



Engaging Your Middle School Program
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2019 NFHS Summer Meeting – Indianapolis, Indiana



ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

- **930 member schools (5th – 8th grade)**
- **Sports and activities offered include:**
 - BOYS – baseball, basketball, wrestling**
 - GIRLS – basketball, softball, volleyball**
 - BOYS & GIRLS – bowling, cross country, golf, track & field**
 - ACTIVITIES – cheer, chess, music, scholastic bowl, speech**



BENEFITS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

- Increase the base of participants for high school
- Teach responsibility and commitment to a team
- Teach correct fundamentals early as the focus is education-based
- Use NFHS rules to teach but modify rules as needed – offers adaptability for younger students

BENEFITS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

- **Start the journey of interscholastic participation early**
- **Model ways to represent their school**
- **Create a culture that follows students**
- **Provide access and exposure to competition when club/travel is not geographically available or financially affordable for families**



HOW TO ENGAGE YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- **Provide guidance for pre-season meetings to inform parents and students of expectations**
- **Schools have the choice to have multiple levels**
- **Recognize middle school champions at high school state finals to provide exposure to what is ahead**
- **Student Leadership Conference**



HOW TO ENGAGE YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Is an intramural program already offered?
- Which activities (inside/outside of school) has the highest student interest?
- What would be easy to incorporate? Consider other schools in the area who would be willing to schedule competition, cost-effective activities, etc.



HOW TO ENGAGE YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- **How involved does the state association want to be?
Consider if middle schools would be an “affiliate member” of the state high school association.**
 - Can there be a point person in the state association office to be the middle school liaison?
 - Can a state series or championship be conducted?
 - Can you provide rules for middle schools to follow?

TMSAA

Tennessee Middle School
Athletic Association



Why Engage Your Middle School Programs

- Education Based Athletics
- Learn and Follow Basic Eligibility Rules
- Sportsmanship
- Student Involvement

Historical Information

- In 1995, Ronnie Carter selected the first TMSAA Committee which consisted of 6 Middle School Principals. Mr. Childress sat on this committee.
- They wanted Middle Schools to be affiliate members of the TSSAA.
 - Set of rules that everyone had to follow, specifically eligibility rules regarding age and academics
 - Benefit of catastrophic insurance
- The committee felt that the new Middle School Association should follow the TSSAA Bylaws as closely as possible. They only made exceptions where absolutely necessary. We have stayed true to this philosophy over the years.
- There were 69 member schools.

The Middle School Athletic Association

The Middle School Athletic Association is an affiliate of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association. All expenses associated with the formation and operation of the Middle School Athletic Association shall be borne by the member schools of such Association.

Failure to meet the financial obligations of the Middle School Athletic Association will result in the immediate dissolution of the Middle School Athletic Association.

Organization

- Administrative Body – TSSAA Board of Control
- Legislative Body – TSSAA Legislative Council
- Advisory Committee – TMSAA Committee
 - Made up of 9 representatives – each is a school or school system administrator
 - 3 from each area of the state – East, Middle, and West
 - Meets twice a year prior to Board of Control meetings
 - Makes recommendations to the Board regarding Bylaws, Regulations, and Policies
 - Serves as liaison to their area schools
 - Helps set classifications
 - Helps organize and direct their area and sectional tournaments

TMSAA Dues

NOTE: All **TSSAA** member schools, which contain 8th graders, may become a member of the **TMSAA** by simply checking TMSAA on their TSSAA membership invoice. They do not have to pay a separate fee in order to be a TMSAA member.

For All other Schools:

- \$100.00 – Membership Dues
- \$200.00 – Catastrophic Insurance
- \$40.00 per Non-faculty Coach – Maximum of \$100.00
- \$5.00 per football player – Catastrophic Insurance Assessment
- \$100 For Cross Country Championship Series Fee
- \$100 For Track and Field Championship Series Fee

Education Based Athletics

- **Mission:** The TMSAA will promote participation and sportsmanship to develop good citizens through interscholastic athletics, which provide equitable opportunities, positive recognition and learning experiences to students while maximizing the achievement of educational goals.
- **Ideal:** Extension of the classroom
- **Leadership:** Principal or designee is in charge
- **Academic Rule:** To be eligible a student must be academically promoted to the next grade level.
- **Removing Team from Contest:** School fined \$500 and playing of games suspended until meeting at TSSAA office.

Learn and Follow Basic Eligibility Rules

Age Rule: No student is eligible to compete if they turn 15 on or before August 1. This rule is in line with the high school age rule.

Transfer Rule: Any student with an athletic record who changes schools without a Bona Fide Change of Address is ineligible 12 months from his/her last game of participation.

Homeschool Rule: Homeschool eligible students can participate at the local school.

Learn and Follow Basic Eligibility Rules

Bylaw publications are the same except rules that “Do Not Apply to TMSAA”

Numbers of Contests are less at the middle school level.

Sports Calendar: TMSAA has three seasons: Fall, Winter, and Spring. While each school can decide which season they want to play their sports, in order to participate in a TMSAA state championship, the school must play in the season TMSAA offers that state championship.

Sportsmanship

- The TMSAA and its member schools believe strongly that the major purpose of athletics at the secondary level is to be a part of the total educational program. A major part of this purpose is to stress to coaches, players, officials, and fans the vital importance of sportsmanship. It is critical that all people in each of these categories understand the major role that they play and the role model that they can be for others.

Sportsmanship

- **Administrators' Meeting**
- **Announcements During Contests**
- **Printed Materials**

Sportsmanship

- **Player Ejection:** Suspended for 2 contest and a meeting must be held involving athlete, parent, administrator, and coach.
- **Coach Ejection:** Suspended for 2 contest and the school is fined \$250. Also a meeting must be held involving coach, Principal, and Director of Schools.
- **Fans on Playing Field:** School fined \$250

Student Participation

- In 2010-2011 School Year, TMSAA had **302** members.
- In 2018-2019 School Year, TMSAA has over **400** members and 40,929 students participate in school athletics.
- 43 schools added track and cross country since 2015.

State Championships

- Since 1996, TSSAA has had a cheer and dance competition for Middle School. The event grows more and more each year.
- In 2015, TMSAA added State Championships in Cross Country and Track & Field. We have Four Sectionals across the state, and the qualifiers advance to the State Championship.
 - In Cross Country, we have two classes with over 460 athletes competing at the State Championship.
 - In Track & Field, we have two classes with over 1200 athletes competing at the State Championship.
- The Sectional and Championship for both sports is a one day meet.
- TMSAA charges admission at the championship events and also has shirt sales.
- The local CVB in each city that we have Championship Events pays TMSAA a bid fee that helps with expenses.

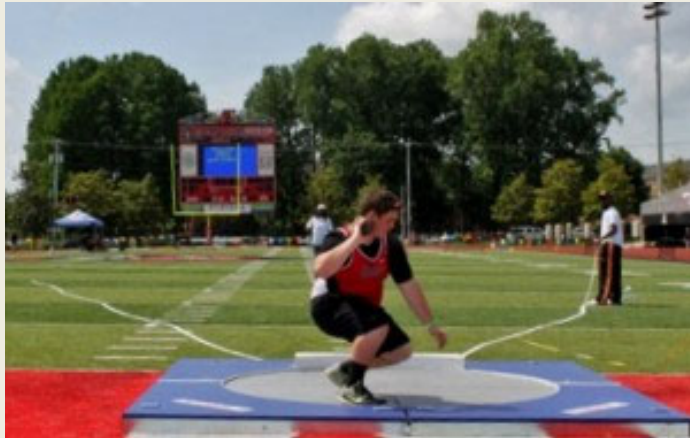
State Championships

- In 2018-2019, TMSAA added Basketball State Championships.
 - TMSAA has had Sectional Tournaments in Basketball since 1996, but didn't advance the winners to a State Championship.
- TMSAA had three classes in basketball and brought the Sectional Champion to the State. This was a Final Four event.
- TMSAA will be looking at adding Softball and Baseball in future years.

Cross Country State Championships



Track & Field State Championships



TMSAA



Questions