

**Augusta Aiken Middle School League
BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION**

Section I: PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this league is to provide the opportunity for students of member schools to participate in interscholastic athletics. It is the league's desire to promote good sportsmanship by all participants as well as good, healthy competition between its member schools.

Section II: MEMBERSHIP

A. The AAMSL includes the following members:

1. Alleluia School
2. Augusta Christian School
3. Augusta Preparatory Day School
4. Curtis Baptist School
5. Community Christian Academy
6. Episcopal Day School
7. Heritage Academy
8. Hillcrest Baptist School
9. Horse Creek Academy
10. Mead Hall School
11. Our Lady of Peace School
12. St. Mary's Help of Christians Catholic School
13. St. Mary's on the Hill Catholic School
14. Westminster Schools of Augusta

B. A member school is a private independent tuition-supported school that has a written charter as a school, an administrative officer and a middle school academic program that meets state or accrediting agency requirements for number of days in session.

- a. A school may apply for membership by submitting a formal request, league application, and information listed above to the Executive Committee.
- b. There is no charge for applying for league membership.
- c. If admitted to the league, membership would begin the following fall season.

C. To be a full member of the league School must field a team in 2 out of the 3 seasons.

D. Schools that do not meet the full member requirement will go on probation for one year but are still eligible for postseason tournaments.

Augusta Aiken Middle School League
BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION

- E. If the requirement is not met over two successive years the School will be suspended from the league.
 - a. If a school is suspended and wants to return they are on probation for one year.
 - b. If a school resigns from the league on their own, there is no penalty.

- F. Guidelines for non-member school entry into the league
 - a. The school must meet the membership guidelines as stated in the League By-laws and Constitution
 - b. Each school would then participate in a two-year probationary period.
 - i. The first year the school would attend league meeting in May and schedule any school who has availability in their team's calendar.
 - ii. The probationary school would not pay dues or be allowed to participate in any tournaments.
 - c. If the school had followed the league guidelines, had no conflicts in the first year and can commit to two of the three seasons of sports activities, they may participate in the next May meeting, and pay the league dues. They would be eligible for tournament play.
 - d. A final decision will be made by the executive committee of the league at the conclusion of the second year of participation for the probationary school.

Section III: FINANCES

- A. Yearly dues will be set at the first league meeting of the school year, and are payable to the league treasurer by September 15. A fine of 10% will be added for late payments. Dues are non-refundable.

- B. Annual dues of **\$400** will be paid by member schools to defray the costs of running the league and tournaments.
 - a. Dues are payable to the league Treasurer by the first Friday after Labor Day.
 - b. Teams will not be allowed to compete in any tournaments until dues have been paid in full.
 - c. Checks should be made out to: *Augusta Aiken Middle School League*

- C. The deadline for dropping out of a sport that is already scheduled is:
 - a. Fall – August 25
 - b. Winter – November 3
 - c. Spring – February 23

- D. There is a \$50 fine if a school drops after the deadline. In addition the school is not eligible for the post-season tournament in that sport the following year. The fine must be paid before the start of the next athletic season.

Augusta Aiken Middle School League
BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION

- E. The home team will be responsible for paying the officials for all regular season league games.
- F. The League is responsible for all League sponsored awards.
- G. Tournament host schools are responsible for paying officials and game helpers for all games that require an admission fee. (*Football, Volleyball, Basketball, and Soccer*)
- H. For tournament games where there is not an admission fee, the league will pay for officials.
- I. Tennis fees.
 - a. The tournament will be played at Newman Tennis Center.
 - b. The league will pay for the courts for the league tournament.
 - c. The league will pay for 30 cans of tennis balls needed for the league tennis tournament.
 - d. Regular Season Tennis fees:
 - i. Each league school participating in the tennis season is to pay for their expenses for the regular season directly with Newman Tennis Center.
- J. Golf course fees.
 - a. Each league school participating in the golf season is to pay for their expenses for the regular season and tournament.
 - b. Each school should contact the various courses the league uses to arrange the setup of payment.
- K. Baseball Fees
 - a. All schools participating in the league baseball season will be billed by the league for umpires.
 - b. All schools participating in the league baseball season and using either Eisenhower Park or Riverside Park as a home field for games will be billed by the league.
 - c. The League Treasurer will submit at the beginning of the season an estimated fee. Schools are to pay this fee before the first league game.
 - d. The Treasurer will send out a final bill at the end of the season, minus the first payment. This second payment is due by May 21.
- L. Track & Field Fees
 - a. There is a \$10 per meet fee to be paid to Augusta Prep for the administration of operating each meet during the regular season.

**Augusta Aiken Middle School League
BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION**

- b. The fee for the track meet management software fee is in the league fee.

Section IV: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. The Executive Committee will be composed of 3-5 Athletic Directors.
- B. The Executive Committee will consist of the following positions: President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
 - a. The President shall:
 - i. Call all meetings of the League and plan their agendas.
 - ii. Preside over all League meetings.
 - iii. Order and distribute championship awards.
 - iv. Carry on other pertinent League business.
 - b. The Secretary shall:
 - i. Record and distribute minutes for all athletic director meetings.
 - ii. Update and distribute AAMSL directory.
 - iii. Assume role of President should he/she be unable to carry out responsibilities of the job.
- C. The Treasurer shall:
 - a. Keep the financial records for the AAMSL.
 - b. Issue bills to member schools.
 - c. Pay AAMSL bills
- D. The Executive Committee is responsible for;
 - a. League membership,
 - b. Approving policies governing interscholastic competition,
 - c. Handling disputes which may occur,
 - d. Reporting to the three-annual meeting,
 - e. Approving schedules,
 - f. Arranging tournaments,
 - g. And hearing appeals regarding eligibility of players
- E. One member of the Executive Committee shall be appointed as the Executive Director of the league for a term of one year. The compensation will be \$400.
- F. A Roster Eligibility Coordinator:
 - a. Is not part of the Executive committee
 - b. Is responsible for collecting the league member's student rosters for Middle School students-athletes.
 - c. Is responsible for confirming the age eligibility of all student-athletes

**Augusta Aiken Middle School League
BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION**

- G. Coordinator of "A" Division Tournaments:
 - a. Setting season schedule and tournament.
 - b. Updating standings
 - c. Communicating to "A" Division school necessary information

Section V: ANNUAL MEETINGS

- A. The AAMSL will meet four (4) times per year during the following months:
 - a. August – To schedule spring sports and review new policies
 - b. December – To schedule spring sports and review fall season. To also present any rule changes or by-law amendments.
 - c. March – Review winter season and to schedule for fall sports (if needed)
 - d. May – To review spring season and schedule winter season. And if needed, tweak the fall schedule.
 - e. If needed the league will schedule a Head of School / MS Principal meeting with Athletic Directors – To discuss larger issues or concerns.
- B. A quorum must be present in order to approve any changes to the By-laws and Constitution.
- C. Rules specific to each sport will be discussed and voted on at the meetings held by the athletic directors.

Section VI: ELIGIBILITY

- A. Eligibility to compete in the league is open to any student enrolled full-time in a member school and who is in grade fifth through eighth.
- B. Students may not turn 15 before May 1 of the preceding school year (i.e. a current 7th grade student must not have turned 15 before May 1 of this year).
 - a. Students who fail to meet the age requirement may appeal to the Competition Committee for a waiver.
 - b. Each appeal will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
 - c. The Competition Committee will consider all appeals.
- C. Eligibility Rosters will be filed for students in 5th through 8th grade for verifying birth dates of each athlete at a member school.
 - a. These forms are to be sent to the Eligibility Coordinator.
 - b. Forms must be received before the Labor Day.
 - c. The Athletic Director is responsible for adding any transfer student to the eligibility list upon their enrollment.
 - d. Forms should be in excel - and include first and last name, middle initial, gender, grade level, and birth date.
 - e. Schools that do not submit Eligibility Rosters are not eligible for league awards and participation in league tournaments/playoffs.

**Augusta Aiken Middle School League
BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION**

- i. Any league games played will be considered forfeits
 - ii. Once the Eligibility Roster is confirmed the remaining games will count as normal league games.
- D. In league sports that have a (A) and (B) level athletes may not participate in both (A) and (B) matches in the same day.
- E. Rosters will be frozen four weeks before the playoffs / tournaments begin.
- F. Schools are to submit their team roster for that sport before the first league game.
 - a. Team rosters are to be sent to President.
 - b. If at any point there is an addition to the roster the President must be notified.
 - c. As in accordance with league policy.
- i. All rosters are frozen four weeks before the first tournament game. (*See Tournament Eligibility – Section XII*)
- G. Member schools may schedule games outside the league at their discretion.

Section VII: SPORTSMANSHIP

- A. All coaches and participants are expected to set a positive example of good sportsmanship by both their demeanor, personal example, and leadership at all times. Fans, including students, are encouraged to cheer and applaud the accomplishments of their favorite team. This should be done without use of profanity or other improper language, harassment, gestures or actions, which cause embarrassment.
- B. Every student athlete, coach and official is to be treated with honor, dignity and respect before, during and after each athletic event.
- C. The coach, and a school administrator will be responsible for the conduct of the players, students, and fans from their school.
- D. A school administrator MUST be in attendance for all home games.
 - a. Must be a school administrator or officer.
 - b. It cannot be a parent.
 - 1. Unless an employee or officer of the school.
- E. Any improper displays in conduct or sportsmanship on the part of players, students, or fans of a particular school can result in the suspension or forfeiture of the game in progress.
- F. Repeated incidents could result in expulsion from the league.

**Augusta Aiken Middle School League
BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION**

- G. Fans, coaches and athletes ejected from a game by the official, will be suspended from the next game. The home team should report the incident to the league President within 24 hours. The next opponent for that team must be notified as well of the player(s) or Coach that was ejected.

Section VIII: LEAGUE SPORTS

- A. This league will follow the rules set up per sport by the athletic committee and backed up by the National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS).
- B. In order for a sport to be considered for competition (Award for regular season and tournament play), 4 or more of the League schools must offer the sport.
- C. The AAMSL currently offers competition at the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade in the following sports;
 - 1. Soccer: Boys & Girls
 - 2. Cross Country: Boys & Girls
 - 3. Baseball: Boys
 - 4. Track and Field: Boys & Girls
 - 5. Basketball: Boys & Girls
 - 6. Football: Boys
 - 7. Tennis: Boys & Girls
 - 8. Volleyball: Girls
 - 9. Golf: Boys
- D. Any team made up of boys and girls, regardless of numerical breakdown by gender, shall be considered a coed team and must compete in the boys division of the League.
- E. In sports where there are two divisions, the divisions will be based on enrollment numbers for the member schools. A school can request to be moved to the other division, but the league must approve it.

Section IX: LEAGUE STANDINGS

- A. Standings shall be maintained according to a points system:
 - a. (+2 for a win, +1 for a tie, 0 for a loss, and -1 for a forfeit).
- B. Standings shall be decided according to best record. In the event of a tie the following procedure shall break all ties
 - a. Head to Head
 - b. Point differential between the tied schools
 - c. Point differential against the league

**Augusta Aiken Middle School League
BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION**

- C. See each sport for their unique rules.
- D. If a school has not completed its regular season league schedule by the first day of said tournament due to inclement weather, the seeding will be done first by points, then, if a tie exists, by head-to-head record, Other tie-breaking procedures may be used if approved in advance by the Executive Committee.

Section X: OFFICIALS

- A. Every effort should be made to have certified (18 years or older), *official or referee* at every game. If there are no officials the game should be rescheduled for seeding purposes.
- B. Officials for league tournaments *must* be certified *sanctioned* referees.
- C. In the event that only one game official is present to officiate a tournament game, the game will be delayed until the second arrives official.
- D. If no officials are present at the beginning of a tournament game, the schools' Athletic Directors or their designees shall determine whether or not the game can be fairly played.

Section XI: LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS

- A. Preliminary rounds of the tournament will be played at the site selected by the Executive Committee. Semi-finals will be played as dictated by the sport. The finals will be held at a neutral site if possible.
 - a. Tennis tournament will be held at Newman Tennis Center in a one-day individual tournament in singles and doubles.
 - b. Cross Country & Track will be held at an agreed upon location for a one day Championship
 - c. Golf will hold a two day tournament. One day in Georgia and one day in South Carolina. (Forest Hills Golf Club and Woodside Golf Club)
 - i. All teams that meet the regular season criteria to play in the tournament will be invited. (See golf tournament rules)
 - d. Basketball will hold two multiple day tournaments. One for the A division and one for the AA Division.
 - e. Volleyball will hold two one-day tournaments; One for the A division and one for the AA Division.
 - f. Baseball will hold a four team two-day tournament at Eisenhower Park
 - i. The four top seeded teams will make the tournament.
 - g. Soccer will hold a four-team two day tournament for each gender.
 - i. The tournament will be played at either a League school or at an another acceptable site.

**Augusta Aiken Middle School League
BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION**

- B. Once the tournament committee has set tournament brackets, they must be played as set.
- C. Post-season tournaments may be established during the final week of play. Each sport has limitation to the number of tournament participants. See sports rules for that particular tournament rules.
- D. Regular season games must be completed by the predetermined date without exception, unless the entire league is affected by a common event, i.e. weather. Tournament dates will not be rescheduled except for the following reasons:
 - a. Unsafe weather conditions.
 - b. The regular season champion has not been determined.
- E. Postponement of tournament dates must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. All tournaments shall be single elimination, unless otherwise determined by the Executive Committee.

Section XII: TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY

- A. All athletes must be on the team roster and attended at least half of the regular season schedule in order to participate in the tournament.
- B. Appeals may be made to the league Executive Committee at least 24 hours in advance of a game / match.
- C. In certain league sports there are modifications to the tournament eligibility requirements.
 - a. In golf, cross country, tennis, and track athletes must have competed in half the league matches to be eligible for the league tournament / championships
- D. When determining seeds for a league tournament, a coin flip should never be used to eliminate a team from a play-in game.

Section XIII: ADMISSION TO LEAGUE GAMES

- A. The AAMSL school will charge admission at regular season games in the following sports:
 - a. Volleyball
 - b. Football
 - c. Basketball
- B. The entry fee is \$5 per adult and \$2 per child. Any child under the age of 6 is free.

**Augusta Aiken Middle School League
BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION**

- C. The entry fee during the regular season goes to the host school.
- D. If a league tournament is hosted by a league school, the host team may charge admission to pay for officials and game day help.
- E. During the tournaments, entry fees will go to the host school.

Section XIV: AWARDS

- A. Tournament Championships:
 - a. The League will present awards for the Champion and Runner up Schools.
- B. Individual Awards
 - a. Track and Field. Trophies will be presented to the team for champions and runner-ups.
 - 1. Male and Female "high point" award winner will receive a trophy as well.
 - b. Cross Country. Trophies will be presented to the team for champions and runner-ups.
 - 1. Trophies will be presented to individual athletes for 1st – 6th place.
 - 2. Ribbons will be awarded in individual events for 7th – 20th place.

Section XV: RESCHEDULING AND POSTPONEMENTS

- A. The final decision on postponement rests between the two schools involved in the competition.
- B. Decisions concerning postponement or rescheduling should be made prior to 12:00 (noon) the day of the contest or as soon afterward as possible.
- C. The home school must notify officials when a scheduled event is postponed or rescheduled.

Section XVI: PROTEST PROCEDURES

- A. Protests may only be made in cases of rules interpretation or interpretation of these By-Laws.
 - a. Judgment decisions by officials may not be protested.
- B. Protests of rules interpretations must be made in writing to the AAMSL President, signed by the coach, and athletic director.

**Augusta Aiken Middle School League
BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION**

- C. The protest must be received no later than 48 hours following the event in question.
- D. A committee consisting of the President, Secretary or treasurer, and the Tournament Director of the sport in question will hear protests in a timely manner.
- E. The Protest Committee will read the letter of protest and vote if a hearing is to be held.
 - a. If a committee member's school is involved in the protest, that member will not serve on the Protest Committee for the duration of the hearing, and the President shall appoint another committee member.
- F. The President shall inform in writing all AAMSL athletic directors of the protest, and the decision made by the protest committee.

Section XVII: METHOD OF ADOPTION

These Bylaws shall be effective once adopted by eleven schools in the Augusta Aiken Middle School League.