the annual dues to be assessed each Member School.

3.7.3 Inaugural Membership Fees. Each new Member School will be assessed a one-time fee for joining the Association. The Member School will also be responsible for paying membership dues for that year.

3.7.4 Membership Fees. The Board of Directors may assess additional membership fees to be paid by each Member School.

3.7.5 Payment. Dues and fees are payable each School Year in accordance with the amount and deadline set by the Board of Directors.

3.7.6 Payments are Non-Refundable. All dues and fees (registration and TXTL event participation fees) shall be completely non-refundable after the fees have been received by the TXTL Office.

3.7.7 Schools Not Eligible for TXTL Championship Events. Only non-Member Schools and Member Schools, who otherwise qualify to participate pursuant to the TXTL Bylaws but who have not paid annual dues or membership fees are not permitted the privilege of participation in TXTL championship Events.

3.7.8 Cessation of Privileges. All privileges of a Member School will cease upon any termination of its membership.

ARTICLE 4

Organization and Governance

4.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

4.1.1 Governance. These Bylaws, as well as any Texas Statutes pertaining or applicable to TXTL Events in general, govern the TXTL.

4.1.2 Administrative Policies. Administrative Policies are adopted by the Board of Directors as part of the TXTL Bylaws and are the basis for the regulations that govern the various TXTL programs. Only the Board of Directors may adopt or amend Administrative Policies.

4.1.3 Year of Service. A person who serves on a body in the TXTL governance structure has served one year of service if the person was elected or appointed in advance of the first day of the School Year. A person who is appointed to fill a vacant seat on a body after the start of a School Year will not be considered to have served a full year.

4.2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

4.2.1 Composition. The Board of Directors (individually, a “Director”) shall be composed of not less than three (3) members with the exact number to be determined from time to time by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall elect a Chairman of the Board (“Chairman”), who shall be the highest ranking Officer of the Association, preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and manage the affairs of the Board of Directors.

4.2.2 Quorum. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business at any meeting of the Board of Directors; but if less than a majority of the Board of Directors are present at said meeting, a majority of the Board of Directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

4.2.3 Passage. The act of a majority of the Board of Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors, unless the act of a greater number is required by law or by these TXTL Bylaws.

4.2.4 Deadlock. In the case where the Board of Directors shall, by reason of deadlock (whether because an even number of Directors is seated on the Board of Directors, because certain Directors are absent even though a quorum is present, because of abstention or for any other reason), be unable to reach a conclusive vote on any issue before the Board of Directors, then, in such instance, the Chairman of the Board shall cast a ballot which shall be known as a "Majority Ballot", so that an official act or decision may be taken by the Board of Directors. The Majority Ballot shall be cast in addition to the regular vote cast by the Chairman of the Board.

4.2.5 Compensation. The Board of Directors as such shall not receive any stated salaries for their services; provided, however, members may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of the duties as members of the Board of Directors. A Director may also serve the TXTL in any other capacity and receive reasonable compensation for those services.

4.2.6 Information Action by Board of Directors. Any action required by law to be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors, or any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing setting forth the action so taken shall be signed by all of the Board of Directors.

4.2.7 Duties and Responsibilities. The duties and responsibilities of the Board of Directors include, but are not limited to:

- (A) Managing the affairs of the TXTL and having full and final management, control and authority over the TXTL;
- (B) Adopting and amending all TXTL Bylaws to govern the TXTL's programs;
- (C) Employing the TXTL's President;
- (D) Approving and overseeing the TXTL's budget;
- (E) Assessing annual membership dues and other fees;
- (F) Providing strategic planning for the TXTL; and
- (G) Serving as the highest and final authority, including appellate authority, of the TXTL.

4.2.8 Appellate Authority. The Board of Directors shall have the power, but not be required, to interpret and render a final decision on all questions and appeals that result from the TXTL's Events. It has administrative responsibility and rulemaking authority for the TXTL's appellate branch. However, the Board of Directors shall have full and sole discretion to choose what matters, if any, it will review on appeal from the Appeals Committee.

4.2.9 Delegation of Duties and Responsibilities. The Board of Directors, when it deems appropriate, may designate one or more committees, to be structured as directed by the Board of Directors, which, to the extent provided in the resolution creating such committee, shall have and may exercise the powers granted by the Board of Directors in the management of the affairs of the TXTL, except where action of the Board of Directors is specified by statute. Each committee shall have such name or names as may be

determined by the Board of Directors from time to time by resolution adopted by the Board of Directors and shall keep regular minutes of their proceedings and report the same to the Board of Directors when required. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Directors shall always retain full authority and control to make a final determination or decision based on the committee's recommendation or proposed course of action or to alter or change any action or decision of any committee.

4.2.10 Regular Meetings. The Board of Directors shall have a minimum of three (3) regular meetings each School Year. The Board of Directors shall set the date and place of each meeting. Regular meetings may be held either within or outside the State of Texas but shall be held at the TXTL Office if the notice thereof does not specify the location of the meeting. A regular or special meeting may be held at any place consented to in writing by all of the Board of Directors, either before or after the meeting, and if such consents are given, they shall be filed with the minutes of the meeting. Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference telephone or similar communication equipment, as long as all Directors participating in the meeting can communicate with and hear one another. All Directors shall be deemed to be present in person at a meeting conducted in accordance with the foregoing sentence. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors may be held without notice if the time and place of such meetings are fixed by a resolution of the Board of Directors.

4.2.11 Special Meetings. A special meeting of the Board of Directors may be called by a majority of the Directors or by the Chairman of the Board. Special meetings shall be conducted as follows:

(A) Notice of the date, time and place of special meetings shall be given to each Director by one of the following methods: (i) by personal delivery of written notice; (ii) by first class mail, postage paid; (iii) by telephone communication, either directly to the Director or to a person at the Director's office or home who the person giving the notice has reason to believe will promptly communicate the notice to the Director; (iv) by electronic communication (such as by e-mail); or (v) by telecopier to the Director's office or home.

(B) Notice sent by first class mail shall be deposited in the United States mail at least four (4) days before the time set for the meeting. Notices given by personal delivery, telephone, email, or telecopier shall be delivered, telephoned, emailed or faxed to Directors or given at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time set for the meeting.

(C) The notice shall state the date, time and place for the meeting. However, the notice does not need to specify the place of the meeting if the special meeting is to be held at the TXTL Office. Unless otherwise expressly stated herein, the notice does not need to specify the purpose or the business to be transacted at the special meeting.

(D) Attendance of a Director at a meeting shall constitute waiver of notice of such meeting, except where the Director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting that the meeting is not properly called.

4.2.12 Selection. Director's shall be nominated and elected by the majority vote of the Board of Directors.

4.2.13 Term of Service. The term of service for each Director, other than the term for the initial Board of Directors, is three (3) School Years. A Director may be reelected or re-appointed to multiple and

successive terms. Each Director shall be assigned a place on the Board of Directors, such as Place 1, 2 or 3 (with the number of places to be increased if and when the size of the Board of Directors increases by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors), as set by resolution of the Board of Directors. The terms of the Board of Directors shall be staggered, meaning only one-third (1/3), or as close to 1/3 as possible, of the total Directors shall be up for re-election each School Year. The term of the initial Director in Place 1 shall all serve a regular three (3) School Year term, the initial Director in Place 2 shall serve an initial four (4) School Year term, and the initial Director in Place 3, shall serve an initial five (5) School Year term. Thereafter, all Directors, including the initial Directors shall serve a normal three (3) School Year term.

4.2.14 Removal. Any Director may be removed by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, not including the Director proposed be removed, whenever in its judgment the best interest of the Association would be served. Any Director proposed to be removed shall be entitled to at least fourteen (14) days prior written notice of the meeting of the Board of Directors at which time such removal is to be voted upon and shall be entitled to appear before and be heard by the Board of Directors before being absent for the vote of the Board of Directors.

4.2.15 Vacancy. Any vacancy in the Board of Directors because of death, resignation, disqualification, increase in number of Directors or otherwise may be filled by the majority vote of the Board of Directors. The newly elected Director shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term of the vacancy filled by the Director.

4.3 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

4.3.1 Officers. The principal officers of the TXTL shall consist of the Chairman of the Board, a President, one or more Vice Presidents if required by resolution the Board of Directors, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Commissioner, an Athletic Director and such other officers and agents as may be deemed necessary and elevated or appointed by the Board of Directors, or chosen in such other manner as may be prescribed by these TXTL Bylaws, at such time and in such manner and for such terms as the Board of Directors may prescribe. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person, except the offices of President and Secretary. Officers may receive compensation, if any, as determined by the Board of Directors.

4.3.2 Officer General Duties. All Officers and agents of the TXTL shall have such authority to perform such duties and manage the TXTL as may be provided in these TXTL Bylaws or as may be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors.

4.3.3 Election, Term of Office and Qualification of Officers. Officers shall be nominated and elected by majority vote of the Board of Directors. Other than the Chairman of the Board, who shall be chosen from among the Board of Directors, none of the officers are required to be chosen from among the Board of Directors. Unless indicated otherwise in these TXTL Bylaws or by resolution of the Board of Directors, each officer shall serve until a successor is chosen and qualified or until the Officer's removal by death, resignation, disqualification or majority vote of the Board of Directors.

4.3.4 Removal of Officer. Any Officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by majority vote of the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interest of the TXTL will be served by such removal, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights,

if any, of the person so removed.

4.3.5 Resignation of Officer. Any Officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors, Chairman of the Board or President. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified in the notice, and, unless specified in the notice, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

4.3.6 Vacancy of Officer. Any vacancy in any Officer position, for any reason, shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

4.3.7 President. The President shall have executive management of the Association, subject, however, to the control of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Board. The President shall, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as time to time may be assigned by the Chairman of the Board or Board of Directors. If there is no President for the Association, at any time, for any reason, the Chairman of the Board shall serve as the President until the vacancy is filled.

4.3.8 Vice President. Each Vice President shall have such powers and perform such duties as the Board of Directors may from time to time prescribe or as the President may from time to time delegate. At the request of the President, any Vice President may temporarily act in place of the President. In the case of the death of the President or in the case of the President's absence or inability to act, the Chairman of the Board will perform the duties for the President unless the Chairman of the Board or Board of Directors designates a Vice President to perform the duties until the vacancy of the President is filled.

4.3.9 Secretary. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept in the books provided for that purpose, minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors; shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws and as required by law; shall be custodian of the records and of the seal of the Association and may affix the seal to any documents, the execution of which on behalf of the Association is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws; and, in general, shall perform all duties incident to the office of the Secretary and such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Chairman of the Board, Board of Directors or by the President.

4.3.10 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be the principal financial officer of the TXTL; shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds of the TXTL and deposit all such funds in the name of the TXTL in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be selected by the Board of Directors; shall receive and give receipts for monies due and payable to the TXTL from any source; and, in general, shall perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Chairman of the Board, Board of Directors or by the President. The Treasurer shall render to the Chairman of the Board, Board of Directors and the President, whenever the same shall be required, an account of all his transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the TXTL. The Treasurer shall, if required to do so by the Board of Directors, give the TXTL a bond in such amount and with such surety or sureties as may be ordered by the Board of Directors, for the faithful performance of the duties of office and for the restoration to the TXTL, in case of the Treasurer's death, resignation retirement or removal from office of all books, papers, vouchers, money and the property of whatever kind in his possession or under the Treasurer's control belonging to the TXTL.

4.3.11 TXTL Commissioner. The TXTL Commissioner shall be selected and employed by the Board of Directors. The TXTL Commissioner shall be employed until removal by death, resignation, or majority vote of the Board of the Directors.

4.3.12 Staff. The TXTL Commissioner, subject to approval by the Board of Directors, shall be authorized to employ additional persons as needed to efficiently conduct the business of the Association. Such additional persons shall report directly to the TXTL Commissioner.

4.3.13 Duties and Responsibilities. The TXTL Commissioner, as directed and authorized by the Board of Directors, shall:

- (A) Generally assist the Board of Directors with managing and directing the affairs of the Association;
- (B) Administers and enforces TXTL Bylaws and impose penalties and sanctions when the TXTL Commissioner or Association learns of or finds that violations have occurred by Member Schools, students, student-athletes, coaches and as otherwise applicable;
- (C) Present an operating budget to the Board of Directors each year for approval, acts as custodian of all TXTL funds, and update the Board of Directors on the TXTL's financial status at each of its meetings;
- (E) Prepare and issue to Member Schools any necessary materials;
- (F) Receive and check all reports submitted by Member Schools;
- (G) Rule on all violations, penalties, rules and Bylaws pertaining to Member School, students, student-athletes, coaches and all other participants and individuals involved in TXTL Events, including the eligibility of all students and student-athletes who participate in such programs recognized by the TXTL;
- (H) Call upon the Board of Directors for advice and assistance on all key matters, and perform such duties as may be necessary and expedient;
- (I) Keep a record of all meetings of the Representative Assembly and Appeals Committee;
- (J) Mediate controversies between Member Schools as appropriate;
- (K) Refer any decisions or rulings to the Appeals Committee upon the request of a Member School; and
- (L) Performs any other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

4.3.14 Emergency Power to Grant Provisional Eligibility. The TXTL Commissioner may grant provisional eligibility to a student or student-athlete who suddenly becomes ineligible if, in the TXTL Commissioner's opinion:

- (A) The circumstances that cause the student or student-athlete to be ineligible are of a sudden and extraordinary nature and are completely beyond the control of the student, student-athlete, his/her parents

or Member School; and

(B) The student or student-athlete will miss all or most of the sport season or of the fine arts competition or any part of the sport season or fine arts playoffs, district or regional playoff competitions or state championship event games or competitions, in which he/she participates if required to wait for the opportunity for a hearing before the Appeals Committee.

4.3.15 Period of Provisional Eligibility. Any period of provisional eligibility granted to a student or student-athlete will end with the next regularly scheduled Appeals Committee meeting, during which his/her undue hardship waiver request will be considered. The student or student-athlete will immediately become ineligible for further competition if the Appeals Committee does not grant the waiver. The Member School that permitted the student or student-athlete to participate during the period of provisional eligibility, however, will not be penalized unless it is determined that provisional eligibility was granted on the basis of erroneous information provided by the student, student-athlete, his/her parents or Member School.

4.3.16 Creation and Appointment of Committees, Commissioner and Positions. The TXTL Commissioner, when deemed appropriate and as approved by the Board of Directors, may create, designate and appoint one or more committees to be structured, which, to the extent provided in the resolution creating such committee, designate one or more commissioners or other positions that shall have and may exercise the powers granted by the TXTL Commissioner for the management of the TXTL Events, including providing management, direction and oversight to the TXTL's Member Schools, Districts and Regions. Each committee, commissioner or other position shall have such name or names as may be determined by the TXTL Commissioner and shall keep regular records of their proceedings and actions and report the same to the TXTL Commissioner when required. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the TXTL Commissioner shall always retain full authority and control to make a final determination or decision based on any course of action or to alter or change any action or decision of any of the committees, commissioners, or other positions created, designated and appointed by the TXTL Commissioner.

4.3.17 Athletic Director. The Athletic Director shall be appointed and employed by the TXTL Commissioner. The Athletic Director shall be employed until removal by death, resignation, or decision of the TXTL Commissioner.

4.3.18 Duties and Responsibilities. The Athletic Director shall work directly with the TXTL Commissioner to:

(A) Provide daily communications to Member Schools via email, social media, TXTL website and written communications;

(B) Organize site visits for new and existing Member Schools;

(C) Implement, facilitate and coordinate alignments, rules, classifications and committees as needed;

(E) Establish conference calls and meetings with various sport divisions as needed;

(F) Periodically recommend updates and revisions of the TXTL Bylaws to the TXTL Commissioner and Board of Directors for consideration to reflect current rulings;

(G) Provide timely reports to the TXTL Commissioner concerning all new Member School applications and any occurrences which may warrant review, investigation and disciplinary action;

(H) Provide an annual calendar of events to include district, regional and state venues for all TXTL Events;

(I) Ensure all TXTL Events are secured one year in advance of the event;

(J) Collaborate with vendors, sponsorships and needed personnel to facilitate all TXTL Events;

(K) Work in conjunction with the TXTL website design team to ensure needed information is current and posted on the TXTL website; and

(L) Perform any other duties as may be assigned by the TXTL Commissioner.

4.3.19 Regions and Regional Chairs. The TXTL shall create Regions in the State of Texas in which the Member Schools shall be seated to compete in TXTL Events. Each Region shall be further divided into at least two Districts in which Member Schools are seated. Regional Chairs shall oversee their perspective Region and the Districts located in the Region. Regions and Districts shall be determined and drawn by the Board of Directors and may be redrawn by the Board of Directors as deemed necessary.

4.3.20 Selection and Terms of Regional Chairs. Regional Chairs shall be selected and appointed by the TXTL Commissioner. Member School Representatives from the Member Schools in each Region may recommend individuals to the TXTL Commissioner for consideration as Regional Chair. Regional Chair terms shall be for two years, unless removed earlier by death, resignation or by the TXTL Commissioner. Regional Chairs may serve successive and multiple terms.

4.3.21 Duties and Responsibilities. Each Regional Chair shall collaborate with the TXTL Commissioner to:

(A) Set District classification schedules for all sports in the Regional Chair's Region;

(B) Collaborate with the TXTL Athletic Director;

(C) Communicate information from Member Schools and District Chairs;

(D) Help with the organization of District, Regional and state level venues, including budgetary needs;

(E) Prepare and forward team and athlete nomination requests for all Member Schools within the Regional Chair's Region;

- (F) Assist in the coordination of event specific conference calls;
- (G) Present the annual report from the Regional Chair's Region and Districts at the annual TXTL meeting of all Member School Representatives;
- (H) Assist with any misconduct or eligibility concerns arising in the Regional Chair's Region or Districts;
- (I) Provide insight to potential new Member Schools; and
- (J) Perform any other duties as may be assigned by the TXTL Commissioner.

4.3.22 Regional Development Committee. The Regional Chair shall identify and recommend members, which shall be designated by the TXTL Commissioner, to serve on the Regional Development Committee. The Regional Development Committee shall work directly with the TXTL Commissioner on compliance and recruiting for the Region.

4.3.23 Districts and District Chairs. The TXTL shall create District areas within the each Region in which the Member Schools shall be seated to compete in TXTL Events. Districts shall be determined and drawn by the Board of Directors and may be redrawn by the Board of Directors as deemed necessary. Each District shall be comprised of at least three (3) Member Schools but no more than nine (9) Member Schools. When a District reaches ten (10) Member Schools, it shall be redrawn or divided into zones within the District. Each District Chair shall oversee their District and the Member Schools within their respective District.

4.3.24 Selection and Terms of District Chairs. District Chairs shall be selected and appointed by the TXTL Commissioner. Member School Representatives from the Member Schools in each District may recommend individuals to the TXTL Commissioner for consideration as District Chair. District Chair terms shall be for two years, unless removed earlier by death, resignation or by the TXTL Commissioner. District Chairs may serve successive and multiple terms.

4.3.25 Duties and Responsibilities. Each District Chair shall collaborate with the TXTL Commissioner and Regional Chair in the District Chair's Region to:

- (A) Collaborate with all Member Schools in the District Chair's District to ensure schedules, misconduct concerns and online eligibility reports are timely provided to the TXTL Commissioner;
- (B) Collaborate with other District Chairs;
- (C) Assist the Regional Chair with assigned duties;
- (D) Collaborate with the TXTL Athletic Director;
- (E) Administer TXTL sports within the District Chair's District;

- (F) Initially screen all new Member School applications within the District for eligibility and report the review to the TXTL Commissioner;
- (G) Assure District players are nominated to All Region teams;
- (H) Actively promote TXTL to the non-Member Schools in the District;
- (I) Promote unity in the District;
- (J) Work with other District Chairs in supervising Regional playoffs;
- (K) Propose “Athlete of the Year” considerations from the District to the TXTL Commissioner;
- (L) Give an annual report on the Summer meeting; and
- M) Perform any other duties as may be assigned by the TXTL Commissioner.

4.3.26 Sport and Program Representatives. The TXTL Commissioner shall designate Sport Representatives in the TXTL for each sport approved by the Board of Directors and designate Program Representatives for all interscholastic athletic and academic programs conducting competitions in the TXTL approved by the Board of Directors.

4.3.27 Selection and Terms of Sport and Program Representatives. Interscholastic Athletic and Academic Program Representatives shall be selected and appointed by the TXTL Commissioner. Member School Representatives from the Member Schools in each District may recommend individuals to the TXTL Commissioner for consideration of any Sport or Program Representative. Each of the Interscholastic Athletic and Academic Program Representatives terms shall be for two years, unless removed earlier by death, resignation or by the TXTL Commissioner. Sport and Program Representatives may serve successive and multiple terms.

4.3.28 Duties and Responsibilities. Each of the Interscholastic Athletic and Academic Program Representatives shall:

- (A) Assist in the management, development and organization of sport or program over which the Interscholastic Athletic and Academic Program Representative presides;
- (B) Be a representative to the TXTL Commissioner and the Board of Directors during meetings in which the specific Interscholastic Athletic or Academic Sport Program of the Interscholastic Athletic or Academic Program Representative is discussed and the participation of the Interscholastic Athletic or Academic Program Representative is requested;
- (C) Promote growth, organization, communication and the health of all programs within the Association;
- (D) Be a member of the TXTL Committees, as assigned by the TXTL Commissioner, such as any rules, post season, planning and development committees;

(E) Remain in regular contact with the coaches of Member Schools and represent their needs to the TXTL Commissioner;

(F) Coordinate with the TXTL Commissioner in arranging conference calls in their respective sports and programs;

(G) Collaborate with the TXTL Commissioner in order to establish committees, organize events and maximize exposure of students, Interscholastic Athletic and Academic programs within the TXTL; and

(H) Oversee the State Rules committee at the state championship events, unless any Member School affiliated with the Interscholastic Athletic or Academic Program Representative is participating in the state championship event, in which case the TXTL Commissioner shall select an alternate.

4.3.29 Salaries. The salaries of the Officers, if any, shall be fixed by the Board of Directors, and it shall be no objection if the Officer in question is a member of the Board of Directors or in the capacity as a member of the Board of Directors votes on the resolution fixing the Officer's salary; provided, however, all salaries must be no more than reasonable compensation for services rendered or to be rendered to the TXTL. It is understood and agreed that no salaries shall be paid to any Board of Directors of the TXTL for services rendered to the TXTL except as otherwise agreed to by the unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

4.3.30 Indemnification of Directors and Officers. The TXTL shall indemnify any Director, Officer, employee, agent, or former Director, Officer, employee, or agent of the TXTL to the maximum extent allowed by Chapter 8 of the Texas Business Organizations Code, or its successor statute, and other applicable law.

4.4 MEMBER SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICTS AND REGIONS

4.4.1 Composition. The Member School Representatives shall be composed of one delegate from each Member School in the TXTL.

4.4.2 Diversity Appointments. The Board of Directors may appoint additional delegates to the Member School Representatives if necessary to ensure racial and gender diversity.

4.4.3 Quorum. A quorum of the Member Representatives consists of half of its member delegates.

4.4.4 Passage. A majority of votes cast by delegates of the Member School Representatives present and voting is required to pass any proposed matter upon which the Member School Representatives are to act or vote.

4.4.5 Duties and Responsibilities. The only duty and responsibility of Member School Representatives is to make recommendations and proposals concerning the operation of the TXTL, including but not limited to recommendations and proposals regarding the management and operation of all TXTL Events, recommendations and proposals for nominations to fill vacancies in Region, District, and Sports and Program Representative positions, and recommendations and proposals to amendments to the TXTL

Bylaws, to the TXTL Commissioner and Board of Directors for consideration.

4.4.6 Meetings. The Member School Representatives shall meet at least one time each School Year. The Board of Directors shall set the date and place of each meeting. The Chairman of the Board of Directors can call additional meetings if needed. The TXTL Commissioner shall preside over all meetings of the Member School Representatives.

4.4.7 Selection. Each Member School shall select its delegate to the Member School Representatives.

4.4.8 Term of Service. The term of service for a Member School Representatives delegate is two (2) School Years. A delegate may be reelected or re-appointed to successive and multiple two-year terms.

4.4.9 Officers. The TXTL Commissioner may appoint officers of the Member School Representatives as deemed necessary.

4.5 APPEALS COMMITTEES

4.5.1 Composition. The Appeals Committee shall consist of the TXTL Commissioner and two (2) additional members that are designated by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may change the composition of the Appeals Committee by majority vote at any time as determined by the Board of Directors.

4.5.2 Committee Chairperson. The TXTL Commissioner shall serve as the chairperson of the Appeals Committee. If the composition of the Appeals Committee does not include the TXTL Commissioner for any reason, the Chairman of the Board will appoint a chairperson to preside over all meetings of the Appeals Committee.

4.5.3 Committee Vice Chairperson. If necessary, the Board of Directors may appoint a vice chairperson from among the members of the Appeals Committee for each School Year. The vice chairperson shall preside over meetings of the Appeals Committee when the chairperson is absent or unable to act.

4.5.4 Vacancies. If the chairperson vacates the office before the end of the term of service, the Board of Directors will appoint a replacement. The vice chairperson, meanwhile, will serve as chairperson until a replacement is appointed. If the vice chairperson vacates the office before the end of the term of service, if any, the Board of Directors will appoint a new vice chairperson.

4.5.5 Conflict of Interest. A member of the Appeals Committee who is associated with the Member School that files an appeal to the Appeals Committee must disqualify himself or herself from hearing the case to avoid any conflict of interest.

4.5.6 Quorum. A quorum of an Appeals Committee will be a majority of the members.

4.5.7 Passage. A majority of votes cast by Appeal Committee members voting will be required to pass any measure.

4.5.8 Duties and Responsibilities. The Appeals Committee will:

- (A) Decide requests by Member Schools seeking exceptions to TXTL Bylaws of the TXTL;
- (B) Decide undue hardship eligibility cases that are filed by Member Schools on behalf of students; and
- (C) Decide appeals of decisions rendered by the TXTL Commissioner that are filed by Member Schools.

4.5.9 Meetings. The Appeals Committee will meet as needed to carry out its duties and responsibilities. The TXTL Commissioner will notify the Appeals Committee of the need for meetings in which the TXTL Commissioner will be responsible for setting the meeting date and time.

4.5.10 Term of Service. The term of service for a member of the Appeals Committee will be two School Years. An Appeals Committee member may be appointed to subsequent and multiple terms.

4.5.11 Board of Directors Review. Upon request by the Member School involved in any matter considered by the Appeals Committee or by the TXTL Commissioner, the Board of Directors may, but is not required to, review the decision and disciplinary penalty imposed by the Appeals Committee and shall have the authority to affirm, reverse, alter or amend the Appeals Committee determination or disciplinary penalty.

ARTICLE 5

Amendments

5.1 SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS

Member School Representatives, any advisory committee to be established by the TXTL acting as a whole, and the TXTL's Commissioner are empowered to propose amendments to the TXTL Bylaws for

consideration by the Board of Directors. Any other individual may propose an amendment by securing the sponsorship of any of the above-mentioned individuals or bodies. Proposed amendments to the TXTL Bylaws must be submitted to the TXTL Commissioner not less than sixty (60) days prior to consideration by the Board of Directors. All proposed amendments shall be submitted by the TXTL Commissioner directly to the Board of Directors for consideration.

5.2 ACTION BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall consider, adopt or reject any proposed amendments to these TXTL Bylaws by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may also propose any amendment for its own consideration at any time without any prior notice. The Board of Directors may also make any revision it sees fit to a proposed amendment made to the Board of Directors. Revisions shall require a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

5.3 EFFECTIVE DATE OF AMENDMENTS

An amendment shall become effective on the first day of July following its adoption unless otherwise specified by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 6

Authority and Responsibilities of the Principal

6.1 DEFINITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

6.1.1 Responsibilities. The principal's responsibilities include the following:

(A) Enforce the TXTL Bylaws and Policies in the principal's Member School;

(B) Maintain institutional control of all phases of interscholastic athletic and academic events within a Member School, including the activities of its students, student-athletes, booster clubs, parent groups, etc.; and

(C) Keep on file all records required by this Association for the current School Year.

6.1.2 Delegation of Responsibilities. The principal may delegate his/her duties as the official representative to this TXTL to another member of his/her staff (i.e., an athletic director). This does not relieve the principal of the obligation to ensure that these TXTL Bylaws are adhered to in full.

6.2 CERTIFICATION OF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

6.2.1 Eligibility Reports. The principal or designee shall submit eligibility reports online for each student for each TXTL Event as required by the TXTL, on or before the applicable deadline set on the TXTL Calendar.

6.2.2 Accuracy. The principal or designee shall certify that the information provided to the TXTL Office is accurate, and that the students named in the report are eligible in accordance with these TXTL Bylaws.

6.3 SOLICITATION OF STUDENTS

6.3.1 General Principle. Families send their children to private, parochial and home school settings outside the public school sector for a variety of reason other than geographical location, to include class size, academic and activity classes, faculty, staff, parental interaction and participation and religious affiliation.

6.3.2 Improper Contact. Improper contact is direct contact, whether in person or through written or electronic communication, by a Member School employee or representative with a student or any member of the student's family, in an effort to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different Member School for the sole purpose of participating in interscholastic competition.

6.3.3 Impermissible Benefit. An impermissible benefit is any arrangement, assistance or benefit that is not offered or made available to other students of the Member School and/or their families who apply to or attend a Member School, or that otherwise is prohibited by the TXTL or the TXTL Bylaws. Receipt of a benefit by a student or his/her family is not a violation of the Bylaws if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is available to other students or family members and is not based solely on athletic interest, potential or performance.

6.3.4 Liability for Solicitation. A Member School is responsible for any violation of this TXTL Bylaw and/or the solicitation committed by any person associated with the Member School, including the principal, assistant principals, athletic director, coaches or any other athletic program staff members. Such solicitation is a violation of the TXTL bylaws and may result in the loss of the student's eligibility to

participate in TXTL Events.

ARTICLE 7

Sportsmanship

7.1 MEMBER SCHOOL SPORTSMANSHIP

7.1.1 Sportsmanship Requirement. Players, coaches, administrators, spectators, contest officials and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a Member School shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics before, during and after any interscholastic event.

7.1.2 Principal's Duty. It shall be the responsibility of each Member School representative to exercise control over all individuals to the extent necessary to ensure safety and fair play for all participants and adherence with these standards.

7.2 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

7.2.1 Unsportsmanlike Conduct Defined. A student who commits an act of malicious and hateful nature toward a contest official, an opponent or any other person attending aTXTL Event shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, profanity, striking or threatening a contest official; physical contact with an opponent which is beyond the normal scope of competition; spitting on a contest official or opponent; directing gender, racial or ethnic slurs toward a contest official, an opponent or any other person attending an athletic contest; or other such acts deemed to be unacceptable conduct according to the principal of the Member School the student attends or the TXTL.

7.2.2 Penalty for Students. Students who are found to have committed unsportsmanlike conduct will be ineligible to participate in TXTL Events for a penalty period determined by the TXTL Commissioner.

7.2.3 Restoring Eligibility. The TXTL Commissioner on appeal, may restore the student's eligibility prior to the end of the penalty period, when in the discretion of the TXTL Commissioner, the student has been properly disciplined and the student agrees to comply with these standards in the future.

7.2.4 Commissioner's Powers. The TXTL Commissioner shall have full authority to investigate allegations and incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct and invoke penalties against Member Schools or individuals involved.

7.2.5 Disqualifications. The disqualification from participation of a coach or student, or removal of a spectator or other representative of a Member School due to unsportsmanlike conduct during an interscholastic event will subject the Member School to the appropriate penalties.

7.2.6 Game Uniform. A player shall not remove their Game Jersey or uniform while inside the playing field. Removal of one's Game Jersey or uniform is considered Unsportsmanlike Conduct and shall be

grounds for removal from a contest. Student fine will be \$500 per ejection for the student payable by the Member School. Additional penalties may be enforced to include probation as established by the TXTL Commissioner or Board of Directors.

7.2.7 Removal from a contest. Will result in a suspension from participation and monetary fine. Subsequent actions of this nature may include additional sanctions as determined by the TXTL Commissioner or the Board of Directors. Removal process is as follows:

(A) A coach or player removed from a contest must immediately leave the contest site and have no communication of any kind with the coaching staff or team. If removing a student results in a lack of supervision for the student, then the student is allowed to remain on the bench or team area with the appropriate supervision present.

(B) If a coach or player is serving a suspension period, he/she cannot have communication of any kind with the coaching staff or team during a contest.

7.2.8 Unsportsmanlike Conduct at Tournaments, Meets or Contests. The TXTL Commissioner, in the event of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of a representative of the Member School during a TXTL Event shall have the authority to deny further participation at said tournament, meet, or contest to such team or individual.

7.2.9 Regular Season Suspension. Coach or athlete suspension process is as follows; (B) A coach removed from a contest shall serve a one (1) game suspension at the next scheduled contest shown on the schedule submitted to the TXTL office prior to the season (single or tournament game) regardless of the sport. Coach fine will be \$200 per ejection for the coach payable by the Member School. A coach must complete the NFHS *Teaching and Modeling Behavior or similar* course prior to the next contest.

(C) The second and subsequent ejections for a student or coach are subject to review by the TXTL Commissioner or Board of Directors.

(D) Fines are due in the TXTL office ten (10) days from the date of ejection. Failure to submit the fine by this deadline by the Member School will result in the fine being doubled and all games occurring after the deadline will be declared a forfeit.

7.2.10 Playoff Suspension. Coach or athlete suspension process is as follows:

(A) Student suspension from a playoff game will serve a one (1) game suspension at the next contest if this is the student's first ejection. If the student has had a prior ejection, he/she will have a two (2) game suspension. If the ejection occurs in the final game of the season, the suspension will carry forward to the next year in that sport for the underclassman. Seniors will serve the suspension in the next sport played. Removed players are not eligible

(B) Coach suspension, regardless of the sport, will serve a minimum of a two (2) game suspension, if it is the first ejection of the year. Coach fine will be \$400 per ejection for the coach payable by the Member School.

(C) The second and subsequent ejections for a student or coach are subject to review by the TXTL

Commissioner or Board of Directors.

(D) Fines are due in the TXTL office ten (10) days from the date of ejection. Failure to submit the fine by this deadline by the Member School will result in the fine being doubled and all games occurring after the deadline will be declared a forfeit.

7.2.11 Unsportsmanlike Conduct—Performance-Enhancing Drugs. The use of performance enhancing drugs by a student is considered to be an act of unsportsmanlike conduct, and as such the student shall be ineligible for competition until such time as the TXTL Commissioner determines, based on medical evidence presented that the student's system is free of performance-enhancing drugs.

7.2.12 Crowd Control. Any Member School whose principal commits unsportsmanlike conduct or whose principal fails to control the conduct of the student body, faculty and spectators shall be subject to the appropriate penalties, which may include expulsion from membership in the TXTL.

7.2.13 Threat or Harm to Officials. A coach or player making deliberate physical contact with, or threatening harm to, an official shall receive a minimum five (5) game suspension and monetary fine as determined by the TXTL Commissioner and Board of Directors.

7.2.14 Paperwork Process for Removal from a Contest. Process is as follows:

(A) Member School must file a report the following school day with the TXTL Office on the form located on the TXTL website.

(B) Both TXTL Member Schools involved in the contest must report any ejections occurring in the contest.

(C) Fines will be doubled for an ejection not reported to the TXTL Office by the deadline.

(D) Member Schools who fail to report an ejection are subject to further sanctions as determined by the TXTL Commissioner or Board of Directors.

7.2.15 No Appeals Process. A protest based on a game, contest or TXTL Event will not be considered for an appeal. Removal from a contest are not subject to appeal.

ARTICLE 8

Interscholastic Contests

8.1 INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTEST

8.1.1 Definition of Interscholastic Contest. An interscholastic contest is any competition between organized teams or individuals of different schools in a sport recognized by the National Federation of High Schools and TXTL Events by TXTL, and therefore shall be subject to all regulations pertaining to such contests and these TXTL Bylaws.

8.1.2 Protests. Any decision made by a contest official shall not be contested by the Member School. The decisions of the contest officials are final.

8.1.3 Non-District Games. Such games shall not count on a team's win/loss record.

8.2 RULES OF COMPETITION

8.2.1 NFHS RULES. Unless waived by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, the rules published by the National Federation of High Schools, or those approved by it, shall be the official rules for interscholastic athletic competition in all sports.

8.2.2 Video Taping.

(A) A Member School may not directly or indirectly videotape or film an athletic contest or practice in which the Member School's team is not actively participating at the time of the videotaping or filming unless prior consent from all Member Schools involved in the contest or practice has been obtained and the videotaping and filming are approved.

(B) Approved videotaping or filming may not be used by the Member School until after the contest has been completed.

(C) Videotaping and filming may take place by spectators in which the spectators' relative is competing. Selling reproductions of contest or practices is strictly prohibited without the prior written consent of the TXTL Commissioner.

(D) Commercial use of films or tapes must be approved by all Member Schools involved in the content or footage videoed or filmed.

(E) Member Schools may exchange videotapes or films. Member Schools selected to the playoffs are required to exchange films.

(F) Exchanging videotapes and films between opponents is an accepted form of scouting. Such videotapes and film are the property of the Member School, and a Member School does not need the permission from any other Member School to exchange their own property.

8.2.3 Lightning for Outdoor Events.

(A) Lightning detectors should be used when available.

(B) When thunder is first heard or lightning is observed, the storm is close enough to strike the Event location with lightning.

(C) When a lightning strike is detected to have taken place within ten (10) miles of the Event location, the Event will be immediately suspended for at least thirty (30) minutes after the last time thunder is heard or last time lightning flash is witnessed before resuming the Event. Any subsequent thunder or flashes of lightning will reset the clock, and teams will wait another full thirty (30) minutes prior to resuming the Event.

(D) A Member School shall not be required to forfeit Events as a result of the above mentioned guidelines.

8.2.4 Temperature for Outdoor Events.

(A) If the outside temperature or heat index reaches 100 degrees or more or a chill factor reaches 32 degrees or less, Events shall not be played unless by mutual consent of all teams involved in the Event.

(B) A Member School shall not be required to forfeit Events as a result of the above mentioned guidelines.

8.2.5 Outcome is Final. The outcome (i.e. winners and losers) of all interscholastic contests are final and cannot be reversed, except where the rules of the sport or program permit or in the case where a winner must forfeit its victory or points.

8.2.6 Elimination is Final Unless Forfeiture of Winning Team is Ruled. Elimination from a TXTL Event competition is final. Defeat by individuals or teams that are later ordered to forfeit their victory, place and/or points, or are vacated from the bracket, will bring about reinstatement or advancement in TXTL Event competition on the part of the individual or team that has been eliminated, to the extent reinstatement or advancement in the competition is reasonably possible.

8.2.7 Game Administrator. A game administrator shall be appointed by the home school. Member School Teams advancing to any TXTL Event at the state playoff level must confirm that an administrator is appointed and present for each game which is held for football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball and baseball. It is also recommended for other sports such as golf, tennis, swimming, track/field, cross country or any other sports offered through TXTL. Game administrators will make themselves known and be available to assist officials prior to, during and after the contest. Game administrators must report all incidents (home team or visitor) to the TXTL Commissioner to include, verbal abuse, physical contact

of any game official, verbal/physical abuse between fans and any ejections of a coach, student or fan to the TXTL Office within two (2) working days.

8.3 SCHOOLS CONTRACT CONTEST APPROVAL PROCESS

8.3.1 General Contract Principles. Contracts are required for all interscholastic athletic contests between Member Schools, excluding state championship events. Only Member School principals, or the representative for the Member School designated by the principal, shall execute such contracts.

8.3.2 Forms. In order to be valid, the contracts shall be executed utilizing the official TXTL process as approved by the Board of Directors.

8.3.3 Cancellation of Contract. A Member School that does not participate in a sport contest after having signed the intent to participate form should immediately notify the TXTL office.

(A) The Board of Directors may suspend a Member School in the specific sport for a period of one (1) year, unless sufficient justification can be established for failure to participate, for cancellation of a contract for a sport contest.

(B) If a game, meet or match is cancelled after a contract has been signed, unless both parties are in agreement of a cancellation, the team forfeiting will accept the forfeit. A school failing to compete, per submission of fees and contract, shall not participate in other District, Regional or state championship events until such time as the fees equal to the event have been paid in full to the TXTL office.

(C) Member Schools that have sports programs who have agreed to play a 2-year contract will agree that the home team of the Member School shall keep 100% of the gate receipts. If the game is cancelled the second year by the team receiving 100% of the gate receipts from the first year, the team having received no gate receipts will be entitled to 50% of the net gate receipt profits unless mutually agreed upon otherwise. The Board of Directors may assess additional forfeiture fees at its discretion.

(D) Member Schools which qualify for the playoffs in a sport and fail to participate or complete in the Member School's regular official schedule of games, meets or matches, unless sufficient justification can be established by the Board of Directors, may be suspended from that sport for a period not to exceed one calendar year.

8.3.4 Disputed Cancellation. If a Member School seeks to cancel a sport contract before the start of the season of the sport, and the Member School fails to reach an agreement or contract cancellation with the other Member School, the matter may be referred to the TXTL Commissioner for adjudication.

8.3.5 Appealing of Decision. If the TXTL Commissioner's decision is appealed, the decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final, unless a subsequent decision is rendered by the Board of Directors.

8.3.6 Failure to Comply. Non-compliance with the final decision of the TXTL Commissioner, Appeals

Committee or Board of Directors, as applicable, by a Member School shall subject the Member School to a penalty, which may include expulsion.

8.3.7 Use of Ineligible Athletes. Contracts between Member Schools shall be subject to cancellation whenever either party proposes to allow the use of ineligible students. Member Schools are prohibited from competing with Member Schools which propose to use ineligible students.

8.3.8 Suspended or Expelled Schools. When a Member School is placed on suspension, probation or expelled from membership, all contracts which the Member School has executed shall be null and void. The contract may be renewed, subject to approval by the TXTL Commissioner, when the penalized Member School's punishment has ended if those dates have not yet been filled.

8.3.9 Failure to Meet Contractual Obligations. Any Member School which does not fulfill the terms of any valid contract or enters into an invitational tournament hosted by the TXTL and does not compete until elimination or termination of the terminate shall be subjected to a financial penalty at the discretion of the TXTL Commissioner.

8.4 CLASSIFICATION OF SPORTS AND PROGRAMS

8.4.1 Sports Classification as Sanctioned. All sports and fine arts programs which are not sanctioned by the Board of Directors shall be considered club sports and programs and are not under the jurisdiction of the TXTL.

8.4.2 Sanctioned Sports and Programs. Sanctioned TXTL Events require participants to abide by TXTL Bylaws and contest regulations with regard to student eligibility and sportsmanship in interscholastic contests established by the Board of Directors. Sanctioned sports may be eligible for state championship event status.

8.5 PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

8.5.1 Girls on Boys' Teams. Girls may not participate on a boys team in any sport.

8.5.2 Boys on Girls' Teams. Boys may not participate on a girls team in any sport.

8.5.3 Gender Specific. The TXTL is a private non-profit which only allows participation of boys on a boys team and girls on a girls team at all levels of competition. Student Athletes must compete on the team in which their birth certificate designates.

8.5.4 Locker Rooms. Member School locker rooms, bathrooms and changing facilities will remain gender specific pursuant to the designation on the Student Athlete's birth certificate, without exception, during All TXTL Events and contests and within all Member Schools.

8.6 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

8.6.1 State Championship Events. For the purpose of determining the official state champion(s) in those sports that are sanctioned by the Board of Directors, this TXTL may conduct a state championship

event.

8.6.2 Determining Which Sports Are Eligible. Participation in state championship series is limited to Member Schools only. The Board of Directors shall determine which sports will conduct state championship series and shall set the terms and conditions of each series to include District and Regional play.

8.6.3 Commitment Form. Qualified Member Schools choosing to participate in a state championship event must communicate with the TXTL in a reasonable time manner and time period prior to the organization of the event.

8.6.4 Officials Assignments. The assignment of officials to officiate during the state championship events will be made by the assignment officer of the local association and by the TXTL Office at the state level. The officials assigned to these contests are independent contractors and may be employees of the local associations but not the TXTL.

8.6.5 Cheerleaders. All cheer or spirit performances at any TXTL Event shall be in accordance with the safety standards as set by the National Federation High School Spirit Handbook.

8.6.6 Prohibited Activities. The following activities are prohibited at TXTL Events;

- (A) No dogs, live animal mascots, other animals, cannons, firearms, fireworks, etc. are allowed at TXTL Events.
- (B) Emergency vehicles, except in their normal course of business, shall not flash lights or sound sirens during the course of a contest.
- (C) Noisemakers are prohibited in events held at a field houses and or gymnasiums. Megaphones may be used by cheerleaders in uniform.
- (D) Permitted bands shall only play during time-outs and intermissions at contests. Such instruments may not be used as noisemakers.
- (E) Only approved sound systems by the host school may be used at secured TXTL sites or neutral sites that have been mutually agreed upon.
- (F) Body paint decorations are prohibited by players and spectators. Small markings approved to be sold by cheer or other school organizations for use on the face cheek are permitted. Such activities shall be known to the Member Schools apponent.
- (G) Any type of horn, to include air horns/bullhorns, are not permitted at any TXTL Event.
- (H) The use of any controlled substance (drugs, alcohol, etc.) before, during or after games, contests or TXTL Events is strictly prohibited.
- (I) Drones shall not be used during any Scrimmages and games or TXTL Events.

8.7 SPORT SEASON STRUCTURE

8.7.1 General Principles. The TXTL will establish seasonal sports dates for Member Schools which can be found on the TXTL Calendar.

8.7.2 Sport Season Concurrent Participation. The TXTL shall not prevent concurrent participation by Member School athletes during the season in sport programs independent of the TXTL. However, TXTL contests, practices, schedules and events shall take precedence over other leagues, tournaments, games or practice schedules.

8.7.3 Off-Season. Member Schools shall have the autonomy to govern their coaches and student athletes the way they see appropriate. After the conclusion of the sport season until the beginning of the following season, coaches may continue to work with student-athletes in any manner they deem appropriate.

8.7.4 Regions and Districts.

(A) Regions and Districts will be organized by the TXTL to accommodate Member Schools. Member Schools shall be placed in classifications, in each Region and District, according to enrollment numbers.

(B) Regions and Districts will provide levels of competition between Member Schools by which Regional and District play will qualify Member Schools for state championship event play in TXTL Events. Only contest results between Member Schools during a sport season, as determined by the TXTL, shall factor into a Member School's qualification and standing for state championship event play.

(C) Districts are areas within the Region, divided by the TXTL, in which the Member Schools compete. In each District there must be at least three (3) Member Schools, but no more than nine (9). When a District reaches ten (10) schools it shall be divided into zones within the District or be redrawn by the TXTL. The District Chair is in charge of the Member Schools inside their respective District. Districts may be redrawn or zoned by the Board of Directors.

(D) Regions are areas in the State, divided by TXTL, in which the Member Schools compete. In each Region there shall be at least two Districts. The Regional Chairperson is in charge of all Districts inside their perspective Region. Regions may be redrawn by the Board of Directors.

(E) Appeals for reclassification in a District can be submitted to the TXTL Commissioner via a Member Schools District Chair. The Regional Chair will verify the appeal and forward it to the TXTL Commissioner for consideration.

8.7.5 .Ranking System. All Member Schools are required to enroll in a ranking system as chosen by the TXTL Commissioner and approved by the Board of Directors. This platform will provide each coach the tools needed to post schedules, rosters and stats from each game, meet or match played during their season of sport. Results must be posted within 12 hours of the conclusion of any sport competition. Results from the regular season and District contests for the season will be used to qualify and seed member schools for Regional play.

8.7.6 Failure to Pay Dues and Fees. A Member School that does not pay its dues and fees by the deadline set by the Board of Directors will be suspended from membership. The suspended Member School may be reinstated at any time prior to January 31 by paying its dues and fees, and an additional reactivation fee set by the Board of Directors. Membership is terminated if the suspended Member School fails to pay all dues and fees in full by January 31.

8.7.7 Expulsion. The Board of Directors may expel a Member School that fails to meet one or more of the qualifications, conditions and/or obligations of membership or fails to support and adhere to the Bylaws of the Association.

8.7.8 PLAY-OFFS. Athletic plans will specify playoff systems and structure for both Regional and state events. Playoff fee structure for Member Schools can be found at TXTL.org.

8.7.9 New Member Schools and Scheduling.

(A) New Member Schools will be notified by the TXTL Office regarding the classification, District and Region in which the new Member School will participate;

(B) If District schedules for the District to which the new Member School is assigned have already been set with all Member Schools and the maximum number of games allowed, the District will not be required to change the schedule to accommodate the new Member School until the next School Year schedule is established; and

(C) If District Member Schools have open dates, the new Member School will be scheduled into the District Schedule.

8.8 USE OF REGISTERED OFFICIALS

8.8.1 Sports Requiring the Use of Registered Officials. All officials for interscholastic contests in the sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball must be registered in the sport the individual is to officiate. Registered officials must be members of an approved officials association which is sanctioned by the TXTL.

8.8.2 Failure to Use Registered Officials. It shall be the responsibility of the hosting Member School for contracting registered officials through an approved officials association sanctioned by the TXTL. Violation of this regulation shall subject the Member School to a financial penalty.

8.8.3 Conflicts of Interest. Coaches or other persons representing the athletic interests connected with competing Member Schools shall not officiate in contests except with the consent of all competing Member Schools. The principal, athletic director or team coach from all competing Member Schools may grant consent.

8.8.4 Cancellation. If a Member School schedules officials and cancels a game, the Member School shall pay the officials for game they would have worked and incurred allowable expenses.

8.8.5 Game Forfeiture. Failure to provide officials will result in forfeiture of the game or match.

8.8.6 Failure of Officials to Show. The host Member School will notify both the assigning chapter and TXTL Office when officials fail to show up at an Event. An earnest effort should still be made to locate officials to allow the Event to be completed.

8.8.7 Allowable Expenses. Member Schools may pay the officials meals (not to exceed state rate per day for meals), lodging and ground transportation if previously agreed.

ARTICLE 9

Student Eligibility

9.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

9.1.1 Participation in Interscholastic Athletics is a Privilege. Participation in interscholastic athletic programs by a student is a privilege, not a right. Students who participate are required to meet the requirements established by state law, the TXTL Bylaws and by their respective Member Schools.

9.1.2 More Stringent Rules. Member Schools and/or school Districts may adopt more stringent rules for the students under their supervision. However, no Member School or District may adopt rules that are less stringent than those of TXTL or state law or that are contrary to the Bylaws set forth by the TXTL.

9.1.3 School Responsible to Ensure Student Eligibility. A Member School must not permit a student to represent it in interscholastic athletic competition unless the student meets all eligibility requirements and the Member School has certified the student's eligibility. Should a player's eligibility be questioned, the Member School must be prepared to present the necessary information to the TXTL Office upon request.

9.1.4 Ineligible Student. An ineligible student shall be allowed on the players' bench, in the team box or on the field of play. However the student may not wear any portion of a team uniform.

9.1.5 Falsification of Information. A student who falsifies information to gain eligibility shall be declared ineligible to represent any Member School for a period determined by the TXTL Commissioner.

9.1.6 No Pass No Play. TXTL is a "No Pass, No Play" League.

9.1.7 AP and Advance Placement Classes. Advanced Placement classes are exempt from eligibility reporting and calculation.

9.1.8 Criminal Record. Students with a criminal record may not participate in TXTL Events without the Member School first making such record known to the District Chair. The District Chair will forward

such information to the Regional Chair and TXTL Commissioner for consideration of participation.

9.1.9 Tattoos. Tattoos must be covered by tape or the uniform at all times for all TXTL Events. Covering should be applied during any preparation for competition, competition and award presentations.

9.2 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

9.2.1 Student May Only Participate at School He/She Attends. A student must attend a Member School and may participate only in the interscholastic athletic and academic programs sponsored by the Member School.

9.2.2 Definition of “Attend School.” A student attends a Member School if he/she is present in a Member School classroom on a regular basis or is legally registered as a home education student participating for a Member School. A student can attend only one Member School at a time for the purposes of TXTL Event eligibility.

9.2.3 Definition of Interscholastic Athletic Programs. Interscholastic athletic and academic programs encompass all activities relating to competitive sport contests involving individual students or teams of students from one Member School against individual students or teams of students from another Member School. Such activities include, but are not limited to, tryouts, offseason conditioning, summer workouts, preseason conditioning, in-season practice and contests.

9.3 ATTENDANCE EXCEPTIONS.

9.3.1 Home Education Student. A legally registered home education student may participate at one of the following:

- (A) A Member School that will accept the student for participation; or
- (B) A home education cooperative to which the student belongs.

9.3.2 Home Education Student Requirements. To participate in TXTL Events, a home education student must:

- (A) Register with the Member School of his/her intent to participate before the beginning date of the season for the sport or program in which he/she wants to participate;
- (B) Meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance the Members School requires of other participating students;
- (C) Certify to the Member School at the end of each Semester that he/she has the minimum cumulative grade point average required for participation. Transcripts must be made available to the Member School who shall keep students grades on file;
- (D) Meet all other TXTL eligibility requirements; and

(E) Must be approved by the TXTL office before participating in any sport.

9.3.3 Charter School Student. To participate in TXTL Events, a charter school student must:

(A) Meet the requirements of the charter school education program as determined by the charter school governing board;

(B) Meet the minimum grade point average standards that are required of all students;

(C) Meet the same residency requirements as other students in the Member School at which he/she participates;

(D) Meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance that are required of other students in interscholastic athletics and academic programs; and

(E) Register with the Member School of his/her intent to participate in TXTL Events as a representative of the Member School before the beginning date of the season for the sport or program in which he/she wishes to participate.

9.3.4 Students in Dual Enrollment and Early Admission Programs. A student who attends a dual enrollment or early admission program operated by a community college or university may participate at the Member School the student would normally attend if:

(A) The Member School awards credit toward graduation for the work the student completes at the community college or university;

(B) The student has not met the graduation requirements as specified by the Member School's student progression plan for senior high school graduation;

(C) The student does not participate in the intercollegiate athletic or fine arts programs of the community college or university; and

(D) The student meets all other TXTL eligibility requirements.

9.3.5 Students in Alternative or Special Schools. A student who attends an alternative school or other special school may participate at the Member School he/she would normally attend according to the Member School attendance policy. The student must meet all other TXTL eligibility requirements.

9.3.6 Summer Participation. A student may participate in athletic activities sponsored by or affiliated with any Member School during the Summer period.

9.3.7 Attendance within First 10 Days of Semester Required. A student must attend classes within the first ten (10) school days of a Semester. Otherwise, the student will not be eligible until:

(A) The student has made up all class work missed during his/her absence; and

(B) The student has attended one (1) school day for each school day missed.

9.3.8 Ineligible Student Cannot Change Schools to Become Eligible. A student who is ruled ineligible for any reason should not be eligible in the new Member School. Member Schools are given the authority to determine if the student is deserving of eligibility in accordance with the TXTL Bylaws.

9.4 TRANSFER REGULATIONS

9.4.1 “Transfer” Defined. A transfer occurs when a student in grades 9 through 12 makes any change in Member Schools after he/she establishes residency at a senior high school that is a Member School.

9.4.2 Transfer Deadlines. Student athlete transfer deadlines for all athletic sports can be found on the TXTL Calendar. Transferring student athletes may only practice until the previous participation transfer form has been processed and cleared for participation by the TXTL Commissioner and may not participate in Events.

9.4.3 Transfer Rule Waiting Period. A senior high school student who transfers to any senior high Member School shall not be eligible for participation in any sport at the new Member School for a period of one Calendar Year from the official date of transfer if:

(A) A coach at the New Member School coached or trained the transferring student within the last twelve (12) months in the sport the transferring student seeks to play at the new Member School;

(B) A coach at the new Member School coached or trained the student on an AAU, select club or similar team within the last twelve (12) months in the sport the transferring student seeks to play at the new Member School;

(C) Transfer was made for athletic purposes only.

9.4.4 Transfer Rule Exceptions:

(A) Full and Complete Move to a New Residence. A senior high school student who transfers from one Member School to another Member School seated in a different District as a result of moving to a new home, physical residence with the student’s parent(s) or legal guardian will be eligible at the new Member School given the transfer was the result of the student and student’s parent(s) or legal guardian moving to a new home, physical residential address located in the new District.

(B) Coach is Parent of Student Athlete. A senior high student that is an adopted or biological child of a coach that is hired to coach at a new Member School shall be eligible to participate in all sports at the new Member School.

(C) Closure of School. If the previous school from which the student and/or coach are transferring has closed, the Transfer Rule Waiting Period shall not apply. If a homeschool organization from which the student and/or coach are transferring has closed, the Transfer Rule Waiting Period shall not apply.

9.4.5 Transfer Student Must Provide Academic Records. A student who transfers to a Member School from a non-Member School after beginning senior high school must provide the Member School with transcripts showing all grades he/she has received at all schools attended since beginning ninth grade. The Member School should not declare the student academically eligible until all such information is received

to its satisfaction.

9.4.6 Previous Participation Transfer Form. The Member School formerly attended by a transfer student must verify the student's eligibility status by filling out a Transfer Pre-Participation form that will be sent to the TXTL Commissioner.

9.4.7 Online Eligibility Form. Transferring students must be included on the TXTL online eligibility form prior to participation. Both eligibility and previous participation transfer forms must be on file with the TXTL office before the student athlete is eligible for participation in competition.

9.4.8 Ineligible Student Cannot Transfer to Become Eligible. A transfer student who is ruled ineligible for any reason should not be eligible in the new Member School. Member Schools are given the authority to determine if the student is deserving of eligibility in accordance with the TXTL Bylaws.

9.4.9 Expelled Student. A student who has been expelled by a Member School should not be considered eligible at any Member School during the length of the expulsion. Member Schools are given the authority to determine if the student is deserving of eligibility in accordance with the TXTL Bylaws.

9.4.10 Foreign Students. Must complete a previous participation transfer form. Foreign students must also meet the following guidelines:

(A) Has produced a copy of a valid visa;

(B) Has met all other TXTL Bylaw eligibility requirements;

(C) Has initially enrolled in the 9th grade not more than four (4) years ago or 10th grade not more than three years ago;

(D) Has not violated the "amateur" rule status;

(E) Has only received financial assistance type programs and proceeds similar to that of all students in attendance at the Member School; and

(F) May only practice and not compete in TXTL Events until eligibility has been approved by TXTL Office.

9.4.11 I-20 Students. I-20 Students shall only participate in TXTL Events with the Member School at which their registered I-20 is housed and on file.

9.5 ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

9.5.1 GPA of 2.0 Required for Academic Eligibility. Student must have 2.0 GPA, or the equivalent of a 2.0 GPA based on a 4.0 scale, at the conclusion of each Semester. Mandatory online eligibility dates are established for each TXTL Event and will be identified on the TXTL Calendar. Each Member School Principal will be responsible to ensure that their students participating in any TXTL Events are eligible during the course of his/her TXTL Event. Member Schools shall use the following alphabetical grading

scale as an example:

- Grade “A” is 90 to 100 percent and has a GPA value of 4;
- Grade “B” is 80 to 89 percent and has a GPA value of 3;
- Grade “C” is 70 to 79 percent and has a GPA value of 2;
- Grade “D” is 60 to 69 percent and has a GPA value of 1; and
- Grade “F” is 59 percent or less and has a GPA value of 0.

9.5.2 First Semester of Senior High School Attendance – Ninth Grade. A first-year senior high school student, entering the ninth grade for the first time, is academically eligible during his/her first Semester of senior high school attendance. The student, however, must have the cumulative 2.0 GPA at the conclusion of his/her first Semester of senior high school attendance to be academically eligible to participate during his/her next Semester of attendance.

9.5.3 Private Tutor Courses cannot be Used to Satisfy the 2.0 GPA Requirement A Member School cannot accept a grade received by a student in a class conducted by a private certified tutor to raise his/her cumulative GPA for academic eligibility purposes.

9.5.4 Determination of Academic Eligibility at Conclusion of Each Semester. A Member School must calculate the cumulative GPA of a student at the conclusion of each Semester to determine the student’s academic eligibility for the next Semester.

9.5.5 Course Work Must be Completed by First Day of Next Semester. A student must complete all work required to earn credit in a course taken during a Semester by the first day of the next Semester. A grade of “incomplete” must be considered a failing grade when calculating a student’s cumulative GPA.

9.5.6 Student Must be an Undergraduate. A student must not have graduated from senior high school in the secondary education system of the U.S. or any other country.

9.6 ELIGIBILITY LIMITS

9.6.1 High School Student Has Four Years of Eligibility. A student has four consecutive Calendar Years of eligibility from the date he/she begins ninth grade for the first time. This does not imply that the student has four years of participation. A student becomes permanently ineligible four consecutive Calendar Years from the date he/she begins ninth grade for the first time.

9.6.2 Eligibility Expires During a Sport Season. A student whose four-year limit of eligibility expires during the season of a sport in which the student is participating may complete the season if the student continues to meet all other eligibility requirements. The student, however, will not be permitted to participate in any other sport that begins after his/her limit of eligibility has expired.

9.6.3 Participation Prior to High School. A student’s four-year limit of senior high school eligibility is not affected by the student’s participation in interscholastic athletics before beginning the ninth grade for

the first time.

9.6.4 Middle/Junior-High Participation. Students in the 7th and 8th grade may participate on a senior high school team at the coaches' and parents' discretion without affecting his/her eligibility in TXTL for the remainder of their senior high school career. However, such participation will likely affect a student athlete entering senior high school at other public or private schools when filling out a previous participation transfer form. The student will likely be clocked as having used their 7th and or 8th grade years as participation at the varsity or high school level.

9.6.5 Participation above secondary system. No student who has participated in athletics at an institution of learning higher than secondary rank shall be eligible to play under the rules of the TXTL.

9.6.6 Senior High School Age Limit. A student may not participate at the senior high school level if he/she turns nineteen (19) years old prior to September 1 of the upcoming school year.

9.6.7 Middle/Junior High School Age Limit. A student may not participate at the middle or junior high school level if he/she turns fifteen (15) years old prior to September 1 of the upcoming school year.

9.6.8 School Must Verify Age of Student. A Member School must verify the age of each student who represents it in interscholastic athletic or academic program competitions of the Member School. The student must provide documented proof of his/her age for this purpose. A student who is unable to provide documented proof of his/her age cannot participate.

9.6.9 What is Documented Proof of Age. Documented proof of age is one or more of the following:

(A) An original birth certificate issued by the office of vital records in the country, province, state, county or city where the student was born;

(B) A passport, visa or "green card" that lists the student's date of birth; or

(C) An official record of birth from the hospital in which the student was born.

9.7 PHYSICAL EVALUATION

9.7.1 Student Must Have a Physical Evaluation Each Year. A student must have a physical evaluation each year and be certified as being physically fit to participate in TXTL Events. A physical evaluation shall be valid for a period not to exceed one Calendar Year from the date of a certified licensed medical professional's signature. The student cannot participate in any activity related to interscholastic athletic programs until the fully executed physical evaluation form is on file at the Member School.

9.7.2 Filing Requirements. The student-athlete shall be required to file with the Member School a fully executed physical evaluation form signed by the practitioner and medical history questionnaire signed by the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).

9.8 CONSENT AND RELEASE

9.8.1 Student Must Provide School with Signed Consent and Release Form. A student must have the consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) (if under the age of eighteen (18) to participate in interscholastic athletic programs at a Member School. The student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must also release The TXTL, its Member Schools and contest officials from all liability for any injury or claim that may result from the student's participation in interscholastic athletics. The form must be signed by the student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The student should not be allowed to participate in any activity related to interscholastic athletic programs until the fully executed consent form is on file in the Member School. The following forms must also be on file with the TXTL Office and with the consent of his/her parent (s) or legal guardian (s) prior to any practice or participation. Such forms can be found on the TXTL website at TXTL.org;

- (A) Sudden Cardiac Awareness Form.
- (B) Concussion Acknowledgement Awareness Form.
- (C) Illegal Steroid Use Form.

9.8.2 Board of Directors to Adopt Language for Consent and Release Form. The Board of Directors will adopt the language that must be contained in the consent and release form, which, at a minimum, will include the following:

- (A) A statement acknowledging that participation in interscholastic athletics may require the student to miss classes;
- (B) A statement agreeing to the Member School's disclosure of the student's academic, attendance and financial assistance records when requested;
- (C) A statement warning of the health risks, including death, involved in participating in interscholastic athletics;
- (D) A statement authorizing the use or disclosure of the student's individually identifiable health information should treatment for illness or injury become necessary; and
- (E) A statement granting to the released parties the right to photograph and videotape the student and to use his/her name, face, likeness, voice and appearance in connection with exhibitions, publicity, advertising, promotional and commercial materials without reservation or limitation.

9.9 AMATEURISM

9.9.1 General Principles. A student may not participate in an athletic activity of the TXTL unless he/she is an amateur. An amateur is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasure benefits derived from the activity.

9.9.2 Forfeiture of Amateur Status. A student-athlete forfeits amateur status in a particular sport for one year by:

- (A) Competing for money or other monetary compensations;
- (B) Receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the Association;
- (C) Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of a monetary nature;
- (D) Signing a professional playing contract in any sport or hiring an agent to manage his/her athletic career; or
- (E) Competing under an assumed name.

9.9.3 Acceptable Awards, Gifts, or Other Compensation. A student-athlete will not forfeit his/her amateur status for accepting:

- (A) Symbolic awards such as school letters, medals, trophies, ribbons, plaques, pins, keys or ribbons of small monetary value purchased from an established awards company;
- (B) Rings, sweaters, jackets, award blankets or similar items provided that they are presented by the Member School which they represent and do not exceed the value of the purchase price from an established awards company;
- (C) Remuneration of “essential expenses” for any game in which he/she participates as a player; limited to meals, lodging and transportation; or
- (D) A college scholarship offer.

9.9.4 Amateur Sports Guidelines. The TXTL uses the guidelines of the national governing body of a particular sport, when applicable; to determine the types and amounts of benefits an amateur may receive.

9.9.5 Violations. Violation of the amateur rule in one sport does not make a student ineligible in all other sports.

9.10 STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION

9.10.1 Athletic Participation Defined. A student in athletic uniform during an athletic contest is defined as having participated. Any Member School which allows a student to participate in interscholastic athletic competition (dress in any part of the full uniform worn for that contest with the exception of a cap) in violation of the TXTL Bylaws and will be held guilty of using an ineligible student and subject to the penalties assessed.

ARTICLE 10

Compliance and Enforcement

10.1 PENALTIES

10.1.1 Penalties. The TXTL Commissioner shall have the authority to investigate all alleged violations of the TXTL Bylaws, as well as all other regulations, guidelines, policies or procedures established by the Board of Directors. All findings shall be disclosed to the Member School or person alleged to have committed a violation. The TXTL Commissioner shall have full authority to invoke one or more penalties, including but not limited to the following penalties against the violating Member School or person:

(A) REPRIMAND. An official letter of censure to the concerned party in regard to the offense committed which warns against further violations. This letter will be kept on file for future reference.

(B) FINE. A monetary payment.

(C) FORFEIT. The forfeiture of an interscholastic athletic contest.

(D) PROBATION. Types of probation that may be imposed are as follows:

1) Administrative Probation. The Member School is reprimanded, fined and served notice that it is in a period of warning for a minimum of one Calendar Year. Additional violations during this time will result in increased penalties which may include expulsion.

2) Restrictive Probation. The Member School faces the same penalties as administrative probation, with the additional consequence of restriction from participation in playoff and championship competition in one or more sports or other restrictions deemed appropriate by the TXTL Commissioner, for one or more Calendar Years.

3) Suspension Probation. The Member School faces the same penalties as administrative probation, with the additional consequence of suspension from one or more sports for one or more Calendar Years.

(E) EXPULSION. Involuntary termination of a Member School's membership in the TXTL for one or more Calendar Years.

10.1.2 Restricted Membership. The TXTL Commissioner, instead of expulsion, may restrict one, more or all the membership privileges of the Member School. The Member School remains a member even if all of its membership privileges are restricted.

10.1.3 Reimbursement of Expenses. A Member School found to have committed a violation shall pay to the TXTL any expenses incurred related to such violation, including, but not limited to, the costs of the investigation, attorney's fees and legal costs and all other related costs.

10.2 FORFEITURE OF CONTEST

10.2.1 General Principle. If an ineligible student is inadvertently or intentionally permitted to participate

in TXTL Events, forfeiture of the game and honors shall be automatic and mandatory.

10.2.2 Team or Individual Sports. In Team Sports or programs, the contest and honors shall be forfeited. In Individual Sports or programs, the points won by the ineligible student, individually or as the member of a relay team shall be forfeited.

10.2.3 Procedures. If an ineligible student is allowed to participate in a TXTL Event, the principal shall notify the TXTL Commissioner of the dates of the competition and the opposing Member School(s) the student participated against.

10.2.4 Intentional Use of Ineligible Students. The TXTL Commissioner shall have full authority to invoke additional penalties against a Member School that in his/her determination intentionally permits an ineligible student to participate.

10.3 PROTEST PROCEDURE

10.3.1 Protesting Actions of Another School. Any Member School filing a protest over the eligibility of a student or the actions of a Member School shall submit to the TXTL Commissioner in writing a full statement of the facts signed by the principal. The TXTL Commissioner shall provide the accused party or parties with a copy of the accusation and determine if the allegations warrant an investigation.

10.3.2 False Accusations. If a Member School falsely accuses (alleges a violation by another Member School that cannot be supported by appropriate documentation and facts) any other Member School(s) more than once in a five (5) year period, accusing Member School will be subjected to penalties by the TXTL Commissioner.

10.3.3 Protesting Actions of Contest Officials. The decisions of contest officials shall be final and not subject to review. Member Schools should file reports of unsatisfactory performance by contest officials with the officials association of which that official is a part.

10.4 DUE PROCESS

10.4.1 Eligibility Appeals. When a student is determined to be ineligible by a Member School and/or is ruled ineligible by the TXTL Commissioner, the Member School may appeal the ruling of the TXTL Commissioner if he/she or the student takes issue with it, and must do so at the student's request.

10.4.2 Rules Violations Appeals. Any student athlete, coach or Member School who is found to be in violation of the TXTL Bylaw rules may appeal the finding of the TXTL Commissioner if he/she takes issue with it, or may appeal the penalty imposed if he/she believes it to be too severe, and must do so at the student's request.

10.4.3 Disputes between Member Schools Appeals. A Member School may appeal the findings by the TXTL Commissioner which arise from a dispute between one or more Member Schools. Member Schools are required to attempt to settle differences independently of the TXTL Office prior to formal submission of the dispute to the TXTL Office.

10.4.4 Undue Hardship Waivers. A Member School may file a request for undue hardship waiver on

behalf of the student when enforcement of the provision(s) which render(s) the student ineligible works an undue hardship upon the student, and must do so at the student's request.

10.4.5 Criteria for an Undue Hardship Waiver Determination. By seeking an undue hardship waiver, the student and the Member School accept the fact that the student is ineligible under the TXTL Bylaws but are asking for a grant of waiver of those TXTL Bylaws. For the purpose of determining whether to grant or deny an undue hardship waiver, the Appeals Committees and the Board of Directors, as applicable, shall be guided by the criteria contained in these TXTL Bylaws and their respective experience related to senior high school athletics.

10.4.6 Insufficient Grounds for Undue Hardship Waiver. The fact that a student is retained in a lower grade shall not be sufficient grounds for granting an undue hardship waiver if the student fails to pass the required number of courses, is voluntarily withdrawn from the Member School or repeats a lower grade to gain physical, social or emotional maturity.

10.4.7 Potentially Sufficient Grounds for Undue Hardship Waiver. The fact that a student is unable or desires to participate in TXTL Events shall not, in and of itself, be grounds for granting an undue hardship waiver request. The fact that a student is retained in a lower grade because he/she misses school for a prolonged period of time due to serious injury or illness, which must be supported by a physician's record indicating that the absence was directly and solely related to such injury or illness, or events which were beyond the control of the student and/or the parent or guardian which causes the student to miss school for a prolonged period of time causing the student to repeat a grade, may be grounds for granting an undue hardship waiver request.

10.4.8 Waiver of Bylaws Due to Special Circumstances. The Member School may request a waiver of any TXTL Bylaw not directly related to student eligibility when special circumstances, in the opinion of the Member School, call for a relief from or a modification to the effects of the TXTL Bylaw.

10.4.9 Appeals of Commissioner's Findings. The Member School or any other individual who is found to be in violation of the TXTL Bylaws by the TXTL Commissioner may appeal the findings of the TXTL Commissioner or may appeal the penalty imposed. TXTL Bylaw violations that may be appealed, include but are not limited to:

- (A) Mandatory GPA requirements;
- (B) Definition of a Grading Period as being one Semester;
- (C) Mandatory grading scale;
- (D) Authority of Member School to establish codes of conduct by which students must abide to be eligible to participate in interscholastic competition;
- (E) Home Education guidelines; and
- (F) Charter School guidelines.

10.5 GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR APPEALS AND REQUESTS FOR WAIVER

10.5.1 Cost of Appeal. The cost of an appeal, if any, including the TXTL’s attorney fees, shall be borne by the person or entity making the appeal if the finding of the TXTL Commissioner or the penalty imposed is upheld.

10.5.2 Burden Of Proof. The burden of showing error in the determination of ineligibility or in showing why a waiver should be granted is on the person or entity making the appeal. Such proof shall include, as a minimum, a brief statement of the facts involved, the specific TXTL Bylaw(s) involved and argument in support of the relief requested. This statement shall be supported by any relevant documentary evidence available.

10.5.3 Complete and Accurate Submissions. The person or entity making the appeal must ensure that the information submitted to support such appeal or request is complete and accurate. In the event a decision was made based on incomplete or inaccurate information, the decision shall be withdrawn and the sanctions provided by these TXTL Bylaws or TXTL Commissioner shall apply.

10.5.4 Request for Eligibility Ruling. Each member having reasonable cause to believe that a student is ineligible to participate in, or continue to participate in, TXTL Events under any provision of these TXTL Bylaws may request an official ruling on the student’s eligibility from the TXTL Commissioner, and must do so at the student’s request. The TXTL Commissioner shall issue a ruling based on the statement of facts and any other information available to the TXTL Commissioner. In the event the TXTL Commissioner later determines that incomplete or inaccurate information has been included in the statement supporting the Member Schools request for an eligibility ruling, the ruling may be retracted and such penalties as deemed appropriate may be imposed by the TXTL Commissioner against the Member School requesting the ruling.

10.5.5 Initial Appeals or Requests for Waivers. Appeals or requests for waivers will be heard by the Appeals Committee.

10.5.6 Subsequent Appeals or Requests for Waivers. Unfavorable decision found on the initial appeal or request for waiver rendered by the Appeals Committee may be heard by the Board of Directors, at its discretion, which will not hear any evidence that was not presented to the Appeals Committee, and decisions if any, will be final.

10.5.7 Appeals of Violations. Appeals of violations will be heard by the Appeals Committee. The Board of Directors, upon request, may review decisions of the Appeals Committee, at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Decisions by the Board of Directors, if any, will be final.

10.6 APPEAL AND REQUEST FOR WAIVER PROCEDURES

10.6.1 Filing an Initial Appeal or Request for Waiver. An appeal or request for waiver must be filed with the TXTL Commissioner and must be accompanied by all necessary documentation. The appeal or request, including all required documentation, must be signed by the principal and received in the TXTL

Office. Appeals and requests received will be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting unless an emergency appeals process is requested and granted. Incomplete appeals or requests for waiver will be returned to the Member School or person making the appeal for an opportunity to resubmit with all the necessary information.

10.6.2 Filing an Appeal or Request for Waiver to the Appeals Committee. The request for an appeal hearing before the Appeals Committee must be made in writing to the TXTL Commissioner, must be signed by the Member School principal and must be received in the TXTL Office.

10.6.3 Appearances before Appeals Committee or Board of Directors. The person or entity making the appeal, if he/she so chooses, has the opportunity to appear before the Appeals Committee, or the Board of Directors if it elects to review the matter. The person or entity making the appeal must give notice of their choice to appear. Appearance by the student and a Member School representative is mandatory for an appeal or request for undue hardship waiver involving age, limit of eligibility and unsportsmanlike conduct provisions when heard by the Appeals Committee, and is optional if heard by the Board of Directors.

10.6.4 Student Appearance. A student who is required, or chooses, to appear before the Appeals Committee, or the Board of Directors as applicable, must be accompanied by a Member School representative and should be accompanied by his/her parent(s) or other individuals with whom he/she lives. Other than an approved Member School representative, the student, and the student's parent(s), no other individuals shall be permitted to appear at the appeal before the Appeals Committee or the Board of Directors, as applicable.

10.6.5 Written Notice of Appeal. The Member School's written notice of appeal of the findings of fact or the penalty imposed, or both, must be received in the TXTL Office. The Member School must submit supporting information for its appeal, if any, to the TXTL Office.

10.7 Basis for Granting an Appeal.

10.7.1 Appeal of Findings. The Appeals Committee may set aside findings of fact and violations arrived at ONLY if the Member School shows that:

(A) The finding of the TXTL Commissioner is clearly not supported by evidence that is credible, persuasive and of a kind on which reasonably prudent persons rely in the conduct of serious affairs;

(B) The Member School's actions do not constitute a violation of the TXTL Bylaws; or

(C) A procedural error affected the reliability of the information that was used to support the TXTL Commissioner's finding. In this case, the Member School must demonstrate how it contends the TXTL Commissioner was in error.

10.7.2 Appeal of Penalties. The Appeals Committee may set aside a penalty imposed by the TXTL Commissioner if the Appeals Committee determines that the penalty is excessive or inappropriate based on all the evidence and circumstances or modify a penalty imposed by the TXTL.

10.7.3 Committee Acts on Basis of Record in Case. The Appeals Committee can act only on the basis

of the record in the case. This record consists of the notice of inquiry and/or allegations to the Member School, the report of the investigator and the written response by the Member School. The Appeals Committee cannot consider information that was not available to the TXTL Commissioner when issuing its finding and imposing the penalty.

10.7.4 Appeal of Unfavorable Decision by Appeals Committee. A Member School that is unsuccessful in its appeal to the Appeals Committee may request appeal of the Appeals Committee's decision to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has sole discretion as to whether it chooses to hear any appeal. The Member School's written notice of appeal of the Appeal Committee's decision must be received in the TXTL Office.

10.8 EMPOWERMENT

10.8.1 Appeals Committee Powers. The Appeals Committee is empowered to consider a request from Member Schools seeking exceptions to the TXTL Bylaws, to hear undue hardship eligibility cases filed by Member Schools on behalf of student-athletes, and to hear appeals filed by Member Schools or other individuals. The decision in each case shall be by majority vote. Request may be made to the Board of Directors to review the Appeals Committee's decision, which the Board of Directors has sole discretion to accept or reject.

10.8.2 Reliance on an Appeals Committee Decision. A Member School that allows a student to participate in accordance with the TXTL Commissioner's decision or an Appeals Committee decision that is later reversed by the Appeals Committee or Board of Directors, as applicable, will not be subject to the penalties normally assessed a Member School that allows participation by an ineligible student.

10.8.3 Board of Directors Powers. For the limited matters the Board of Directors decides to review, the Board of Directors is empowered to sustain, modify or overturn the decision of the Appeals Committee or the TXTL Commissioner in each case that comes before it.

10.8.4 Finality of Ruling. The decision of the Board of Directors, if any, in each case shall be by majority vote and shall be final.

10.9 PROCEDURE IN CASES OF EXPULSION

10.9.1 Procedures. When the TXTL Commissioner believes that his/her findings in any investigation into any violation of any rule of the TXTL warrants the expulsion of a Member School or a restriction of its membership privileges, the following procedure must be followed:

(A) Notice. The TXTL Commissioner will notify in writing the principal of the Member School of the date, time and site of any meeting at which a hearing on the Member School's membership status will be conducted. The notice must state the findings of the TXTL Commissioner and must advise the principal of his/her obligation to represent his/her Member School at the hearing. This notice must be received by the principal of the Member School not fewer than ten (10) business days in advance of the date of the hearing.

(B) Hearings. During the hearing, the Member School may present witnesses, testimony, and any other

relevant evidence or information for consideration. The TXTL Commissioner may also present witnesses, testimony, and any other relevant evidence or information for consideration. During the hearing, only the Member School representative, not an attorney, shall be allowed to make any presentation.

(C) Final Decision. Following the presentation of evidence and arguments, the Appeals Committee will render its decision by majority vote. The Appeals Committee is empowered to sustain, modify or reject the findings and recommendation of the TXTL Commissioner. Request may be made to the Board of Directors to review the decision of the Appeals Committee, which the Board of Directors has the sole discretion to accept or reject. The decision of the Appeals Committee will be final, unless the matter is reviewed by the Board of Director. If reviewed by the Board of Director, the decision of the Board of Directors is final.

10.9.2 Applying for Reinstatement. A Member School that has been expelled or has had its membership privileges restricted for a period of one or more Calendar Years may apply for readmission or reinstatement of its membership privileges after a period of one Calendar Year and then yearly thereafter. The Member School must notify the TXTL Commissioner in writing that he/she intends to apply for readmission or reinstatement and request to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Board of Directors. The Member School will make a verbal appeal for readmission or reinstatement before the Board of Directors at that meeting. A Member School that has been expelled or has had its membership privileges restricted may be readmitted or have its membership privileges reinstated only upon approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

10.10 COMPLIANCE WITH DECISIONS

The administrative decisions of the Board of Directors, Appeals Committee and TXTL Commissioner shall be accepted in good faith by all Member Schools. Any Member School that refuses to accept the decisions of the TXTL shall subject the Member School to expulsion from the TXTL. These provisions are not to be construed as preventing the principal of a Member School from exercising his/her school's right to due process by appealing decisions of the TXTL Commissioner to the Appeals Committee or the Board of Directors.

10.11 LEGAL ACTION

(A) In the event that any individual or entity, including but not limited to any Member School, files or asserts a claim or civil judicial action, including but not limited to a temporary restraining order or temporary injunction, against TXTL, the Board of Directors, any Director, the Appeals Committee, any Officer, the TXTL Commissioner, the Athletic Director, any TXTL Chair, any TXTL committee, a student of a Member School or any Member School, regarding or concerning any decision, interpretation, implementation, execution or enforcement of the Bylaws of TXTL or the TXTL rules and regulations for or regarding any TXTL Event, or that attempts to change, restrict, alter or otherwise affect the operation of TXTL or any TXTL Event in any way ("Claim"), TXTL may take any of the following actions or combination of the following actions:

- 1) Strip or revoke any team award, trophy, title or honor won by or granted to any Member School relating to or concerning the Claim;

- 2) Strip or revoke any individual award, trophy, title or honor of any Member School student relating to or concerning the Claim;
- 3) Assess Probation, as determined by the Board of Director, against each student making the Claim or against the student on whose behalf the Claim is made or intended to benefit;
- 4) Assess Probation, as determined by the Board of Directors, against each Member School making the Claim or against the Member School or against the Member School on whose behalf the Claim is made or intended to benefit;
- 4) Expulsion of each student making the Claim or of the student on whose behalf the Claim is made or intended to benefit; and
- 5) Expulsion of each Member School making the Claim or of the Member School on whose behalf the Claim is made or intended to benefit.

(B) If a Claim is filed by, or on behalf or for the benefit, of a Member School or the Member School's board of directors, principal, athletic director, employees, representatives, volunteers, students or parent or guardians of a student, TXTL and all of its related Directors, Officers, Chairs, Committees, and other representatives or individual shall be fully reimbursed for any and all expenses and fees incurred by each of them in connection with the investigation, defense and resolution of the Claim. If, within 30 days after receiving written notice of the full amount of the foregoing expenses and fees, the full amount of the expenses and fees remain unpaid, the Board of Directors shall have the power and authority to suspend each student and Member School from participation in all TXTL Events for a period up to three years, as determined by the Board of Directors.