



National Federation of State High School Associations



Take Part.
Get Set For Life.®



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION – HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) is the national leadership organization for high school athletic and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,500 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.9 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; publishes a national magazine that is available to all high schools; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; provides online education courses for coaches, administrators, officials, parents, students, music/speech educators and others; and serves as a national information resource for interscholastic athletics and activities.

The national office staff of approximately 40 employees serves its 50 member state high school athletic/activity associations, plus the District of Columbia. The national office is located in Indianapolis, Indiana.

About 30 percent of the operating revenue for the NFHS comes from sales of publications and other products. Other major sources of revenue are educational programs (24 percent); membership dues from professional organizations for coaches, officials, speech/debate coaches and music educators (17 percent); and contributions, royalties and sponsors (16 percent).



***Dr. Karissa Niehoff** joined the staff August 1, 2018 as the sixth full-time executive director of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). She is the first female to head the NFHS and the second woman to serve as director of a national sports organization in the United States. Niehoff joined the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference-Connecticut Association of Schools (CIAC-CAS) in July 2010 as deputy executive director and assumed the executive director's position in January 2011. She began her career in Connecticut public education in 1989 as a physical education, health and Latin teacher at Greenwich High School. In the succeeding years, she was a teacher, coach, athletic director, assistant principal and principal at the middle school and high school levels. In addition to coaching track and field and basketball, she won one state championship in Connecticut as a field hockey coach. Niehoff earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, a master's from Southern Connecticut State University, a sixth-year degree in educational leadership from Central Connecticut State University and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Connecticut.*

Mission Statement



The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) serves its members by providing leadership for the administration of education-based high school athletics and activities through the writing of playing rules that emphasize health and safety, educational programs that develop leaders, and administrative support to increase participation opportunities and promote sportsmanship.

CORE BELIEFS AND VALUES

We Believe

Student participation in education-based high school athletics and activities:

- Is a privilege.
- Enriches the educational experience.
- Encourages academic achievement.
- Promotes respect, integrity and sportsmanship.
- Prepares for the future in a global community.
- Develops leadership and life skills.
- Fosters the inclusion of diverse populations.
- Promotes healthy lifestyles and safe competition.
- Encourages positive school/community culture.
- Should be fun.

The NFHS:

- Serves as the national authority that promotes and protects the defining values of education-based high school athletics and activities in collaboration with its member state associations.
- Serves as the national authority on competition rules while promoting fair play and seeking to minimize risk of injury for student participants in education-based high school athletics and activities.
- Promotes lifelong health and safety values through participation.
- Develops and delivers impactful, innovative and engaging educational programs to serve the changing needs of state associations, administrators, coaches, directors, officials, students and parents.
- Provides professional development opportunities for member state association staffs.
- Promotes cooperation, collaboration and communication with and among state associations.
- Collects and provides data analysis in order to allow its membership to make informed decisions.

Organization

NATIONAL COUNCIL

The legislative body of the NFHS is the National Council, which consists of one representative from each member state association. The Council meets twice each year, and each member state association has one vote. The Council has the authority to enact amendments to the NFHS Constitution and Bylaws and to elect representatives to the NFHS Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The administration of the NFHS is vested in the Board of Directors, which is elected by the National Council from the membership of the governing boards or chief executive officers of the member state associations.

The 12-member Board of Directors meets four times a year and is composed of one representative from each of the eight geographical sections, with the remaining four members elected at-large on a prescribed basis.

The Board of Directors is authorized to provide office facilities and an executive director, who then is responsible for hiring necessary employees for the proper conduct of the business of the NFHS; approving an annual budget; establishing standing committees, including rules committees and special committees; establishing procedures for the formulation, publication and/or distribution of playing rules; establishing policies for sanctioning of interstate and international competition; and determining the existence of violations of the NFHS Constitution or Bylaws.



In her last meeting as a member of the Board of Directors before becoming executive director, Dr. Karissa Niehoff visits with Bob Gardner, outgoing executive director.



COMMITTEES

NFHS committees are organized so that all geographic sections of the United States are represented and all states within each section have an opportunity to participate. The NFHS has 17 sports and activity committees, and 14 general committees organized for specific duties.

The 17 sports and activity committees are Baseball Rules Committee, Basketball Rules Committee, Field Hockey Rules Committee, Football Rules Committee, Girls Gymnastics Rules Committee, Ice Hockey Rules Committee, Boys Lacrosse Rules Committee, Girls Lacrosse Rules Committee, Music Committee, Soccer Rules Committee, Softball Rules Committee, Speech Committee, Spirit Rules Committee, Swimming and Diving Rules Committee, Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Committee, Volleyball Rules Committee and Wrestling Rules Committee.

The 14 general NFHS committees are the Annual Summer Meeting Advisory Committee, Appeal Board, Coaches Association Advisory Committee, Education Committee, Hall of Fame Screening Committee, High School Today Publications Committee, National Athletic Directors Conference Advisory Committee, National High School Spirit of Sport Award Selection Committee, National High School Heart of the Arts Award Selection Committee, National Records Committee, Officials Association Advisory Committee, Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, Student Services Committee and Technology Committee.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



High School Activity Programs



At a cost of only one to three percent (or less in many cases) of a typical school's overall budget, high school activity programs are one of the best bargains around. It is in these vital programs – sports, music, speech, theatre, debate – where young people learn lifelong lessons as important as those taught in the classroom.

From interscholastic sports to music, theatre and debate, activities enrich a student's high school experience, and the programs must be kept alive. High school athletic and performing arts activities promote citizenship and sportsmanship. They instill a sense of pride in community, teach teamwork and self-discipline, and facilitate the physical and emotional development of our nation's youth.



Activities support the academic mission of schools. They are not a diversion, but rather an extension of a good educational program. Students who participate in activity programs tend to have higher grade-point averages, better attendance records, lower dropout rates and fewer discipline problems than the general student body. Survey information on the benefits of activity programs is available in **“The Case for High School Activities”** on the NFHS website.

Activity programs are inherently educational. Activity programs provide valuable lessons for practical lifelong situations in the work environment – teamwork, sportsmanship, winning and losing, and hard work. Participation in activity programs often is a predictor of later success – in college, a career and becoming a contributing member of society.

Participation in athletic and performing arts activities continues to rise, which reflects the interest and support of the wide range of programs provided for girls and boys by the nation’s high schools.

The most recent high school athletics participation survey conducted by the NFHS (2017-18) indicated 7,980,886 student participants in high school athletics in the 19,505 U.S. high schools that are members of NFHS-member state associations. When combined with those students involved in other programs such as speech, music, theatre, debate and band, there are more than 12 million student participants in high school activities each year. In addition, more people attend interscholastic athletics than any other level of competition of sports in America.



Services/Programs

AUTHENTICATING MARK

Beginning with the 2000-01 school year, the NFHS implemented the Authenticating Mark Program. Manufacturers are required to display the NFHS Authenticating Mark on the following balls/pucks used in interscholastic competition: baseballs, basketballs, field hockey balls, footballs, ice hockey pucks, lacrosse balls, soccer balls, softballs, volleyballs and water polo balls. As of the 2018-19 school year, about 50 manufacturers were a part of the Authenticating Mark Program.



This program helps promote a level playing field by ensuring consistency in the equipment being used in NFHS-sanctioned interscholastic competition. It also generates revenue to support additional services to benefit student-athletes, athletic administrators, coaches and officials. Finally, the mark allows the development of more sophisticated standards in balls and pucks.

DEVELOPMENT

The NFHS has an active Development Department that includes 24 Corporate Partners (as of the start of the 2018-19 school year). These companies receive many benefits, including – but not limited to – exposure in *High School Today* magazine, on the NFHS website and at the two major national conferences. Corporate partners have the ability to use the NFHS logo on approved material, and sport-specific corporate partners receive a cover advertisement in the applicable rules publications.

NFHS NETWORK

The NFHS Network, a first-of-its-kind, all-digital network, was started in 2013 by the NFHS, PlayOn! Sports and participating NFHS member associations to showcase high school student-athletes participating in 27 sports covered by the Network. As of the 2018-19 school year, more than 75,000 live high school sports events are delivered online annually. In addition, more than 1,500 schools are a part of the School Broadcasting Program. These school-produced events have accounted for more than 70 percent of the content on the NFHS Network. The NFHS Network can be accessed at www.NFHSNetwork.com.



SANCTIONING

Interscholastic activities exist because they provide educational opportunities for youth. When this objective is not accomplished, there is no educational reason for conducting an activities program. Sanctioning by the NFHS guarantees that approved events adhere to sound and detailed criteria that meet the specific requirements of the state association from which a school(s) has been invited to participate. The NFHS sanctioning program has the primary purpose of protecting the welfare of high school students. Also, it seeks to protect the existing programs sponsored by member schools.

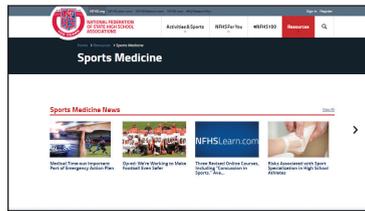
STRATEGIC PLAN

Many of the tasks in the current 2016-2021 NFHS Strategic Plan have been completed or are in the works as of the 2018-19 school year. The five-year roadmap was organized into five Strategic Priorities: Health and Safety, Public Relations/Communications, Education, Technology and Constituent Relationships.

Among the goals initiated or completed in the first year were placing Automated External Defibrillators in schools without AED units, utilizing a national public-relations firm to promote the values of sports participation, developing a task force to assess interest in national events/championships, increasing use of social media to communicate messages, increasing use of video to assist in communication with the membership, continuing expansion of the NFHS Learning Center, updating of the NFHS website, updating of the NFHS membership system, and evaluating ways to increase membership in NFHS professional organizations.

WEBSITE

General information on the NFHS can be found online at www.nfhs.org. Speech, debate, theatre and music news; latest press releases; figures from the annual athletics participation survey, and case studies pointing out the benefits of high school activity programs are included. Information also is included on membership in the NFHS professional organizations, as well as a list of NFHS publications and products. The website also contains information on awards, NFHS meetings and conferences, sanctioning, sports medicine, NFHS Authenticating Mark and sport-specific information in the 17 sports for which the NFHS writes rules.



NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

The National High School Sports Hall of Fame was started by the NFHS in 1982 to properly recognize high school athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and others for their outstanding contributions to and/or accomplishments in high school athletics. In 2003, individuals in the fine arts area became eligible for induction, and the name was changed to the National High School Hall of Fame. A total of 470 individuals have been enshrined through the first 36 induction classes. A special display listing all members of the Hall of Fame, which includes plaques of the current class, is located at the entrance of the NFHS national office. Plaques of all previous classes are housed at the respective state high school associations across the country. An annual induction ceremony is held in conjunction with the NFHS Summer Meeting.

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

In addition to information regarding alcohol and other drugs, the NFHS provides resources on performance-enhancing drugs, gender and ethnicity concerns, sportsmanship, hazing prevention, eating disorders, Title IX materials, the values of activity programs, and many other issues that affect high schools across the country.

Through the leadership of the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, materials on all aspects of sports medicine are provided on the NFHS website. The NFHS has led the way among national athletic organizations in the promotion of concussion management in high school sports.

NFHS FOUNDATION

The NFHS Foundation serves the interests of young people who participate in interscholastic sports and performing arts activities by awarding grants for research and program development in the areas of student leadership, character education and sports risk minimization.

Established in 1996, the NFHS Foundation has awarded more than \$1 million in grants to state high school activity associations for programs promoting citizenship and leadership and to injury surveillance programs designed to provide education regarding reducing risk to students who participate in high school sports. To learn more about the NFHS Foundation, go to www.nfhsfoundation.org.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE TOPIC

Since 1979, the NFHS has coordinated the selection of the National High School Debate Topic. The topic selected through the extensive selection process is debated annually by the approximately 200,000 students involved in high school debate programs. Issues that are timely, of significant interest and balanced are among the factors considered in selecting a topic. Some of the topics that have been debated by high school students are immigration, national health insurance, agricultural policy, pollution, juvenile crime, right of privacy, education, weapons of mass destruction, civil liberties, United Nations, national service, Africa, alternative energy, poverty, military presence, surveillance, oceans and Latin America.

PLAYING RULES

NFHS playing rules, available in 17 sports for boys and girls, govern virtually all high school competition in the United States. NFHS rules cover the sports of baseball, basketball, cross country, field hockey, football, girls gymnastics, ice hockey, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, soccer, softball, spirit, swimming and diving, track and field, volleyball, water polo and wrestling.

The rules-writing program, which stresses “grassroots” input, was initiated in order for high schools, coaches, athletic administrators and interscholastic officials to have direct influence in developing rules.

NFHS playing rules are written specifically for varsity competition among student-athletes of high school age and are intended to maintain the sound traditions of the sport, encourage sportsmanship and minimize the inherent risk of injury for participants.



PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The **NFHS Officials Association** is open to high school contest officials and has about 130,000 members. Members receive general liability and excess accident medical insurance coverage; exclusive online educational content, including searchable NFHS rules/case database, feature articles, video and animation of NFHS rules and mechanics and other NFHS publications; eligibility for state, sectional and national awards; and the opportunity for service on NFHS rules committees.

The **NFHS Coaches Association**, with a membership of about 30,000 high school coaches nationwide, offers \$1 million excess liability insurance; online articles for high school coaches; eligibility for state, sectional and national awards program; opportunity for service on NFHS rules committees; and exclusive online services, including rules and case books and other educational materials.

The **NFHS Music Association** works to identify and meet the common needs of music educators who participate in, or sponsor, high school music activities, which are an educational extension of the school music curriculum. Members have access to the online NFHS Music Association Journal, as well as liability insurance coverage while acting in the capacity of a school music director or music contest/festival adjudicator or manager.

The **NFHS Speech, Debate & Theatre Association** provides in-service training, shares information on coaching skills, assists state coordinators with development of programs and provides high school directors with opportunities for professional development. Members have online access to the NFHS speech, debate and theatre publications and receive liability insurance coverage while acting in the capacity of a school speech, debate or theatre director.



NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM

In addition to the National High School Hall of Fame, the NFHS annually presents awards to many outstanding and worthy individuals.

The **Award of Merit** is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to the NFHS and activity programs at the national level, or whose actions and involvement have resulted in a notable impact on high school activities nationally. This award is not automatically presented every year.

The **National High School Spirit of Sport Award** is annually given to eight section recipients and one national recipient. The award seeks to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics.

The **National High School Heart of the Arts Award** is presented annually to eight section recipients and one national recipient. The award seeks to recognize individuals or groups who exemplify the “heart” of positive participation with activities that represent the core mission of education-based performing arts programs.

The **American Tradition Award** may be presented to a corporation, foundation, organization or individual which has made a major financial or in-kind service contribution to the NFHS or high school activities on a national level. This award is not automatically given every year.

NFHS Citations may be awarded to individuals whose contributions have impacted high school activity programs through their association with one of the following groups of professionals: state association administrators; athletic directors; coaches; officials; music adjudicators and directors; and speech, debate and theatre directors.

The **State Award for Outstanding Service** may be presented to individuals to recognize a record of longstanding service and dedication to the NFHS within a specific sport, or for a significant contribution to high school activity programs.

Education Services

NFHS LEARNING CENTER

Since the first online education courses for coaches were offered in 2007, more than seven million courses have been delivered to high school coaches, students, administrators, officials, music and speech educators, parents and others through the NFHS Learning Center at www.NFHSLearn.com. Originally designed for high school coaches, the NFHS Learning Center now has online education courses for administrators, officials, speech and music educators, and students. The Learning Center hosts more than 60 online courses and about half of the courses are free of charge. The most popular of the free courses has been the Concussion in Sports course with more than 3.8 million courses delivered. Among the newest free courses is "**Protecting Students from Abuse**" in collaboration with the U. S. Center for SafeSport.

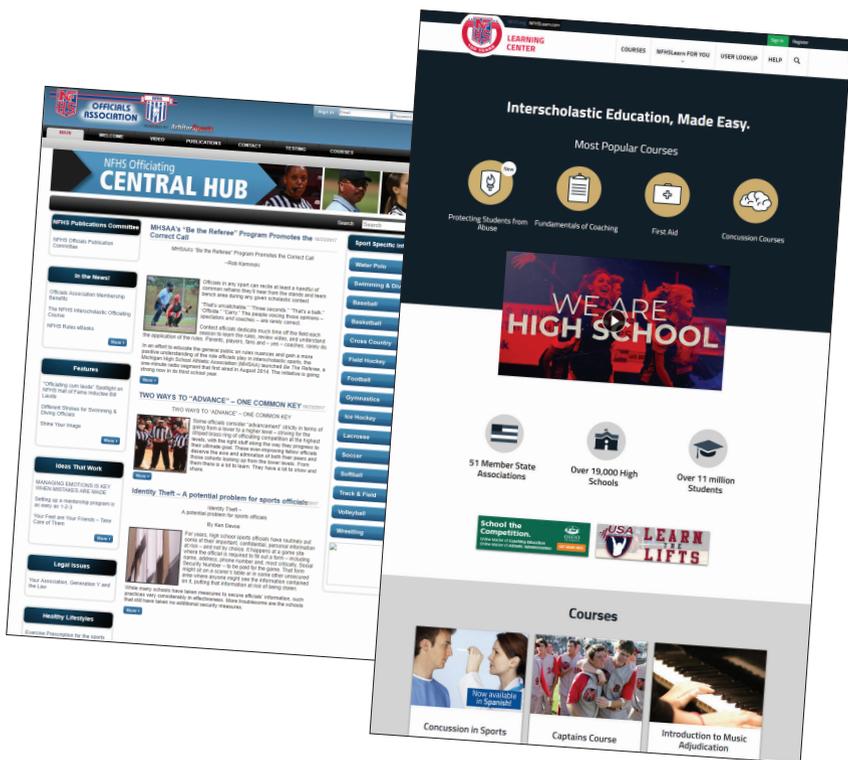
The courses have been designed to help the interscholastic teacher/coach learn and be able to teach the skills of his or her sport, and create the conditions necessary for students to become better athletes by mastering new skills, enjoying competition with others, and experiencing enhanced self-esteem. As professionals at the interscholastic level, we put the student first and the athlete second, so the athletic experience becomes a vehicle to promote learning. The NFHS Coach Education Program is the only training program in the United States exclusively for interscholastic coaches.

In 2009, the NFHS Coach Certification Program was developed to help coaches minimize the inherent risks faced by participating students, to improve the sport experience of participating students and develop a sense of personal and professional accomplishment. An individual can become an Accredited Interscholastic Coach by completing the **Fundamentals of Coaching** and **First Aid, Health and Safety for Coaches** courses, along with the Concussion in Sports course and one of the sport-specific courses or **Teaching Sports Skills**. The second level of certification – Certified Interscholastic Coach – was implemented in 2014 and is available through the NFHS Learning Center.

OFFICIALS EDUCATION

The NFHS now offers eight sport-specific online education courses through the Learning Center at www.NFHSLearn.com. In addition to the introductory course for officials – “**Interscholastic Officiating**” – courses are available in the sports of basketball, football, soccer (two courses), swimming/diving, volleyball, wrestling and softball.

The **NFHS Central Hub** – located online at www.nfhs.arbitersports.com – has educational content exclusively for members of the NFHS Officials Association. The features include searchable NFHS rules/case database, PDFs or 3-D manuals of other NFHS publications, video and animation of NFHS rules and mechanics, feature articles on officiating, and general NFHS rules and mechanics educational content.



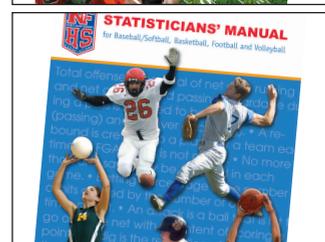
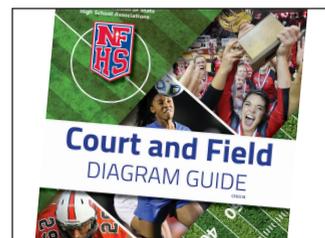
Publications/Other Products

Several million copies of publications and materials are produced annually by the NFHS. In addition to 16 rules books covering 17 sports, the NFHS publishes case books, officials manuals and handbooks, as well as Rules By Topic and Simplified and Illustrated books in some sports. In all, the NFHS publishes more than 30 rules-related publications on an annual or every-other-year basis.

PowerPoint presentations on CDs are produced in 14 sports annually to cover various aspects of the rules. The PowerPoint covers the current year's rules revisions, editorial changes, rules reminders and points of emphasis. Supplemental books and teaching aids available include scorebooks, scoresheets, team roster and lineup sheets, competitors numbers, and many other special materials, charts and diagrams.

The NFHS' signature publication is *High School Today*, a magazine published eight times a year that keeps principals, superintendents, school board members, athletic directors and NFHS member state associations apprised of news regarding high school athletic and performing arts activities through features, professional development articles and articles on current issues.

General publications produced by the NFHS include the NFHS Handbook, the *NFHS Court and Field Diagram Guide* and the *NFHS Statisticians' Manual*.



RULES APP/E-BOOKS

NFHS playing rules are now available on the NFHS Rules App via iTunes and Google Play. The App provides access to **NFHS rules books** and **case books** in each sport and contains quizzes for all NFHS sports. The App is free to download and users then subscribe to their choice of books. Electronic versions of NFHS rules books and case books are also available for purchase as e-books. Apple users can visit iTunes for available books; and Apple, Android and Kindle users can buy e-books from Amazon.com and view them through the Kindle app. Information on the Rules App and e-books is available at www.nfhs.org/erules.

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

The **National High School Sports Record Book** is available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org and is updated on a regular basis throughout the year. The National High School Sports Record Book is a compilation of all-time records of high school girls and boys in 16 different sports. National interscholastic records are maintained by the NFHS through a detailed system of verifying, recording and preserving the accomplishments of high school student-athletes. This program brings proper recognition to boys and girls who have achieved unprecedented performances in interscholastic athletic competition.

The NFHS provides a number of speech and debate publications, including **The Forensic Quarterly**, and more than 30 other publications that are now available online to members of the NFHS Speech, Debate and Theatre Association.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The NFHS and its member state associations place great emphasis on sportsmanship within high school activity programs. To assist schools in emphasizing proper sportsmanship in their programs, the NFHS offers its **“Sportsmanship – It’s Up to You™”** toolkit. The toolkit includes a resource DVD and a Presentation DVD with posters, scripts, radio spots, broadcast PSAs and a motivational video.

All NFHS publications and products are available
for purchase online at www.nfhs.com.



National Meetings



The annual **Summer Meeting** and **Winter Meeting** of the NFHS membership are held for state association executive officers and staff, state board members and others. These meetings are rotated to different parts of the country each year. The NFHS also sponsors an annual **Legal Meeting** and a **Professional Development Summit** on emerging issues, which was started in 1998 and is held in conjunction with the spring meeting of the NFHS Board of Directors.

The annual **National Athletic Directors Conference** – the largest gathering of its type in the United States with more than 2,000 attendees – is held in December and is co-sponsored by the NFHS and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), with the site shifting on an annual basis. This conference also features an exhibit show with more than 300 exhibitors and serves as the site for the NIAAA annual meeting.

In July, the NFHS hosts the **National Student Leadership Summit** in Indianapolis. About 150 student leaders travel to Indianapolis for a three-day meeting to develop leadership skills and then return home to make changes in their schools.

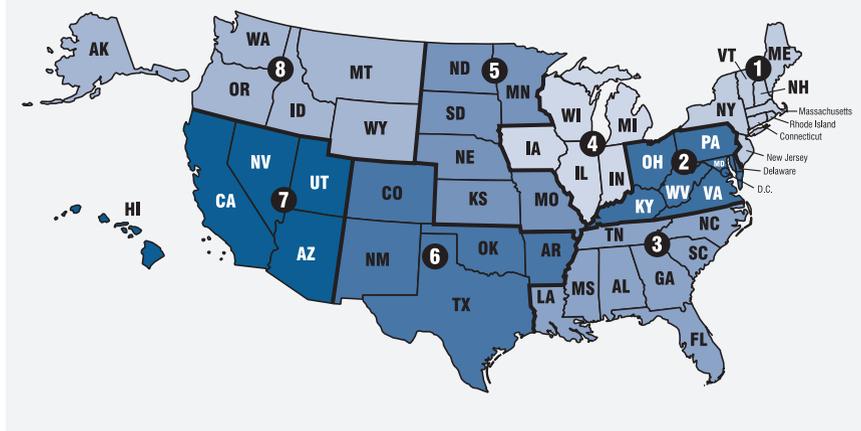
Membership

ACTIVE MEMBERS

- Alabama High School Athletic Association
- Alaska School Activities Association
- Arizona Interscholastic Association
- Arkansas Activities Association
- California Interscholastic Federation
- Colorado High School Activities Association
- Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference
- Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association
- District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Florida High School Athletic Association
- Georgia High School Association
- Hawaii High School Athletic Association
- Idaho High School Activities Association
- Illinois High School Association
- Indiana High School Athletic Association
- Iowa High School Athletic Association
- Kansas State High School Activities Association
- Kentucky High School Athletic Association
- Louisiana High School Athletic Association
- Maine Principals' Association
- Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association
- Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Michigan High School Athletic Association
- Minnesota State High School League
- Mississippi High School Activities Association
- Missouri State High School Activities Association
- Montana High School Association
- Nebraska School Activities Association
- Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association
- New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association
- New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association
- New Mexico Activities Association
- New York State Public High School Athletic Association
- North Carolina High School Athletic Association
- North Dakota High School Activities Association
- Ohio High School Athletic Association
- Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association
- Oregon School Activities Association
- Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Rhode Island Interscholastic League
- South Carolina High School League
- South Dakota High School Activities Association
- Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association
- Texas University Interscholastic League
- Utah High School Activities Association
- Vermont Principals' Association
- Virginia High School League
- Washington Interscholastic Activities Association
- West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission
- Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Wyoming High School Activities Association

Information on the location of member associations can be accessed on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org.

NFHS Section Map



AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Affiliate members can participate in meetings and activities and receive mailings from the NFHS, but do not have voting privileges or eligibility for elected or appointed offices or assignments. Affiliate membership as of September 2018 is as follows:

- Alberta (Canada) Schools' Athletic Association
- British Columbia (Canada) School Sports
- Department of Defense Education Activity
- Florida School Music Association
- Georgia Independent School Association
- Heartland Christian Athletic Association
- Illinois Elementary School Association
- Independent Interscholastic Athletic Association of Guam
- Indiana State School Music Association
- Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union
- Iowa High School Music Association
- Iowa High School Speech Association
- Manitoba (Canada) High Schools Athletic Association Inc.
- Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association
- Mississippi Association of Independent Schools
- New Brunswick (Canada) Interscholastic Athletic Association
- New York Association of Independent Schools
- New York Catholic High School Athletic Association
- North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association
- Nova Scotia (Canada) School Athletic Federation
- Ontario (Canada) Federation of School Athletic Associations
- Pennsylvania Independent Schools Athletic Association
- Puerto Rico School Athletic Association
- Quebec (Canada) Student Sport Federation
- St. Thomas-St. Johns Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Saskatchewan (Canada) High Schools Athletic Association
- School Sports Newfoundland and Labrador (Canada)
- South Carolina Independent School Association
- Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools
- Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League
- Texas Schools Athletic Fellowship
- Texas Christian Athletic League
- Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association
- Wisconsin High School Forensic Association
- Wisconsin School Music Association

History



The National Federation of State High School Associations had its beginning on May 14, 1920, during a meeting in Chicago with representatives from the state athletic associations in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin.

The primary purpose of that first meeting was to discuss problems that had resulted from high school contests organized by colleges and universities or by other clubs or promoters. Little attention was being paid to eligibility rules of the high school associations or to other school group regulations, and chaotic conditions had developed.

Because of this concern, the "Midwest Federation of State High School Athletic Associations" was formed. In 1921, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin became charter members of this organization. In 1923, the organization's name was changed to the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations. By 1930, 28 state associations had joined the organization, and, by 1940, seven others had come aboard. When the Texas University Interscholastic League joined the National Federation in 1969, all 50 state associations plus the District of Columbia were members.

By 1940, a national office with a full-time executive staff became necessary. The office was established in Chicago, Illinois, and H.V. Porter was appointed executive secretary and treasurer. Following Mr. Porter's retirement in 1958, Clifford B. Fagan was selected executive secretary.

In 1970, "athletic" was removed from the name of the organization because of services in fine arts activities. The organization henceforth was known as the National Federation of State High School Associations. In 1997, NFHS was adopted as the new acronym.

In 1971, the office was moved from Chicago to Elgin, Illinois, a Chicago suburb. Brice B. Durbin was named executive secretary designate in February 1976 and officially succeeded Mr. Fagan as executive director in September 1977. After Mr. Durbin's retirement in January 1993, Robert F. Kanaby became the fourth full-time executive director and served until May 2010. In May 2010, Robert B. Gardner was appointed executive director and served until August 2018. On August 1, 2018, Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff succeeded Mr. Gardner as the sixth full-time executive director. NFHS headquarters were moved from Elgin, Illinois, to Kansas City, Missouri, on May 1, 1979, and on February 1, 2000, the organization relocated to Indianapolis, Indiana.



H.V. Porter



Clifford B. Fagan



Brice B. Durbin



Robert F. Kanaby



Robert B. Gardner



Karissa L. Niehoff

Important Dates in NFHS History

1920

First meeting in Chicago to organize Midwest Federation of State High School Athletic Associations



1923

Name changed to National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations

1936

Published basketball rules developed by National Basketball Committee of the United States and Canada

1920

1930

First football rules developed



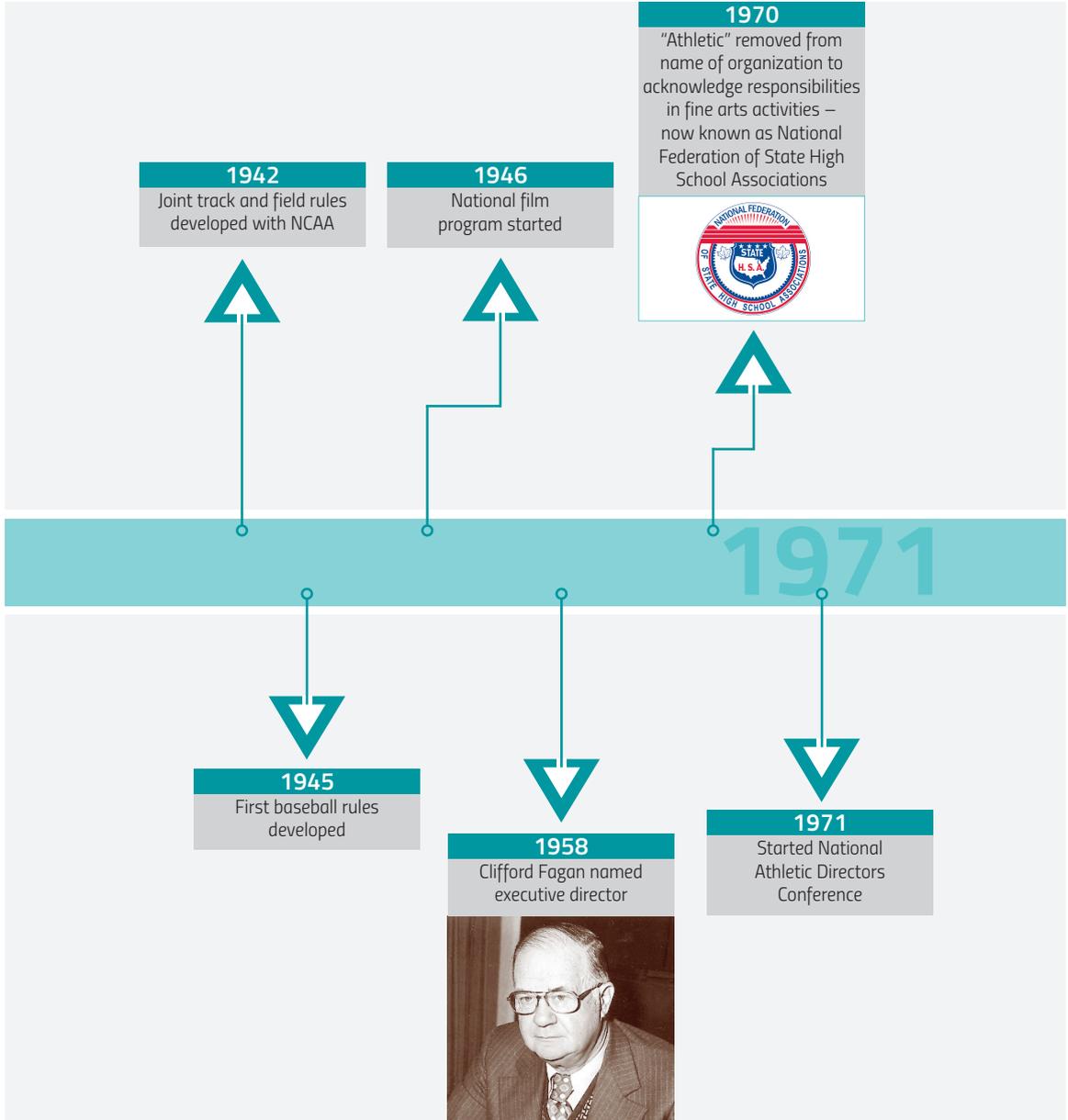
1940

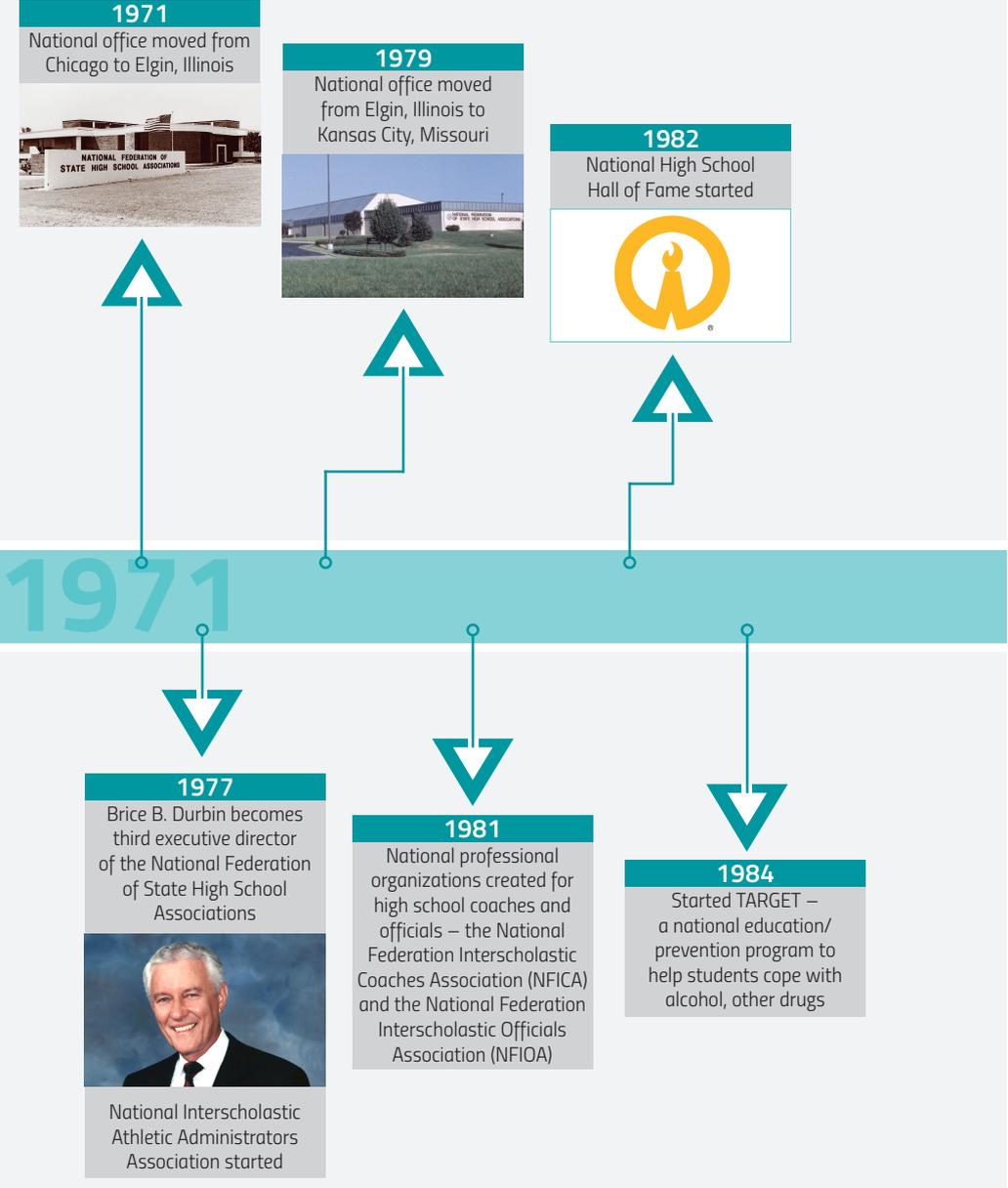
H.V. Porter becomes first full-time executive director with office in Chicago



1921

Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin become charter members





Important Dates in NFHS History

1993

Bob Kanaby named fourth executive director



2010

Bob Gardner named fifth executive director



2013

NFHS Network begins



2000

National office moved to Indianapolis, Indiana

2018

1996

National Federation Foundation and Sports Medicine Advisory Committee established

2007

NFHS Coach Education program begins

High School Today Publication debuts

2018

Karissa Niehoff named sixth executive director



1997

NFHS adopted as new acronym for organization





National Federation of State High School Associations
PO Box 690 ■ Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
317-972-6900 ■ Fax 317-822-5700 ■ www.nfhs.org