FIYA Regulations Manual

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THIS REGULATIONS MANUAL, which is updated annually, serves as the official rules and guidelines by, between and among the Foundation for Interscholastic Youth Athletics (FIYA) and any school that participates in FIYA (School). School administrators are encouraged to review the contents of this Regulations Manual and ensure that its School's constituents are aware of the applicable provisions. A summary of basic information can be found in Appendix A - FAQ Sheet About FIYA Athletic Events.

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SECTION 1 — ABOUT FIYA

Article 1.1 Organization

A. **Name** - The legal name of this organization is Foundation for Interscholastic Youth Athletics, doing business as FIYA.

B. **Legal Status** - FIYA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization formed in August 2011 under the nonprofit laws of the State of California.

C. **Service Area** - FIYA serves as a full-service governing body for interscholastic youth sports offered to elementary schools with a strong emphasis on middle schools (or grades 6, 7 and 8) in Los Angeles County and surrounding areas.

Article 1.2 Vision, Mission and Values

A. **Vision & Mission** - FIYA was established on the belief that schools with well-balanced interscholastic after-school athletic programs help develop better-educated youth, stronger schools, and healthier communities. To fulfill this vision, FIYA works directly with schools throughout Los Angeles County and surrounding areas to provide athletic opportunities for student-athletes and to assist schools in developing and enhancing their athletic programs. FIYA offers a comprehensive, turnkey athletic program that enables schools to focus on coaching, mentoring, and supporting their student-athletes. In short, FIYA's mission is to strengthen schools through sports.

B. **Values** - In order to achieve its vision and carry out its mission, FIYA shall govern itself in accordance with the following core values: (i) Child-centered – FIYA always will be guided first and foremost by what is best for the children in the program; (ii) Positive and Enthusiastic – as youth sports are meant to be fun, FIYA shall conduct itself in a positive and upbeat manner at all times; (iii) Fairness and Integrity – FIYA shall treat all participants fairly, honestly and with transparency in accordance with its policies; and (iv) Quality - our focus is on the people we serve and we will strive for excellence through self-evaluation and continuous improvement.

Article 1.3 Objectives

The objectives of FIYA are as follows:

1. To provide a high-quality interscholastic athletic program for middle school students.
2. To integrate athletic participation with educational development, thereby fostering well-rounded individuals who are prepared to contribute positively to society.

3. To encourage schools to engage parents and families in athletic programs, thereby strengthening school communities and support systems.
4. To promote community spirit, school pride, team unity, and personal self-esteem among student-athletes.
5. To teach and reinforce the values of sportsmanship, healthy competition, teamwork, leadership, discipline, and perseverance.
6. To provide a diverse range of athletic opportunities that appeal to and engage as many students as possible.
7. To encourage lifelong physical activity and educate students about the importance of exercise, health, and nutrition in a fun, positive, and supportive environment.

SECTION 2 — SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP

Article 2.1 Membership Eligibility

Any public, private, parochial, charter, or independent elementary or middle school located within Los Angeles County or the surrounding areas may apply for membership in FIYA (hereinafter referred to as a "School"). For purposes of FIYA membership, a School must be an educational institution whose primary purpose is the academic instruction of students.

Organizations, academies, clubs, training programs, or other entities whose primary purpose is athletic training, athletic competition, or athlete development are not eligible for membership as a School. FIYA reserves the right to determine eligibility for membership and to approve or deny any membership application that, in its judgment, is inconsistent with the mission, objectives, or competitive philosophy of FIYA.

Article 2.2 Membership Requirements

To become and remain a participating member of FIYA, a School shall:

A. Establish and maintain an interscholastic after-school athletic program that is consistent with the mission and objectives of FIYA;

B. Designate an authorized school representative, such as an athletic director, coordinator, administrator, or coach, to serve as the primary point of contact of the School with FIYA and maintain regular communication regarding FIYA programs and activities;

C. Ensure that its administrators, coaches, student-athletes, parents, and spectators comply with all applicable FIYA regulations, policies, procedures, and codes of conduct;

D. Timely register for FIYA Athletic Events (see Appendix M for listing of Athletic Events offered by FIYA) in accordance with published registration procedures and deadlines;

E. Become familiar with and comply with all rules, eligibility requirements, schedules, and sport-specific regulations applicable to the FIYA Athletic Events in which the School participates; and

F. Remain in good standing by satisfying all financial obligations owed to FIYA and by adhering to the requirements set forth in this Regulations Manual.

Article 2.3 Membership Obligations

As a condition of membership and participation in any FIYA Athletic Event, each School acknowledges and agrees to the following obligations:

A. Assumption of Responsibility and Release

The School acknowledges that participation in athletic activities involves inherent risks of injury, illness, property damage, and other losses. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the School agrees to release and discharge FIYA, its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, contractors, agents, and representatives (collectively, the "FIYA Group") from claims arising out of the School's participation in FIYA Athletic Events, except to the extent prohibited by applicable law.

B. Indemnification

The participating School agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the FIYA Group from and against any claims, demands, actions, damages, losses, liabilities, costs, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) asserted by the School's student athletes, their family members, or their representatives arising out of or relating to the School's participation in the program, except to the extent such claims result from FIYA Group's gross negligence or willful misconduct.

C. Insurance Responsibility

FIYA does not provide medical, accident, health, or liability insurance coverage for participating Schools, student-athletes, coaches, administrators, parents, or spectators. Each School is solely responsible for determining and maintaining any insurance coverage it deems necessary for participation in FIYA Athletic Events, including ensuring that participating student-athletes have appropriate medical or health insurance coverage.

D. Financial Obligations

Each School shall timely pay all registration fees and other amounts owed to FIYA. The School authorizes FIYA to use registration fees and other event-related payments to compensate referees, scorekeepers, site supervisors, and other independent contractors engaged by FIYA in connection with FIYA Athletic Events. Such individuals are independent contractors and are not employees of FIYA.

Schools that repeatedly forfeit games or fail to satisfy their financial obligations may be subject to additional fees, disciplinary action, suspension, or loss of membership privileges.

Article 2.4 Suspension and Termination

A School's membership and participation privileges in FIYA are contingent upon continued compliance with this Regulations Manual, FIYA policies, and all applicable rules governing FIYA Athletic Events. FIYA reserves the right to impose disciplinary action upon any School that fails to comply with its membership obligations, financial obligations, eligibility requirements, codes of conduct, scheduling commitments, or other provisions of this Regulations Manual.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to: (a) Written warning; (b) Probationary status; (c) Assessment of fees or penalties; (d) Loss of eligibility for awards or playoff participation; (e) Suspension from a particular FIYA Athletic Event; (f) Suspension of membership privileges for a specified period; or (g) Termination of membership.

In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, FIYA may consider the nature and severity of the violation, whether the violation was intentional, the School's prior history of compliance, and the impact of the violation on FIYA, other participating Schools, student-athletes, officials, or FIYA Athletic Events.

Except in cases involving player safety, misconduct, fraud, or other circumstances requiring immediate action, FIYA will generally provide the School with notice of the alleged violation and an opportunity to respond before imposing suspension or termination. The determination of FIYA regarding disciplinary matters shall be final.

SECTION 3 — SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Article 3.1 Athletic Director Responsibilities

As part of its mission, FIYA is committed to assisting Schools with the formation and development of a strong athletic program. FIYA strongly recommends that each School maintain an athletic director or coordinator ("AD") to handle the administrative aspect involved with afterschool interscholastic youth sports. While each school should dictate the role and responsibilities of its athletic director, we offer the following main suggestions:

· The AD should be familiar with the contents of this Regulations Manual, understand FIYA's policies, procedures and calendar of athletic events, and maintain regular communication with FIYA including attending all mandatory meetings;

· The AD should (i) share important information with its school's coaches, players and parents, (ii) ensure that its coaches are properly trained and certified, (iii) create a sports environment where fun, sportsmanship and good character are emphasized more than winning and losing and (iv) ensure that its players, coaches and parents maintain proper perspective about the role of the sports program at the school at all times;

· The AD should be responsible for finding knowledgeable coaches for its various teams and assisting its coaches with developing a practice schedule that commences AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR to the team's first game. FIYA recommends that teams should practice at least twice a week throughout the season. The AD should supervise as many practices and games as possible. The AD should ensure that all of its school teams adhere to game schedules, including any modifications;

· The AD should assist the coach with having tryouts several weeks prior to the start of the season. While there is no mandatory roster number, we recommend carrying a minimum roster of two times the number of players required. For example, the ideal minimum number for basketball is 10, for volleyball is 12, for football is 14 etc. The AD should also know that a school may register multiple teams in a League Event. However, the rosters for each team must be kept separate and distinct; in other words, you cannot interchange players from the multiple teams;

· The AD should ensure that its teams have (i) the appropriate sports equipment along with first aid kits and (ii) school sports uniforms with a set of pennies of a different color as a backup; and

· To the extent that the school hosts FIYA athletic events, the AD should work with FIYA to ensure the playing facility is set up appropriately in accordance with FIYA guidelines.

Article 3.2 School Communications

Each School shall designate at least one authorized representative to serve as the primary point of contact with FIYA. FIYA strongly recommends that the School's athletic director/coordinator and principal be included in all official communications.

FIYA communicates general information, event information, schedules, deadlines, policy updates, and other matters through its designated communication channels, mainly email, registration platforms and the FIYA website. Each School is responsible for maintaining current contact information and regularly reviewing FIYA communications.

During the course of an Athletic Event season, FIYA's official communications shall be conducted through the School's administrators, athletic director/coordinator, and/or appointed coaches. FIYA will generally recognize and respond only to communications from authorized School representatives regarding Athletic Event administration, scheduling, eligibility, protests, and related matters.

Student-athletes, parents, family members, and spectators should direct questions, concerns, and requests through the School's administration or coaching staff rather than directly to FIYA.

A School's failure to review or receive communications due to outdated contact information or failure to monitor FIYA communication channels shall not relieve the School of its responsibilities under this Regulations Manual.

Article 3.3 Insurance Requirements

FIYA does not provide or make available health insurance for student athletes. A School needs to ensure that its student-athletes have the necessary health insurance coverage during the School’s participation in any FIYA Athletic Events.

Article 3.4 Centralized Facilities

FIYA organizes its League Events based first and foremost on centralized facilities available in geographical areas. Schools that serve as a centralized facility should review the FIYA Facility Memo set forth in Appendix B of the Regulation Manual.

The centralized facility model means multiple games each game day at a single facility. This model enhances the quality of the league, provides a safer and more enjoyable playing

atmosphere for all participants and reduces the administrative expenses. FIYA desires to work with its participating Schools who have facilities to host League Events. This policy can help host Schools who have acceptable playing venues on its campus to reduce their costs of transporting their athletes as well as reduce some of its registration costs.

FIYA also attempts to minimize a school's transportation distance to a centralized facility. Unless otherwise specifically instructed by a school, FIYA will always deem transportation distance as the primary factor when it places a school into one of its leagues. When a geographical area has enough participating schools and centralized facilities for more than one league, then FIYA considers the competitive aspects and attempts to group similar quality schools into the same league.

Article 3.5 Statistics and Marketing

As a nonprofit entity, FIYA's sustainability is aided by collecting data from participating schools. In light of this objective, schools agree to submit to FIYA prior to the completion of the regular season, certain data about its participating team's roster as it relates to age, ethnicity and such other pertinent information which may be useful to assist FIYA with its sustainability. In addition, FIYA's sustainability is aided by its marketing. Schools therefore that participate in FIYA agree to assist in this marketing to the extent practicable such as helping promote FIYA events and marketing FIYA signage on its campus.

SECTION 4 — ATHLETIC EVENTS

This Section 4 below deals with the process from the time of registration for an Athletic Event through to the end of the season including playoffs and awards. These administrative regulations should be read in conjunction with the game rules of the particular Athletic Event which can be found in the Appendix.

Article 4.1 Event Types

FIYA offers Athletic Events in a variety of sports throughout the school year. The specific sports, divisions, formats, dates, and registration requirements offered in any given year shall be determined by FIYA based on participant interest, facility availability, staffing, and other operational considerations.

Current Athletic Event offerings, sport-specific rules, schedules, and registration information shall be published on the FIYA website and/or in the Appendix to this Regulations Manual.

FIYA reserves the right to add, modify, suspend, or discontinue any Athletic Event. Schools may submit requests for FIYA to consider adding new sports or Athletic Events.

FIYA Athletic Events are classified either as League Events or as Tournament Events.

A. **League Events** - League Events are season-long competitions consisting of a regular-season schedule and, where applicable, postseason play. League Events typically occur over an approximately eight- to ten-week period and generally include seven to nine games.

   Division 1 League Events may culminate in county-wide playoffs for qualifying teams. Division 2 and Division 3 League Events do not include county-wide playoffs, as participant development and skill acquisition are the primary objectives of those divisions.

B. **Tournament Events -** Tournament Events are standalone competitions that typically occur on a single day. The same Tournament Event for a particular sport may be offered on multiple dates throughout a school year, thereby creating its own full season.

   Tournament Events may include individual competitions, team competitions, or a combination of both. Schools may participate in as many Tournament Events as they choose, subject to registration requirements and event capacity limitations.

Article 4.2 Athletic Events Offered

While demand will dictate the specific Athletic Events in a particular year, FIYA historically offers the following Athletic Events listed in Appendix M of this Regulations Manual as well as on the Sports page of the FIYA website (onfiya.org).

Article 4.3 Divisions

FIYA organizes its Athletic Events into three separate divisions:

Division 1 is the most competitive level and is primarily for student athletes in grades 7 and 8 who are enrolled in the school and meet the requirements set forth in the student athlete section of the FIYA Regulations Manual. There are county-wide playoffs for League Events in Division 1.

Division 2 is a development level and is primarily for student athletes in grades 5 and 6 who are enrolled in the school and meet the requirements set forth in the student athlete section of the FIYA Regulations Manual. There are no county-wide playoffs for League Events in Division 2.

Division 3 is an introductory level and is only for student athletes in grades 3 and 4 who are enrolled in the school and meet the requirements set forth in the student athlete section of the FIYA Regulations Manual. There are no county-wide playoffs for League Events in Division 3.

See Section 5 of this Regulations Manual for more regulations regarding participant requirements with respect to the three Divisions, including the ability to have student athletes in lower grades play up in a division.

Article 4.4 Registration and Fees

To participate in an Athletic Event, a School must submit the required registration through FIYA's designated registration platform by the applicable registration deadline. Current registration procedures, deadlines, and fees shall be published by FIYA.

A. Registration Fees - Unless otherwise specified by FIYA:

1. First-time participating Schools shall pay the applicable League Event Registration Fee at the time of registration.
2. Returning Schools shall pay the applicable League Event Registration Fee by the start of the League Event season.
3. Tournament Event Registration Fees shall be due in accordance with the payment schedule established for the particular Tournament Event.

B. Outstanding Balances - A School shall remain responsible for all fees, invoices, penalties, and other amounts owed to FIYA. FIYA reserves the right to deny registration, withhold participation privileges, suspend membership benefits, or take other appropriate action against any School with an outstanding unpaid balance.

C. Independent Contractors - The School acknowledges that referees, officials, scorekeepers, game operators, and similar event personnel engaged in connection with FIYA Athletic Events serve as independent contractors and not as employees of FIYA. The School further authorizes FIYA to utilize registration fees and other event-related payments to compensate such independent contractors for services provided in connection with FIYA Athletic Events.

Article 4.5 Refund Policy

A School shall ensure that its account balance with FIYA is paid in a timely fashion. Generally, there are no refunds given.

However, for League Events, if a School notifies FIYA in writing on or before the Drop Date (see Article 4.7 below), then a full refund shall be provided. For Tournament Events, a School generally will be billed for all the athletes that a School registers at the registration deadline regardless if the school and/or athlete subsequently are unable to compete.

Article 4.6 Preseason Meetings

Generally, there is a preseason video meeting for coaches to communicate important information regarding schedules, rules, procedures, eligibility requirements, sportsmanship expectations, and other event-related matters.

For League Events, these are generally live video meetings; for Tournament Events, these are generally pre-recorded video meetings. Specific information about particular video meetings can be found online on the home page of the particular Athletic Event.

Each participating School must have at least one coach for the applicable Athletic Event attend or review the preseason video meeting. A School's failure to attend or review a preseason meeting shall not excuse noncompliance with FIYA regulations, procedures, schedules, deadlines, or event-specific rules.

Article 4.7 Drop Date and Withdrawal

A School may withdraw a team from a League Event without financial penalty by providing written notice to FIYA on or before the applicable Drop Date.

For League Events, the Drop Date shall be the day immediately following the preseason meeting for the Athletic Event. If no preseason meeting is conducted, the Drop Date shall be the date designated by FIYA. For Tournament Events, the Drop Date shall generally coincide with the registration deadline unless otherwise specified by FIYA.

A School that withdraws a team after the applicable Drop Date shall remain responsible for the applicable registration fees and any other costs incurred by FIYA as a result of the withdrawal.

Schools that repeatedly withdraw teams after the Drop Date, fail to honor their registration commitments, or otherwise disrupt the scheduling and administration of Athletic Events may be subject to disciplinary action, including probation, suspension, restrictions on future registrations, or other measures deemed appropriate by FIYA.

Article 4.8 League Event Schedules

FIYA shall develop and publish game schedules for League Events. During registration, Schools shall identify any dates on which they are unavailable to compete, including school holidays and other known conflicts. Schools may also submit preferred playing days, times, or locations; however, such preferences cannot be guaranteed. If a School does not identify scheduling restrictions during registration, FIYA will assume that the School has no known scheduling conflicts.

A. **Draft Schedules -** FIYA will generally distribute a draft schedule prior to the start of the League Event season. Schools shall promptly review the draft schedule and notify FIYA of any unavoidable conflicts or errors within the timeframe established by FIYA. Schools are strongly encouraged to compare the draft schedule against their school calendars, facility schedules, and other commitments before requesting changes.

B. **Final Schedules -** After reviewing scheduling requests and making any necessary adjustments, FIYA shall publish a final schedule. Notification of the final schedule will be provided through FIYA's designated communication channels. The final schedule supersedes all draft schedules and prior scheduling communications. Schools are responsible for reviewing and complying with the final schedule as published by FIYA.

C. **Failure to Appear -** Teams are expected to participate in all scheduled contests appearing on the final schedule. A team that fails to appear for a scheduled contest without an approved rescheduling or withdrawal shall be assessed a forfeit. Forfeit penalties shall be applied in accordance with the standings and disciplinary provisions of this Regulations Manual. Repeated forfeits or failures to honor scheduled contests may

result in additional disciplinary action, including fines, probation, suspension, or restrictions on future participation.

Article 4.9 Rescheduling

FIYA recognizes that unforeseen circumstances may occasionally require a scheduled contest to be rescheduled. However, because schedules are developed after considering School availability, facility availability, and other operational factors, rescheduling requests should be rare. Schools are expected to honor all contests appearing on the final schedule and should make every reasonable effort to resolve scheduling conflicts internally before requesting a reschedule.

A. **Rescheduling Requests -** All requests to reschedule a contest must be submitted directly to FIYA by an authorized School representative. Schools shall not independently contact opponents, officials, or facilities regarding rescheduling requests. FIYA shall review each request and determine whether a rescheduling opportunity exists based upon factors including facility availability, personnel availability, opponent availability, timing, and overall event administration.

B. **Facility-Related Rescheduling -** If a contest cannot be played because a host facility becomes unavailable, FIYA will make reasonable efforts to reschedule the contest.

C. **School-Initiated Rescheduling Requests -** If a School experiences an unavoidable conflict after publication of the final schedule, the School may request that FIYA consider rescheduling the contest. Requests submitted at least five (5) business days before the scheduled contest shall be considered timely. If the opponent and facility are both able to accommodate the request, FIYA may approve a rescheduled contest. Once approved, the rescheduled contest becomes part of the official schedule. If an approved rescheduled contest is ultimately not played, FIYA may determine the outcome for standings purposes, including recording the contest as a tie.

D. **Effect of Notice Timing:**

    i. **Five (5) or More Business Days' Notice -** If timely notice is provided but the contest cannot be rescheduled due to opponent availability, facility limitations, or other circumstances beyond the requesting School's control, the requesting School shall generally be assessed a loss rather than a forfeit.

    ii. **More Than Two (2) but Fewer Than Five (5) Business Days' Notice -** The contest generally will not be rescheduled. The unavailable School shall be assessed a loss rather than a forfeit.

iii. **Two (2) or Fewer Business Days' Notice -** Failure to provide at least two (2) business days' notice may result in a forfeit loss and any applicable forfeit penalties.

E. **Failure to Appear -** A School's failure to attend a scheduled contest negatively impacts opponents, officials, facilities, and event operations. Schools shall not decline participation due to competitive performance, team records, disciplinary issues affecting individual student-athletes, or similar circumstances that do not prevent the team from fielding a roster. Repeated failures to honor scheduled contests may result in forfeits, fees, disciplinary action, or restrictions on future participation.

F. **Communication Method -** Schools should submit rescheduling requests via email only. Written communication is preferred to ensure accurate documentation and timely review.

Article 4.10 Game Administration

A. **Start times -** The official starting time for games is what is set forth in a final game schedule or the official playoff game schedule. Teams are encouraged to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their scheduled start time. Grace periods are subject to field/facility availability and the discretion of game officials in consultation with FIYA. Games may start earlier than the listed time if both teams and the officials agree to the earlier start time.

In the rare circumstances when a regular season game needs to be shortened rather than forfeited, it is considered an official game if the game is played to eighty percent (80%) of its normal duration. For volleyball, this means playing each set to 20 instead of 25 and the final set to 12 instead of 15. For timed League Event games, this is adjusting the running time of quarters or halves to be 80% of their normal length.

B. **Weather -** Unless otherwise notified by FIYA, Schools should assume that scheduled Athletic Events will proceed as planned. FIYA, in consultation with host facilities and site supervisors, shall determine whether Athletic Events should be canceled prior to their scheduled start due to weather or other unsafe conditions.

Contests generally will be played unless participant safety is compromised, including but not limited to: Unplayable field or court conditions; lightning; extreme heat; or other hazardous conditions.

If an Athletic Event is canceled before it begins, FIYA will make reasonable efforts to reschedule it; if it cannot be rescheduled, FIYA may record the contest as a tie for standings purposes.

C. Pre-Game Procedure - It is highly recommended that coaches introduce themselves to the opposing coaches, referees, game operators and/or facility hosts upon arrival to exchange any relevant information prior to the start of the game. If any pre-game issues arise, coaches are encouraged to communicate with FIYA via text message. As part of the pre-game procedure, coaches should gather their team for the FIYA Sportsmanship Pledge.

D. Reporting Game Results - Coaches should report the game result to FIYA within twenty-four (24) hours following completion of the contest. Only the sport, division, and winning and losing teams are required. Game scores are not used for standings purposes and generally do not need to be reported. Results may be submitted through any reporting method designated by FIYA, including email or text message.

Article 4.11 Standings and Tiebreaker Procedures

A. **Standings** - Unless otherwise provided, league standings will be recorded as follows: A win equals 3 points, a tie equals 1 point, a loss equals 0 point and a forfeit equals minus 3 points. In the event an overtime period is not played in a League Event *for whatever reason*, the game will be considered a tie. Scores of individual games are not kept and have no bearing on standings or Division 1 playoffs.

The team with the highest point total in the final standings is the League Event champion. If there is a tie amongst teams for first place, the head to head result is the League Event champion. If the head to head result does not provide resolution, then the tied teams are co-champions.

B. Tiebreaker Procedures for Division 1 Playoffs - When determining playoff qualification or playoff seeding among tied teams, FIYA shall apply the following tiebreakers in order:

(1) Head-to-Head Record;

(2) Highest Place Opponent; and

(3) Coin Flip.

The Highest Place Opponent tiebreaker compares the tied teams' results against the highest-placed team in the final standings not involved in the tie. If the tie remains unresolved, FIYA shall continue the comparison against the next highest-placed team not involved in the tie until the tie is resolved or all applicable teams have been considered.

The purpose of these procedures is to resolve ties based primarily on game results achieved during the season. A coin flip shall be used only as a last resort. Any coin flip shall occur during a video meeting to which representatives of the tied teams shall be invited.

See Appendix K for sample application of the tiebreaker procedure.

Article 4.12 Division 1 Playoffs

A. Purpose - FIYA conducts county-wide playoffs for qualifying Division 1 League Event teams. Playoffs are intended to provide student-athletes with an enhanced competitive experience, encourage school pride, and prepare participants for future interscholastic competition. Division 2 and Division 3 League Events do not have county-wide playoffs, as those divisions emphasize participation, skill development, and player growth.

B. Eligibility for Playoffs - A Division 1 League Event must consist of at least two (2) separate leagues in order for county-wide playoffs to be conducted. The number of playoff qualifiers from each league shall generally be as follows:

Number of Teams in League	Playoff Qualifiers
4-6	1-2
7-9	3-4
10-12	5-6

FIYA may consider additional qualifying teams when warranted by competitive circumstances. Such teams should generally have a league winning percentage of at least .500.

C. Playoff Divisions - Based upon the total number of playoff qualifiers and overall competitive balance, FIYA may organize multiple playoff divisions. As a general guideline, multiple playoff divisions are considered when there are at least sixteen (16) qualifying teams.

Playoff divisions may include: Division 1 – highest competitive level; Division 1A – intermediate competitive level; Division 1AA and/or Division 1AAA – developmental playoff levels.

FIYA may modify playoff structures as necessary based upon participation levels and competitive considerations.

D. **Competitive Placement -** FIYA recognizes that league standings alone do not always reflect the relative strength of playoff-qualifying teams. Accordingly, playoff placement is determined by comparing qualifying teams across all leagues participating in the League Event rather than solely by a team's finish within its own league. FIYA shall have final authority regarding playoff placement decisions.

E. **Factors Considered for Placement -** In determining playoff placement, FIYA may consider the following factors, listed generally in order of importance: (1) Current team talent level; (2) Results of contests between playoff-qualifying teams; (3) Coaching experience; (4) School size and available resources; (5) Age group composition of the team; and (6) Recent historical performance in the sport.

   The objective of playoff placement is to promote competitive balance and meaningful competition, not to maximize a team's likelihood of winning a championship. FIYA may solicit input from coaches, school representatives, game operators, and officials regarding appropriate playoff placement. Such input is advisory only; FIYA retains sole discretion regarding playoff placement and seeding decisions.

F. **Playoff Scheduling** - Because playoff scheduling is subject to facility availability and bracket requirements, FIYA cannot guarantee accommodation of scheduling requests. Priority may be given to hosting facilities and operational requirements. While FIYA will attempt to minimize travel when practical, competitive considerations take precedence during playoffs. Higher-seeded teams may receive first-round byes and/or be paired against lower-seeded opponents in accordance with the playoff bracket structure.

Article 4.13 Athletic Event Awards

A. **League Event Awards -** FIYA shall issue the following awards for League Events: (1) A League Championship Plaque to the first-place team in each league for all divisions; (2) If two or more teams tie for first place, the head-to-head result shall be used as the first tiebreaker; (3) If a tie remains after application of the head-to-head tiebreaker, each tied team shall be recognized as a co-champion and receive a League Championship Plaque; and (4) For Division 1 only, FIYA shall conduct county-wide playoffs and provide team and individual awards to playoff champions and finalists.

B. **Tournament Event Awards -** FIYA may issue the following awards for Tournament Events: (1) Team plaques to top-finishing teams in Divisions 1 and 2; (2) Individual ribbons and/or medals to top-finishing participants; and (3) Seasonal Tournament Champion awards for designated Tournament Events for Division 1 only.

Article 4.14 FIYA Awards Assembly

The FIYA Awards Assembly is an annual recognition event generally held in early June to honor outstanding Division 1 student-athletes. There are four (4) separate awards as follows:

A. ALL FIYA Athletic Teams - There are ALL FIYA Athletic Teams for League Events and ALL FIYA Athletic Teams for Tournament Events.

i. **For League Events**: FIYA recognizes outstanding athletes from Division 1 playoff teams. To be eligible, an athlete must be selected by their School as one of its most skilled players and compete on a team that qualifies for and participates in FIYA county-wide playoffs.

While FIYA may adjust nomination allocations when warranted by extenuating circumstances, nominations of All FIYA Athletic Teams for League Events are generally allocated as follows:

- Each Division 1 playoff team: one (1) nominee.
- Division 1 Finalist: up to two (2) nominees.
- Division 1 Champion: up to three (3) nominees.
- Division 1A qualifying teams: as determined by FIYA based on playoff structure but generally one (1) nominee for Elite 8 playoff teams.
- Division 1AA Champion and Finalist: one (1) nominee each.

ii. **For Tournament Events**: FIYA recognizes outstanding athletes from Division 1 teams that achieve predetermined qualifying standards in a Tournament Event of the same sport as delineated below:

1. **ALL FIYA Cross Country Team -** A Division 1 runner qualifies by satisfying either of the following:
    a. Option 1:
        i. Attend at least 75% of the season's meets; and
        ii. Finish in the top 20% of Division 1 runners at each competitive meet.

    b. Option 2:
        i. Attend at least 50% of the season's meets; and
        ii. Finish in the top 10% of Division 1 runners at each competitive meet.

For percentage calculations, qualifying positions shall be rounded up when appropriate.

2. **ALL FIYA Track & Field Team -** A Division 1 athlete qualifies by satisfying either of the following:

    a. Option 1:
        i. Attend at least 67% of the season's meets; and
        ii. Finish in the Top 6 of at least two individual events at each meet. Eligible individual events include: 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1600m, Long Jump, Shot Put, and Turbo Javelin.

    b. Option 2:
        i. Attend at least 50% of the season's meets; and
        ii. Accumulate qualifying points through Top 6 finishes exceeding the applicable threshold.
        iii. Qualified Thresholds: If the total number of track and field meets are
            1. 4 meets - athlete needs to exceed 44 points
            2. 5 meets - athlete needs to exceed 55 points
            3. 6 meets - athlete needs to exceed 66 points

B. ALL FIYA Academic Team - The ALL FIYA Academic Award recognizes graduating student-athletes from Qualifying Schools who demonstrate excellence in both academics and athletics.

A Qualifying School is one that fully participates in at least three (3) separate Division 1 League Events and/or Tournament Events. For a Tournament Event, a school must enter Division 1 athletes in more than 75% of the meets. A School can qualify for Boys, Girls or both. A Division 1 co-ed event may count toward qualification. Multiple Division 1 teams from the same school entered in the same event count as one (1) event.

Student Eligibility Requirements: (1) Graduating 8th-grade student; (2) Participation on at least two (2) qualifying Division 1 teams; and (3) Cumulative GPA of at least 3.90 for the school year. A Qualifying School must submit its All Academic members on the form in Appendix __ only by the established deadline. Failure to do so will result in no accepted nominations.

C. ALL FIYA Sportsmanship Team - The ALL FIYA Sportsmanship Award recognizes graduating student-athletes from Qualifying Schools who best exemplify the FIYA

Sportsmanship Pledge (see Article 6.3). A Qualifying School is defined in Article 4.14(B) above.

Each Qualifying School may nominate: One (1) male student-athlete; and/or one (1) female student-athlete. Nominations must be submitted on the official FIYA nomination form (see Appendix ___) by the established deadline. Nomination does not guarantee selection. FIYA shall review all nominations and determine final award recipients.

D. Shanese Washington Memorial Scholarship - FIYA shall award three (3) scholarships annually to members of the ALL FIYA Sportsmanship Team. Each scholarship recipient shall receive a $500 award. Recipients shall be selected by the scholarship committee based upon an essay submitted in response to the annual scholarship prompt.

SECTION 5 — PARTICIPANT STANDARDS

Article 5.1 Student Athlete Eligibility

In order to participate in FIYA, a student athlete must: (i) be a full-time student enrolled in the school he/she represents, (ii) maintain the school's academic standards for student athletes, including standards for conduct and effort and (iii) meet the grade and age requirements as set forth in Article 5.2 below.

Any student athlete enrolled in a home school program must petition FIYA to determine whether such athlete is allowed to play in FIYA for a particular school. Until such a petition is approved in writing, FIYA maintains the sole discretion on how to deal with a non-petitioned home school athlete.

With respect to the school's academic standards, including conduct and effort, each school is responsible for establishing and monitoring the academic progress of its student athletes. FIYA recommends an academic average of C in all core subjects.

If a school takes disciplinary action against a student that results in a student being suspended from school, then the suspended student shall not be eligible to participate in FIYA during the suspension. A school using a suspended player may face sanctions.

Article 5.2 Athlete Grade and Age Requirement

FIYA is for student athletes in grades 3 through 8. No high school student or students in grade 2 or below may participate in FIYA regardless of age.

Division 1: Except as stated below, a student athlete must be in either 7th or 8th grade for Division 1 participation. Regardless of grade level, a participant who is 15 years old on or before June 30 immediately preceding the school year may not participate in FIYA during that school year.

Division 2: Except as stated below, a student athlete must be in either 5th or 6th grade for Division 2 participation. Regardless of grade level, a participant who is 13 years old on or before June 30 immediately preceding the school year may not participate in Division 2 Athletic Events during that school year. However, such student athletes may participate in Division 1 Athletic Events.

For Division 3 participation, a student athlete must be either in 3rd or 4th grade to participate in FIYA Division 3 Athletic Events. There is no age requirement for this Division.

Exception to Grade Level: Players may compete in a higher division ("play up") in Divisions 1 and 2, but may not compete in a lower division ("play down"). For example, a 6th-grade student may play on a Division 1 team, but a 7th-grade student may not play on a Division 2 team; or a 4th-grade student may play on a Division 2 team, but a 5th-grade student may not play on a Division 3 team. Playing up should only be allowed if the School believes that there are no safety concerns involved for the younger age student athlete.

Article 5.3 School Team Rosters

Coaches should maintain a team roster which can be used to validate the eligibility of each team member, and schools may be asked to provide such eligibility verification as part of the required registration on FIYA's designated online platform or upon request.

A. Gender - In accordance with California law, student athletes may participate in Athletic Events consistent with their gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on school or official records. Gender identity designation shall be determined and certified by the participating school in consultation with the student and family. FIYA does not require medical documentation or legal documentation as a condition of participation.

Student-athletes may participate in FIYA designated boys, girls, or coed divisions consistent with their gender identity and FIYA sport-specific division structure. Schools are responsible for placing student-athletes on appropriate teams consistent with: FIYA division rules, safety considerations based on the sport, and applicable California law. FIYA may review placements only for compliance with eligibility rules (age, grade, roster limits, and division structure) or documented sport-specific safety concerns.

Female student athletes can play in a boys division so long as the school believes that there are no safety concerns; male student athletes cannot play in a girls division. If a school has a girls team and a boys team in the same sport during the same season, a female player cannot play on both teams but must choose one team only at the outset of the season.

B. Multiple Teams - If a school has multiple teams in the ***same*** division of a League Event, a student athlete may participate on only ONE of those teams throughout the season. Each team roster must be separate and distinct; no exchanging of players between teams is permitted.

If a school has multiple teams in different divisions of a League Event, a student-athlete may be moved between divisions only once during the season (provided all age and grade requirements in Article 5.2 are met). After being moved, the student-athlete may not return to the original team for the remainder of the season.

If a school has both a coed team and a single-gender team in the same sport during the same season, a student-athlete may participate on only one team. For example, a student-athlete may play either boys volleyball or coed volleyball, but not both in the same season. Or a student-athlete may play coed volleyball and boys soccer, as these are different sports.

C. **Roster Violations -** Any game in which a team is found to have used players in violation of this Article will be recorded as a -3 forfeit in the standings for the offending team, and a win for the offended team. Any school, team, or coach found to have repeatedly violated the above, with no time limitation, will be subject to further disciplinary action, including but not limited to prohibition of future participation in FIYA events for the school, disqualification from playoffs for the team, and/or suspension of the coach.

Article 5.4 Coach Role and Expectations

A School team cannot participate in an Athletic Event without the presence of a coach who has completed the certification requirements in Article 5.5. In addition, each coach shall conduct himself or herself as an educator and role model and shall act, speak, and dress in a professional manner.

Coaches are expected to promote and maintain appropriate conduct among the student-athletes and spectators affiliated with their team and shall take reasonable steps to address misconduct when it occurs. Coaches shall also model respect for game officials and support the orderly administration of FIYA Athletic Events.

FIYA recognizes the value of youth sports in promoting student development and participation. Coaches should strive to maximize meaningful participation opportunities for all student-athletes while balancing player development, team needs, safety considerations, and competitive circumstances.

In light thereof, coaches should regularly conduct practices on a weekly basis. FIYA recommends two practices per week during the season. In addition, FIYA recommends the following playing-time guidelines:

(a) Division 3: Each student-athlete should receive approximately equal playing time relative to teammates.

(b) Division 2: Each student-athlete should receive at least one quarter of playing time in each game whenever reasonably practicable.

(c) Division 1: Each eligible student-athlete should participate in every game whenever reasonably practicable.

These playing-time guidelines are aspirational and are not intended to create grounds for protests, forfeitures, or disciplinary action absent extraordinary circumstances.

Schools and coaches are encouraged to distribute and discuss the FIYA Adult Code of Conduct with parents and spectators prior to participation.

Article 5.5 Coach Certification Requirements

A school coach in FIYA shall: (A) be at least 18 years old; (B) complete the NAYS online coaching certification program; (C) have 1st Aid/CPR training, and (D) submit any necessary personnel documentation as required by the school for which he/she coaches. Both NAYS certification and 1st Aid/CPR training must be maintained in current status and renewed at least every three (3) years. No individual may serve as a coach until these requirements have been satisfied.

Because coaches serve under the authority of their respective Schools, each participating School shall be responsible for verifying compliance with these requirements and maintaining appropriate records. Each School shall also ensure that coaches successfully complete any criminal background screening required by applicable law, School policy, or the School's risk management procedures.

Absent prior written approval from FIYA, a coach may not simultaneously serve as a coach for teams representing different Schools in the same sport during the same season.

Article 5.6 Medical Responsibilities

Coaches should maintain a first aid kit and all emergency medical information for each player on the team at all practices and games.

SECTION 6 — PARTICIPANT CONDUCT

Article 6.1 Sportsmanship

Each student-athlete participating in FIYA shall at all times exhibit good sportsmanship toward teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, and spectators. FIYA reserves the right to investigate and impose discipline on any student-athlete whose conduct violates FIYA rules, disrupts competition, or undermines the principles of sportsmanship. Disciplinary action may include warnings, game suspensions, or additional penalties as determined by FIYA.

Article 6.2 Player Ejection and Game Management

Game officials have authority to eject a player from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct, rule violations, or behavior that materially disrupts the game.

1. Any ejected player shall automatically serve a minimum one (1) game suspension.
2. FIYA may impose additional suspension or disciplinary action based on the severity of the conduct.
3. FIYA may review any ejection and adjust penalties if warranted based on game reports, official statements, or additional information.

Game officials may temporarily remove a player from a game for a “cooling-off period” when necessary to: de-escalate conduct, maintain game control, or assist the player in regaining composure.

A cooling-off removal is not considered an ejection unless formally upgraded by the official. A player removed for a cooling-off period may re-enter the game only at the discretion of the game officials, in consultation with the coach.

Article 6.3 FIYA Pledge

Prior to each FIYA competition, teams shall gather and recite the FIYA Sportsmanship Pledge: I pledge to always show respect for my teammates, opponents, coaches and officials; to show good sportsmanship in both winning and losing; and to compete to the best of my ability at all times.

Article 6.4 Coach Conduct

A coach shall maintain a positive, professional, and respectful relationship with game officials and opposing coaches and players at all times. The FIYA standard is that coaches should limit communications with game officials during competition to matters involving rule interpretations, player safety, or game administration. Coaches shall not engage in prolonged arguments, abusive language, personal criticism, or conduct that undermines the authority of game officials.

When a coach believes it is necessary to discuss an issue with a game official, the discussion should occur calmly, respectfully, and, whenever practical, during a stoppage in play. Coaches are expected to model appropriate behavior for student-athletes, parents, and spectators.

Article 6.5 Coach Ejection and Discipline

A coach ejected from a game or competition shall automatically be suspended from the next two (2) scheduled FIYA games or competitions involving that team. During a suspension, a coach may not:

- Be present on the team bench or sideline;
- Direct the team during competition;
- Communicate with players, assistant coaches, or team personnel for the purpose of coaching during the competition.

A suspended coach's participation in a game or competition in violation of this section shall result in a forfeit by the offending team and may subject the coach and/or school to additional disciplinary action.

FIYA reserves the right to impose additional sanctions for serious misconduct, repeated violations, threats, harassment, discriminatory conduct, physical confrontation, or behavior that brings FIYA into disrepute. Additional sanctions may include extended suspensions, probationary status, or prohibition from participation in future FIYA events.

SECTION 7 — PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

Article 7.1 Admission

In light of FIYA's stated objectives (see Article 1.3), FIYA does not charge monetary admission to any of its Athletic Events. We believe getting parents involved with his or her child's school sports program strengthens the School and helps develop community spirit.

Article 7.2 Adult Code of Conduct

By attending a FIYA Athletic Event, each parent, family member or related spectator hereby agrees to the FIYA Adult Code of Conduct which is as follows:

> I understand that as a spectator I too represent my child's school and I will be a positive role model for my child and my child's teammates and coaches at all FIYA Athletic Events. I will treat EVERYONE in a respectful, courteous and professional manner.
>
> I will cheer POSITIVELY for my team and I will refrain from any negative cheering or comments directed toward any team or person including the officials and the coaches. Questioning or commenting on officials' calls or coaching from the sidelines are examples of negative cheering.
>
> Lastly, I acknowledge that I am responsible for the conduct of all of my family members and guests and I further acknowledge that any behavior exhibited by me or my family members or guests that is not consistent with this Adult Code of Conduct may result in me being banned from attending any future FIYA Athletic Events games.

Article 7.3 Spectator Discipline

FIYA, game officials, site supervisors, and facility representatives have the authority to address spectator misconduct in order to maintain a safe, positive, and educational environment for all participants.

A. **Removal from Venue -** Any spectator who engages in conduct that violates the FIYA Adult Code of Conduct, interferes with the administration of an Athletic Event, uses abusive, threatening, discriminatory, or profane language, confronts players, coaches, officials, or other spectators, or otherwise creates a disruption may be directed to leave the venue immediately.

Failure to comply with a directive to leave may result in suspension from future FIYA Athletic Events and may be referred to the hosting facility or appropriate authorities.

B. **Suspension from Athletic Events -** FIYA may suspend a spectator from attending future Athletic Events for conduct that violates the FIYA Adult Code of Conduct or otherwise undermines the safety, sportsmanship, or orderly administration of FIYA programs.

   A suspension may apply to a single Athletic Event, a particular sport season, or all FIYA Athletic Events, depending upon the nature and severity of the conduct.

   FIYA reserves the right to impose conditions for reinstatement, including written assurances of future compliance with the FIYA Adult Code of Conduct.

C. **School Responsibility -** Schools are expected to assist FIYA in maintaining appropriate spectator conduct and shall cooperate with any investigation of spectator misconduct.

   A school shall be responsible for communicating disciplinary actions imposed upon its parents, family members, and spectators and shall take reasonable steps to ensure compliance with such disciplinary actions.

   Repeated or serious spectator misconduct associated with a particular school may result in additional corrective measures imposed upon the school, including probationary status, restrictions on spectator attendance, or other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by FIYA.

D. **Effect on Student-Athletes -** FIYA recognizes that student-athletes should not ordinarily be penalized for the actions of adults. However, in exceptional circumstances involving repeated, serious, or unaddressed spectator misconduct, FIYA reserves the right to impose additional remedies necessary to protect the integrity, safety, and orderly administration of its Athletic Events.

Article 7.4 Photography/Video Recording

Spectators may photograph or videotape FIYA games from designated spectator areas, provided that such activity does not interfere with the game or create a safety concern. Photography or video recording is not permitted from the playing area, team bench areas, officials' areas, locker rooms, restrooms, or other restricted areas. FIYA and the host school reserve the right to restrict or prohibit photography or video recording when necessary for safety, security, game administration, or other legitimate event-management reasons. Unauthorized commercial use of photographs or video recordings of FIYA events is prohibited.

SECTION 8 — GRIEVANCES

Article 8.1 Complaints

A complaint is a written allegation that a school, coach, student-athlete, spectator, official, or other participant has violated the FIYA Regulations Manual, FIYA policies, or the principles of sportsmanship and fair play. Complaints may be submitted by a participating school administrator or certified coach and shall be submitted in writing to FIYA as soon as reasonably practicable after the alleged incident.

A complaint should include: (a) Date, time, and location of the incident; (b) Names of the individuals and/or teams involved; (c) A description of the alleged conduct or violation; and (d) Any supporting documentation or information available to the reporting party.

The filing of a complaint does not automatically result in disciplinary action. FIYA shall determine whether further investigation is warranted.

Article 8.2 Protests

A protest is a formal written objection alleging that a specific provision of the FIYA Regulations Manual was misapplied or violated in connection with an Athletic Event. Protests shall not be permitted regarding a game official's judgment calls, discretionary decisions, or interpretations made during competition.

All protests must: (a) Be signed by both a school administrator and a certified coach; (b) Be submitted in writing to FIYA within forty-eight (48) hours of the scheduled start time of the contest in question; (c) Identify the specific FIYA regulation alleged to have been violated; and (d) Include a factual account of the circumstances giving rise to the protest.

A protest that does not satisfy the requirements of this section may be denied without further review.

Article 8.3 Investigation Procedures

FIYA reserves the right to investigate any matter that appears to conflict with the FIYA Regulations Manual, regardless of whether a formal complaint or protest has been submitted. As part of an investigation, FIYA may request information from schools, coaches, student-athletes, spectators, game officials, facility representatives, or other persons with relevant knowledge.

FIYA may review documents, rosters, game reports, communications, photographs, video recordings, or other relevant evidence. The scope and manner of any investigation shall be determined by FIYA based upon the nature and severity of the alleged violation.

FIYA shall endeavor to issue a written decision within three (3) business days of receiving a complaint or protest. However, FIYA may extend this timeframe when additional investigation is reasonably necessary.

Article 8.4 Sanctions

Upon determining that a violation of the FIYA Regulations Manual has occurred, FIYA may impose one or more of the following sanctions:

(a) Written warning;

(b) Game result modification or forfeit;

(c) Loss of standings points;

(d) Probationary status;

(e) Suspension of a student-athlete, coach, spectator, or school representative;

(f) Disqualification from playoffs, tournaments, awards, or other FIYA activities;

(g) Restriction of spectator attendance;

(h) Suspension of a school from participation in specific Athletic Events;

(i) Termination or revocation of FIYA membership; and

(j) Any other corrective action deemed appropriate by FIYA to protect the integrity, safety, and orderly administration of FIYA Athletic Events.

In determining the appropriate sanction, FIYA may consider the severity of the violation, prior violations, intent, cooperation during the investigation, and any mitigating or aggravating circumstances. The decision of FIYA shall be final unless an appeal process is specifically provided elsewhere in these Regulations.

SECTION 9 — APPENDICES

Appendix A - Frequently Asked Questions

Appendix B - Facility Host Memo

Appendix C - Basketball Rules

Appendix D - Cheer/Dance Rules

Appendix E - Cross Country Rules

Appendix F - Flag Football Rules

Appendix G - Futsal Rules

Appendix H - Soccer Rules

Appendix I - Track & Field Rules

Appendix J - Volleyball Rules

Appendix K - Playoff Tiebreaker Examples

Appendix L - Forms

- Sportsmanship Nomination
- Academic Award Form

Appendix M - Athletic Events Offered Throughout Calendar Year