

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in interscholastic athletics
6 accountability, providing for playoffs, for transfer and for
7 district committees.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Article XVI-A of the act of March 10, 1949
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
12 amended by adding sections to read:

13 Section 1606-A. Playoffs.--(a) The following provisions
14 shall apply to football, boys' basketball, boys' soccer, girls'
15 soccer, girls' basketball, girls' volleyball, baseball and
16 softball interscholastic athletics in this Commonwealth:

17 (1) For the purpose of interdistrict playoffs, separate
18 playoff systems shall be established by the association for
19 athletics for public schools and nonpublic schools, except that
20 the championship shall be between the public school champion and

1 nonpublic school champion that won in the separate playoff
2 systems. There shall be an equal number of public and nonpublic
3 schools in each interdistrict playoff system. If there is an
4 insufficient number of qualified nonpublic schools in a
5 particular classification equal to those in the public school
6 playoffs, the nonpublic school playoffs in that classification
7 may still be held. Interdistrict playoff brackets for nonpublic
8 schools shall be determined by the nonpublic school
9 representative on the association's board of directors.

10 (2) If a team forfeits two (2) or more regular season games
11 in one season, that team shall be ineligible for association
12 playoffs.

13 (3) The association may determine whether the separate
14 interdistrict playoff system is utilized in other sports if
15 there are at least fifty (50) public schools and fifty (50)
16 nonpublic schools participating in the sport.

17 Section 1607-A. Transfer.--(a) A student shall be
18 immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics
19 after transferring schools as long as the student meets all
20 other eligibility standards, including, but not limited to, age,
21 limit of eligibility, per-participation physical exam, grade
22 point average and consent and liability release at the school
23 which the student attends.

24 (b) The association may restrict in-season transfer
25 eligibility in a given sport when a transfer occurs after more
26 than one-half of the regular season contests have been played,
27 but shall allow in-season eligibility in instances where exigent
28 circumstances are present, including, but not limited to,
29 transfers resulting from change of residence, military-related
30 relocations or economic necessity.

1 Section 1608-A. District Committees.--(a) For the purposes
2 of organization, legislation and administration, the association
3 must be divided into athletic districts as established under the
4 bylaws of the association.

5 (b) Each athletic district shall establish a district
6 committee that shall exercise powers and duties as established
7 in the bylaws of the association.

8 (c) The makeup of each district committee shall be decided
9 by the members of that particular athletic district subject to
10 the requirements of the bylaws of the association, provided that
11 the representation of public and nonpublic schools is
12 proportional to the number of public and nonpublic schools in
13 the athletic district.

14 (d) Neither the association nor district committees may
15 sanction or permit the following:

16 (1) The formation of a league by members of the association
17 in which nonpublic school members are excluded from league
18 membership.

19 (2) Association members to refuse to schedule regular season
20 contests with nonpublic school members.

21 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.