



**BY-LAWS
OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION**

These bylaws shall govern the operations of the District of Columbia State Athletics Association (DCSAA), which is established to serve public schools, public charter schools and those independent schools who agree to abide the rules and regulations governing interscholastic athletics in the District of Columbia. DCSAA was established to serve all institutions participating in interscholastic athletics by providing leadership and support for athletic programming that will enrich the education experiences of all student athletes.

The State Superintendent of Education is required by section 3 (b) (11) of the District of Columbia State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000, effective October 21, 2000, (D.C. Law 13-176; D.C. Official Code § 38-2602 (b) (11) (2010 Supp.), to establish rules and regulations governing athletic programs for all interscholastic students in the District of Columbia. These rules and regulations are incorporated into these Bylaws by reference.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this document:

- “DCSAA” means the District of Columbia State Athletic Association.
- “ABIA” means the Advisory Board on Interscholastic Athletics.
- “Independent LEA” means a private, parochial and/or independent local education agency that has agreed to be bound by the terms and conditions governing the DCSAA public schools and public charter schools and paid the appropriate dues.
- “Superintendent” means the State Superintendent for the District of Columbia.
- “Athletic Appeals Panel” means panel composed of three people appointed by the State Superintendent of Education on a case by case basis.
- public school – a District of Columbia Public School (DCPS), a District of Columbia Public Charter School or an independent school seeking to participate in District wide competitions sponsored by the DCSAA.

ARTICLE I - NAME

This organization shall be known as the District of Columbia State Athletics Association.

ARTICLE II – MISSION

Sec. 1 There is established the District of Columbia State Athletics Association (DCSAA). The DCSAA is established to serve public schools, public charter schools, and independent schools who agree to abide the rules and regulations governing interscholastic athletics in the District of Columbia. DCSAA was established to serve all institutions participating in interscholastic athletics by providing leadership and support for athletic programming that will enrich the education experiences of all student athletes. Promoting the educational significance of interscholastic athletics by -





- (a) Ensuring that interscholastic sports are compatible with the educational mission of the member schools;
- (b) Providing for fair competition between member schools;
- (c) Promoting sportsmanship and ethical behavior;
- (d) Establishing and enforcing standards of conduct for athletes, coaches, administrators, officials and spectators; and
- (e) Protecting the physical well-being of athletes and promoting healthy adolescent lifestyles.

Sec. 2 To these ends, the DCSAA schools will work subordinate to and in cooperation with the State Superintendent and the Statewide Director of Athletics toward full implementation of the rules and regulations governing interscholastic athletics in the District of Columbia.

ARTICLE III – OBJECTIVES

Sec. 1 The DCSAA schools shall:

- (a) Ensure athlete safety;
- (b) Minimize risks;
- (c) Deter exploitation of students;
- (d) Ensure that competing school teams are appropriately supervised by a responsible entity;
- (e) Maintain athletics as an integral part of the total educational program;
- (f) Promote competitive fairness;
- (g) Foster student leadership; and
- (h) Encourage academic progress.

Sec. 2 The DCSAA schools shall promote gender equity and equal access to athletic opportunity.

Sec. 3 The DCSAA schools shall perform all other responsibilities as stated in the DCSAA Handbook and DCMR Title 5, Chapter 27.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1 All public schools and public charter school athletic program are governed by DCMR 5; Chapter 27 and are for the purposes of the DCSAA are automatically covered under the governance umbrella of the State Athletic Office. Independent schools in the District of Columbia that agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the governing documents of the DCSAA and pay the appropriate membership dues may become members. Application for membership to the DCSAA must be made by August 1 of any school year.

Sec. 2 An Independent school having become a member of the DCSAA shall continue as a member until such time as it withdraws its membership; provided that, the school's membership status is not changed due to an involuntary reason.





ARTICLE V – ORGANIZATION

Sec. 1 All DCSAA participating schools must abide by the regulations, guidelines, and other policies (collectively, “rules and regulations”) of the DCSAA.

Sec. 2 Leagues may be formed by LEA’s for the purpose of regulating and administering local athletic events. The rules enacted by any league must be in accordance with, or more restrictive than, those of the DCSAA.

ARTICLE VI – DIRECTORS

Sec. 1 The State Superintendent delegates to the Executive Director the power and authority to manage all affairs of the DCSAA.

Sec. 2 The Statewide Athletics Director shall serve as the permanent Executive Director of the DCSAA.

Sec. 3 There shall be three (3) members on the Board of Directors. The OSSE Statewide Athletics Director shall be one member and shall appoint two (2) other OSSE staff members upon approval of the State Superintendent. The State Superintendent or the Executive Director, with the approval of the State Superintendent, may remove and replace a director at any time.

Sec. 4 The director positions shall include the Executive Director, and two other subordinate positions as deemed necessary by the Executive Director.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Sec. 1 The Executive Director may hold regularly scheduled meetings to inform and engage the member LEAs, as the Executive Director deems necessary or at the request of a majority of the participating LEAs.

Sec. 2 Notice of all DCSAA meetings shall be published on the OSSE website.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

The Executive Director may amend these bylaws upon approval of the State Superintendent.

