



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into by and between:

Pennsylvania Independent Schools Athletic Association (herein referred to as “PAISAA”) and an Affiliate Member of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations (NFHS) and the

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. (herein referred to as “PIAA”) and a charter member of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a process of approval for contests involving PAISAA and PIAA member schools sanctioned by PIAA and/or NFHS. PAISAA and PIAA agree to work together in a cooperative and coordinated manner to achieve each Association’s collective goal of participation.

This MOU is designed to detail the specifics of the working relationship between PAISAA and PIAA to the mutual benefit of the parties and the student-athletes they serve. This MOU does not obligate the Parties to provide funds or payment.

DURATION OF MOU

This MOU becomes effective on the date it is signed by both parties. It remains in full force and effect until June 30, 2025, unless explicitly terminated, in writing, by either party. The two Associations will work to provide a permanent agreement moving forward.

DEFINITIONS

The parties agree to participate in the spirit of competition with the acceptance of PIAA eligibility rules for participation in contests that are approved by PIAA, as set forth below. The following provisions of the PIAA Bylaws must be agreed upon and adhered to in these events by schools approved by PIAA:

SUMMARY OF MAJOR PIAA ELIGIBILITY RULES

AGE (Article I)

To be eligible, a student must not have reached his or her 19th birthday by June 30 immediately preceding the applicable school year.

AMATEUR STATUS AND AWARDS (Article II)

To be eligible to participate in a sport, a student must be an amateur in that sport. A student loses amateur status in a sport if the student or the student’s parent(s) and/or guardian(s), receives or agrees to receive, compensation, other Consideration, or an award related to the student’s athletic ability, participation, performance, services, or training in a sport.

A student may accept awards from the student’s school or the student’s school-affiliated booster club, the sponsor of an athletic event, a non-profit service organization approved by the student’s school Principal, or the news media. Permissible awards are items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification. The fair market value of items provided to any such student may not exceed \$1000.

ATTENDANCE (Article III)

A student must be regularly enrolled in a school and in full-time attendance thereafter.

PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION (Article V)

A student is eligible only if the student has participated in a pre-participation physical evaluation performed by an Authorized Medical Examiner (as that term is defined in the GLOSSARY of the PIAA By-Laws), before the student's first sports season's first Practice of that school year.

PERIOD OF TIME AFTER EIGHTH GRADE, PARTICIPATION, AND GRADE REPETITION (Article VIII & XIX)

A student loses eligibility when the student has:

1. Reached the end of the student's fourth consecutive year (8th consecutive semester or the equivalent) beyond the 8th grade year, without regard to the student's period of attendance; If the student repeats a grade after eighth, the student will be ineligible as a senior. Note: 7th or 8th grade students are not eligible for senior high participation.
2. Participated in six seasons beyond the sixth grade or four seasons beyond the eighth grade in any sport; or 3. Ceased to be enrolled.

ACADEMIC AND CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS (Article X)

1. A student must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the student's Principal as a full-time curriculum.
2. A student must be passing at least four full-credit subjects or the equivalent as of each Friday during a grading period. A student who fails to meet this requirement loses eligibility from the following Sunday through the Saturday immediately following the next Friday as of which the student meets this requirement.

ATHLETIC RELATIONS (Article XII)

All Contests must be played the PIAA Official Rules for Sports as adopted and modified by the PIAA Board of Directors. This requirement does not apply to Contests or Tournaments played outside of Pennsylvania where the Contest Rules are adopted by the NFHS-member State High School Athletic Association.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PAISAA member schools agree that to participate in any PIAA or NFHS sanctioned event, they must agree to the provisions identified above.

PIAA will approve PAISAA member schools' participation in PIAA and/or NFHS sanctioned events for regular season contests and/or regular season tournament events, if the regular season tournament meets all requirements for sanctioning (as set forth in PIAA and NFHS sanctioning rules).

AMENDMENTS

The terms of this MOU may be amended upon written approval by both parties and/or their designated representatives.

TERM AND TERMINATION

Both Parties may terminate this MOU by means of signing a termination addendum upon 30 days' written notice to the other party or parties.

The undersigned Parties acknowledge and agree to this MOU:

SIGNATURES

FOR: Pennsylvania Independent Schools Athletic Association (PAISAA)

Print Name Michelle L Crowley

Signature 

Title PAISAA President

Date January 24, 2025

FOR: Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA)

Print Name Mark E. Byers

Signature 

Title Chief Operating Officer

Date January 26, 2025