An Appraisal of the Functions of the Virginia High School League in Relation to Interscholastic Athletics in the Group I High Schools of Virginia

Jacob Carmack Range

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AN APPRAISAL OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE IN RELATION TO INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS IN THE GROUP I HIGH SCHOOLS OF VIRGINIA

A Thesis
Presented to the Faculty of the Department of Physical Education College of William and Mary

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree Master of Arts

by
Jacob Carmack Range
August 1951
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To the members of my committee, Mr. Bernard E. Wilson, Dr. George J. Oliver, Mr. Robin Wood, and Mr. Howard M. Smith, I wish to express my sincere thanks for their helpful suggestions, and guidance throughout this study.
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

THE PROBLEM

The purpose of this study was to trace the development of problems growing out of interscholastic athletic competition of the Group I High Schools of Virginia and, in each case, show the subsequent development of League regulations designed to cope with these problems. It is hoped that a careful analysis of these steps will lead to the establishment of a procedure whereby the time span between the development of a problem and this subsequent control could be shortened.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Virginia High School League. The Virginia High School League is an organization of the public high schools of the state. It is under the sponsorship of the Extension Division of the University of Virginia. The League seeks to encourage student participation in desirable school activities by conducting or supporting school programs of inter-school competition in these fields.¹

Group I Schools. Group I shall consist of high schools with a membership of more than 600 in the high school grades.²

¹ Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXVIII, Number 5, October 1, 1950, (Preface)
² Ibid., p.10
High School Grades. High school grades are defined as grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 in a four-year high school and grades 10, 11, and 12 in a three-year (senior) high school when the school is part of a twelve-year system. High school grades are defined as grades 8, 9, 10 and 11 in a three-year high school when the school is part of an eleven-year system.³

Standard Contract. The Standard Contract is a contract form for interscholastic athletic contests between two high schools that are members of the Virginia High School League. This form is issued by the League office to the member principals for use in making written contracts with other schools.⁴

The Dictionary of Education defines:

Interscholastic Athletics. "Team or individual contests in games or sports, the players representing elementary or secondary schools, (particularly the latter), and recognized and managed by school authorities".

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

This study included those rules and regulations which govern the functioning of Group I High School interscholastic athletics within the state of Virginia.

The sports included in this investigation were: football, basketball, baseball, wrestling, track (indoor, outdoor, cross-country) golf, tennis and swimming. These sports were introduced and recognized in accordance with their growth and recognition by the Virginia High School League.

⁴ Ibid., p.6
The study was limited to only those years that the Virginia High School League sponsored the Group I interscholastic athletic program in the state of Virginia. The years were from the school session (1926-1927), at which time the League classified the state high schools, up to and including the (1950-1951) school session.

The Group I High Schools are as follows:

### Eastern District
- Cradock ........................... Portsmouth, Virginia
- Granby .............................. Norfolk 5, Virginia
- Hampton ............................ Hampton, Virginia
- Matthew P. Maury ..................... Norfolk, Virginia
- Newport News ........................ Newport News, Virginia
- Norview ............................ Norfolk 2, Virginia
- Warwick ............................ Morrison, Virginia
- Woodrow Wilson ........................ Portsmouth, Virginia

### Central District
- Glen Allen .......................... Glen Allen, Virginia
- Hopewell ............................ Hopewell, Virginia
- John Marshall ........................ Richmond, Virginia
- Petersburg .......................... Petersburg, Virginia
- Thomas Jefferson ...................... Richmond 21, Virginia

### Northern District
- Fairfax .............................. Fairfax, Virginia
George Washington..............................................Alexandria, Virginia
Lane.................................................................Charlottesville, Virginia
Mt. Vernon.........................................................Alexandria, Virginia
Washington-Lee..................................................Arlington, Virginia

Western District
Andrew Lewis......................................................Salem, Virginia
E. C. Glass........................................................Lynchburg, Virginia
George Washington..............................................Danville, Virginia
Jefferson Senior..................................................Roanoke, Virginia

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The Virginia High School League was often slow in responding to
developments originating within inter-school athletics of the Group I
High Schools.

A typical example was the development of Junior Varsity competition
in the Group I schools, in recent years, to the point where such
competition resolved itself into numerous controversies between these
schools. The problems were allowed to grow over a period of years
before the League took positive action in their control.

A plan was needed by which the Group I High Schools' inter-
scholastic athletic programs could be checked more carefully so that
their predictive value in planning League operation could be recognized
and emphasized. This proposed plan constituted a means of anticipating
the development of problems so as to make it possible more clearly to
coordinate control with development and thereby become a definite asset to school administration.

**SOURCES OF DATA**

The sources of data upon which this analysis was based included the following:

**Primary Sources**

a. Records and documents concerning the functioning of the League.

(1) Bound volumes of all the Bulletins of the Virginia High School League from the school year (1926-1927) through the school year (1950-1951). These volumes have been obtained from the League office at Charlottesville, Virginia and were in possession of the writer.

(2) Notarized minutes of the League meetings, which are filed in the office of the League secretary, Mr. Howard R. Richardson, University of Virginia Extension, Box 1487, Charlottesville, Virginia, Telephone 2-2101.

**Secondary Sources**


b. General Standards and Legal Provisions.

(1) *Standards of Accreditation*, Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.  


PROCEDURE

This study was historical as well as analytical in method in that a thorough investigation was made of the past problems that occurred in Group I inter-school athletics under the sponsorship of the Virginia High School League.

These problems were grouped under three headings: (1) Problems dealing with the responsibility of the local school administration, (2) Problems concerning individual eligibility of student participants, and (3) Problems resulting from the conduct of athletic contests in the various activities which the League sponsors as a competitive program.
The writer, by making a comprehensive study of these problems, attempted to find out why problems came into existence and how they were dealt with so as to form a basis upon which better to judge present problems in inter-scholastic athletics of the Group I High Schools under the sponsorship of the Virginia High School League.

Information was collected from all the bulletins of the Virginia High School League from the school year (1926-1927) up to and including the school year (1950-1951). The notarized minutes of all the League meetings were at the disposal of the writer.

This study terminated with a general summary of collected facts, proposed conclusions based on the presented facts, and recommendations for possible use by the Virginia High School League.
CHAPTER II

PROBLEMS DEALING WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

In a study of this type it appeared logical to start with a historical analysis of the responsibilities and the problems encountered by the local school administration. The following responsibilities were investigated, together with the problems that periodically evolved from the local administration of inter-school athletics among the Group I High Schools in the State of Virginia:

Principal's Responsibility, and local responsibilities in relation to: State Competition, Interstate Competition, Officials, Post-Season Games, Honor Teams, Pre-Season and Out-of-Season Practice, Coaches, State Sanction, and Junior Varsity Competition.

Each of the above topics was studied as it chronologically appeared in the operation of Group I High Schools interscholastic athletic program under the auspices of the Virginia High School League.

PRINCIPAL’S RESPONSIBILITY

The period in which this study was made found the principal becoming more and more recognized as the sole head of the high schools in the State of Virginia. He was under the direction of the superintendent of schools and the local school board. Along with the growth of the Group I Schools of the State came a similar growth in the number of responsibilities of the high school principal. Karl R. Douglas, Director, College of Education, The University of Colorado, said,
in part, concerning the high school principal:

The concept of professional administration of secondary schools is one of relatively recent development. Available records relating to early secondary schools and what corresponded to them in still earlier times reveal the fact that there existed no office corresponding to our present-day high-school principal . . . the high-school principal-ship as we now know it—an office of much administrative responsibility and many technical tasks, requiring special technical knowledge and skills—is a product of the developments in education of the last century and particularly of the last thirty or forty years.¹

The writer, in this investigation, studied only those Principal's Responsibilities which evolved from the administration of inter-school athletics in the Group I High Schools of the State. The first time the League's attention was brought to the place the principal should occupy in inter-school athletics was at the Annual Meeting of the Legislative Council, held on February 5, 1926, at the University of Virginia. A resolution, adopted by the Executive Committee, was discussed by the Council. The resolution stated:

Resolved. That principals of schools that are members of the League be urged to keep themselves well informed on the rules and regulations of athletic activities of the League and to exercise either direct supervision, or indirect supervision, by means of faculty committees of which the principal himself is a member, of all competitive activities. It is evident that most of the confusions which arise in competitive athletics are found in schools where the principal neither directly or indirectly has exercised much supervision in the matter.

The Legislative Council approved the resolution, but passed no rule stating the exact responsibilities of the high school principal.


²"Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 5, 1926, p. 3
Inserted in the Standard Contract of the member schools of the League competing in athletics for the school year 1927-1928 was the clause requiring the supervision of all athletic teams by a member of the faculty. This clause did, to some extent, designate where the responsibility of interscholastic athletic competition would be, but no detailed responsibilities were set forth.

On February 3, 1932, Mr. George B. Zehmer, Director of the Extension Division of the University of Virginia, clearly stated the matter of control of League operations in a letter to the members of the Legislative Council of the Virginia High School League. It read in part:

The question of the ultimate control of the Virginia High School League continues to be raised with more or less regularity. Recently it has been revived from one or two sources and I have taken occasion to discuss the issue with a number of officials both of the University and the League. In view of the re-appearance of the question and of these discussions I should like to restate that it is the policy of the University to cooperate with the high school principals in making such provision as in their opinion seems wise for the future even though the plans might necessitate wide departure from the present method of operation.3

Evidence of the fact that the Virginia High School League was lax in regard to establishing the principals in direct charge of all competitive athletics in the group. I inter-school program was shown in a statement made to the Executive Committee on February 9, 1934.

Mr. W. E. Parsons, Principal, Jefferson Senior High School, Roanoke,

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3 Letter from George B. Zehmer, Director of Extension Division, University of Virginia, to the Legislative Council of the Virginia High School League, Legislative Council File, February 3, 1932.
Virginia, remarked:

The League for years has operated on the assumption that the principal is the sole head of all inter-school sports of the Group I schools. There is no rule or regulation to this effect and because of this over-sight on the part of the League several principals have been negligent in directing a sound athletic program. The enactment of a rule designating the responsibilities of the principal in this matter is imperative. 

A lengthy discussion followed, but no motion was placed before the Committee concerning the principal's responsibilities. 

Four years later, at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council on February 20, 1937, Dr. Joseph H. Saunders, Superintendent, City Schools, Newport News, Virginia, proposed that the League devise a rule covering the responsibilities of the principal in conducting the Group I Interscholastic athletics. He felt that the strength of the League was in the hands of the principals of the member schools, but unless some definite rule allocating the place of the principal in the Group I sports program was set forth, the League would be faced with problems which otherwise would have been almost non-existent.

At the Legislative Council Meeting on February 14, 1942, Mr. H. T. Moncure, Principal, George Washington High School, Alexandria,

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4 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 9, 1934, p.5

5 Loc.cit.

6 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 20, 1937, p.3
Virginia, cited the passive attitude of the League in assuming that the principal was in complete charge of inter-school athletics in the Group I schools. He was of the opinion that the League had operated on this assumption for years and that numerous problems had arisen which would have never occurred if a specific rule covering the responsibilities of the principal had been in force. 7

In several of the Group I High Schools athletic councils were formed to direct as well as promote interscholastic sports. This situation was dangerous in that it allowed individuals outside of the schools to take part in directing the athletic program. This resulted in increased pressure and emphasis on the sports program. In relating to these athletic councils, Mrs. Mary H. Spalding, Acting Executive Secretary, Virginia High School League, on April 14, 1945, at the Legislative Council Meeting said, in part... 8

The League must awaken to the fact that more and more emphasis is being placed on the Group I sports program. This has resulted in some of the member schools forming athletic boards or councils which is against the League policies, but which are legal as long as we have no rule governing the exact place of the principal in the Group I inter-school athletic program.

In the discussion which followed, proposals were made for the Council to take immediate action in enacting a rule covering the principal's responsibilities, but the proposals were tabled for further study. 9

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7 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 14, 1942, p.7
8 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, April 14, 1945, p.4
9 Loc. cit.
On March 8, 1946, the Legislative Council passed what was known as the Principal's Responsibility Rule, which read as follows:

Final authority and ultimate responsibility in all matters pertaining to the inter-school activities of the school, both athletic and non-athletic, shall be vested in the principal.10

The passing of the Principal's Responsibility Rule might have eliminated the possibility of the continued operation of these athletic boards in the Group I High Schools. The assumption which the League operated on was made into a regulation which definitely stated that the principal was in direct charge of all interscholastic athletics. It was evident that the League was negligent in not enacting a rule stating the specific responsibilities of the principal, and in delaying this action it allowed problems to exist which probably would have been eliminated.

STATE COMPETITION

The larger high schools of the State from the year 1926, at which time the high schools were classified, up to and including the school year 1950-1951, were all members of the Virginia High School League. This study found that the problems concerning State Competition with non-member schools were almost non-existent among the Group I High Schools, and that League regulations regarding State Competition were enacted in time to cope with the problems that eventually occurred.

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10 Handbook of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXIV, Number 1, August 1, 1946, p.35
INTER-STATE COMPETITION

Many of the Group I High Schools located near the border lines of the State of Virginia found it much easier to compete in interscholastic athletics with high schools comparatively near in other states rather than with member high schools of their own state. Many of these out-of-state schools were not recognized by their own state associations. Mr. Walter G. Chapman, Executive Secretary, Virginia High School League, in his annual report to the Legislative Council said, in part...

Legislation should be passed to govern the inter-school athletic competition between some of our own member schools and certain out-of-state schools which are not recognized by their own state high school associations.\(^\text{11}\)

At the Legislative Council Meeting on February 5, 1926, a recommendation was made that the Virginia High School League have complete control of all inter-state competition involving any member school of the State. This was thoroughly discussed, but no decision was reached at the time.\(^\text{12}\)

At the Group I Conference Meeting on February 18, 1932, Mr. A. B. Bristow, Principal, Maury High School, Norfolk, Virginia, remarked:

\(^{11}\) "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 5, 1926, p. 5

\(^{12}\) Loc. cit.
Several of the Group I High Schools of the State are competing in athletics with numerous out-of-state schools. This situation not only creates more problems for the schools concerned, but tends to weaken inter-school competition among our member schools. We have an acute problem of scheduling among the Group I schools, since several of these schools are playing out-of-state schools rather than state schools. I believe a League rule should be passed to fully cover this situation.13

A motion was made by Mr. Bristow that the Group I Conference recommend a rule in regard to inter-state competition. Mr. J. D. Riddick, Principal, Jefferson Senior High School, Roanoke, Virginia, seconded the motion.14

This recommendation was presented to the Legislative Council on February 29, 1933. A lengthy discussion followed, but the consensus of opinion among the Council members was that they were not prepared to vote or enact a rule concerning inter-state competition without further study of the matter.15

Mr. Charles H. Kauffmann, Executive Secretary, Virginia High School League, in his report to the Executive Committee, on February 19, 1937, said, in part, concerning inter-state competition:

The League has been discussing and mulling over the problems involved with inter-state athletic competition of its member schools. There is need for immediate action to eliminate many of these growing problems. It seems to me that some legislation could have

13 "Minutes of the Group I Conference Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 18, 1932, p.3
14 Loc. cit.
15 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 22, 1933, p.6
been passed long before now. This recommendation has been on the agenda of the League officials for a period of five years and if League competition in interscholastic athletics is to be strengthened, some sort of rule should be in force.\footnote{Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, February 19, 1937, p.5}

The Committee fully approved the recommendation that a rule should be included in the Rules and Regulations of the League placing some restrictions on inter-state competition. A majority vote favored bringing this proposal before the Legislative Council Meeting.\footnote{Loc. cit.}

On February 12, 1938, the Legislative Council considered the advisability of inserting a rule to cover inter-state competition. In the discussion that followed, Mr. L. H. McCue, Principal, E. C. Glass High School, Lynchburg, Virginia, suggested that the matter be tabled at the time and that further study be made by each of the Group I High Schools.\footnote{Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, February 12, 1938, p.9}

This action, on the part of the Council, revealed the slowness by which the League acted in passing a necessary rule governing inter-state competitive high school sports. It was evident that problems existed and that no rule was enacted to aid in solving these problems.

Mr. H. F. Saunders, Activities Director, Jefferson Senior High School, Roanoke, Virginia, made the following criticism of the League's
passive attitude toward inter-state competition at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council on February 13, 1943. He said:

The League has expressed its opinion from time to time over a period of nineteen years concerning inter-state competition. Many discussions have taken place as to whether or not we actually need a rule in this area. The fact that the attention of the League has been centered upon numerous problems over a span of years is conclusive evidence that action should be taken to eliminate many existing problems and to erase the possibility of allowing these problems to grow from minor ones to ones of major importance.19

On March 3, 1945, at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council, Mr. R. B. Walker, Principal, Fairfax High School, Fairfax, Virginia, remarked that:

The Virginia High School League should awaken to the rapid growth of our sports program and make sure that the Rules and Regulations of the League are keeping abreast of this growth. Inter-state competition has existed for nearly nineteen years without a rule to govern games of this sort. If we are to maintain a progressive organization we must awaken to the many problems evolving from this type of competition.20

The Legislative Council, on March 8, 1946, passed the State Competition Rule, of which Article (B) pertained directly to inter-state competition. This article stated: "Member schools should not enter into competition with schools outside the state which are not members of, or do not comply with the eligibility requirements of their high school league, or analogous organization."21 An amendment to Article (B)

19 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 13, 1943, p. 2


21 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 8, 1946, p. 8
of the State Competition Rules was passed March 20, 1948. This amendment read: "No member school shall engage in athletic competition with any school under suspension from the League, from the comparable organization in any other state, or from the National Federation." 22

A lengthy discussion was held at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council on October 1, 1950, concerning inter-state competition. This discussion resulted in the Council passing the Inter-State Competition Rule as a separate rule from the State Competition Rule:

No member school shall engage in athletic competition:

a. With any school outside of the State which is not a regular or affiliated member in good standing of its home state high school association, or which (in a state in which there is no approved state association) does not agree in writing to comply with the recommended minimum eligibility requirements of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations in its contest or contests with the member school.

b. In any inter-state meet or tournament in which three or more schools participate, or any inter-state contest between two schools involving a round trip exceeding 600 miles, unless such event has been sanctioned by all interested state associations through the National Federation of State High School Associations.

c. In any inter-state two-school contest (regardless of the distance to be traveled) which is sponsored by an individual, or by an organization other than an educational institution. 23

22 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 20, 1948, p.7

23 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXVIII, October 1, 1950, p.26
OFFICIALS

The problem of having competent officials in charge of interschool contests was greatly accelerated when, in 1926, the Virginia High School League classified all schools into three groups. This necessitated more care in selecting officials because interscholastic athletic competition became stronger with high schools playing in their own class and size.

The Executive Committee, on July 1, 1927, considered having the League office provide member schools with an approved list of athletic officials, but it was recommended that the advisory service given by the Executive Secretary be continued and that no approved list be published. This action on the part of the Executive Committee, instead of helping the member schools with official’s problems, left the situation in status quo. If definite action had been taken at this time many problems which arose in later years would have been eliminated.

On February 8, 1930, Mr. A. E. Bristow, Principal of Maury High School, Norfolk, Virginia, brought a motion before the Legislative Council concerning athletic officials. This motion was seconded by Mr. Eliot V. Graves, State Supervisor of Physical and Health Education.

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24 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, July 1, 1927, p.2
Mr. Bristow moved that Mr. C. R. Williams of Roanoke, Virginia, South Atlantic Conference representative, be authorized to select officials in situations where schools could not agree on officials. The Council unanimously passed this motion.25

This incident further showed that the selection of officials, plus the fact that mutual agreement on officials by each competing school was deemed essential. This was an ever-mounting problem in interscholastic athletic competition among the member schools of the League. The League's attitude toward the problem at that time seems to have been one of delegating the selection of officials to other sources rather than taking positive action in solving the problem.

On October 6, 1935, at the Group I Conference Meeting in Richmond, Virginia, attention was called, and discussion asked for, relative to the situation that arose out of the formation of various football officials associations over the State of Virginia. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. R. L. Sweeney, Assistant Principal of Woodrow Wilson High School, Portsmouth, Virginia, moved that the Executive Secretary correspond with the officials' associations requesting information concerning their intentions and policies and informing them that the League had gone on record as favoring payment of $10.00 for such services. Mr. Sweeney moved that furthermore they be informed that in

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25 "Minutes of the Legislative Council, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 8, 1930, p.5
the best interests of high school sports demands which have been made on high school authorities cannot be sanctioned, and expressed the hope that some agreement could be worked out. This motion was unanimously passed.26

The fact that numerous officials' associations were being formed in the State of Virginia revealed that some progress was taking place, but the situation could have been greatly helped if the League had aided and guided the formation of these associations. The lack of cooperation, both on the part of the League and the officials themselves, retarded the solution of this problem.

At a Class A conference meeting on October 5, 1935, a committee was appointed to examine certain irregularities in officiating which seemed to be placing League schools at a disadvantage. This committee found that, due to the many misunderstandings and lack of cooperation from the standpoint of the League and the many officials' associations throughout the State of Virginia, this problem needed much further study on the part of the League. It recommended that some means be found by which a state-wide officials' association could be formed in close cooperation with the Virginia High School League.27

26 "Minutes of the Class A Conference Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, October 5, 1935, p.1
27 "Minutes of the Class A Conference Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, October 5, 1935, p.3
During the period from 1935 to 1939 officials' associations were formed in the Eastern District, the Central District, the Western District and the Northern District of the State. (Each of these associations were independent of each other, thus creating numerous problems for schools from one area of the state competing with schools in another area.) In other words, there was a vital need for all of these associations to recognize each other and standardize their practices and policies. The League could have done much toward this consolidation, but its passive attitude did little to change the situation.

The matter of competent officials for League games was discussed without any action being taken by the Group I Conference, other than the recommendation that this problem be on the agenda of the Legislative Council Meeting in February. 28

At the Legislative Council Meeting, on February 10, 1940, a committee was appointed to study the matter of competent officials for League games with a view to the organization of an officials' association controlled by the Virginia High School League. 29

The problem of definitely forming some kind of an officials' association on a state-wide basis seemed to occur at regular intervals from year to year at the annual League meetings, but no definite program

28 "Minutes of the Class A Conference Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, October 23, 1939, p.2

29 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 10, 1940, p.5
was planned, since the matter ended time and again with only a discussion.

In 1946, the Post War Planning Committee of the Virginia High School League unanimously agreed that one means of improving the League's operation was to form an adjunct officials' association, so as to enable the high schools of the State to maintain desired standards in athletic competition.30

The action of the Post War Planning Committee revealed that the League had by-passed the issue in the formation of a state officials' association and that immediate action should be given the problem in order to minimize the difficulties experienced by the high schools of the State in their athletic contests.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning the formation of an officials' association at the Legislative Council Meeting, held in Madison Hall, University of Virginia, on March 20, 1947. Mr. A. B. Haga, Principal of Woodrow Wilson High School, Portsmouth, Virginia, made a motion to ask the Executive Secretary and the Executive Committee to give immediate attention to a program designed to improve athletic officiating in the State through the organization of officials' associations and the training of association members. This motion was carried by a majority vote.31

30 "Minutes of Post War Planning Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 10, 1946, p.4

31 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 20, 1949, p.11
For the first time in over twenty-one years of the League's operation of Group I High Schools inter-school athletic program, a very definite step was taken at the annual meeting of the Executive Committee on November 21, 1947. At this session, Mr. Richard R. Fletcher, Executive Secretary, made the following report:

Two new football officials boards were organized during the fall; a third is being projected. A loose federation of these boards will be attempted this winter. Nine regional basketball clinics, for both coaches and officials, have been scheduled for December. When the Football Officials' Association has been further developed, an effort will be made to federate the existing and the new Basketball Officials' Boards. Standard procedure stemming from Southern Conference Officials' Organizations will be followed. 32

Much of the work toward having an officials' association recognized by the League was due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Richard R. Fletcher, Executive Secretary. His leadership in regards to solving this problem resulted in the League taking a more positive viewpoint in this matter.

The League passed the Officials' Rule at its annual meeting of the Legislative Council in 1948. 33 The Rule became effective for the school year 1948-1949. The Officials' Rule, to some extent, strengthened the League's operation of Group I High School inter-school contests in respect to competent officials, but numerous problems were still

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32 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, November 21, 1947, p.2

33 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXXVI, Number 2, August 15, 1948, p.28
most obvious in this field.


In response to your letter for the assignment of officials to handle your Junior-Varsity and Varsity Basketball games with George Washington High School of Alexandria on Friday night, January 11th, I have secured the leading officials of the Central Virginia District Board of Approved Officials . . .

If similar arrangements will be necessary for your return game with George Washington at Alexandria on February 18th, I will appreciate it if you or Coach Doran will advise me as promptly as possible. It is difficult to secure the services of competent men at the eleventh hour.

I certainly hope that this sort of thing can be avoided after state organization of officials is established. It seems to me to be an economical waste and a bad commentary upon our mutual respect and confidence.34

Further evidence was shown of the leadership Mr. Richard R. Fletcher exercised in his efforts to form an efficient officials' association for the high schools of Virginia in a report he made on March 19, 1949, at the Legislative Council Meeting held at the University of Virginia. The report was as follows:

34 "Northern District File, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, January 8, 1949, p.4.
Real progress was made during the past basketball season toward the organization of a state organization of approved basketball officials' boards. Representatives of the sixteen organizations now operating agreed tentatively to seek charters from the National Board, and it is hoped that a complete plan for training, rating, and assigning officials will be developed, approved, and planned in operation by next season. The objects include standardization of interpretations, membership requirements, ratings, etc., as well as provision for training and examination of officials.35

The actual formation of a state-wide, closely coordinated Officials' Board seemed to have rendered itself into a problem both from the standpoint of the officials themselves and to the participating high schools. Mutual agreement as to the proper officials for any League athletic contest was imperative, besides the tremendous amount of work involved in assigning officials to the numerous games. One essential requirement for any of the district Officials' Boards was to have every member official on the approved list of the National Officials' Board.

Mr. Fletcher seemed to have recognized the wide scope involved with the problem of forming a State Officials' Association. In a letter to Mr. Samuel J. Gaffey, Principal of Fairfax High School, Fairfax, Virginia, he wrote in part:

The Officials' Association operation is a tedious and time-consuming undertaking, but I think we are making progress. It is our hope to develop a number of satisfactory organizations in geographical centers throughout the State, so that all will provide satisfactory service. I have been working with the group in Northern Virginia, and

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35 "Minutes of the Legislative Council", Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 19, 1949, p.27
regret to report that I anticipate some difficulty in effecting peace and harmony there. However, the undertaking will probably consume several years at a minimum, and perhaps in that time we will be able to resolve some of the problems of leadership which are troubling us in some areas.

The time will come, I hope, when schools will submit their schedules to recognized Boards — that is the ideal, but we are far from it. 36

POST-SEASON GAMES

The problem of Post-Season games was first brought to the attention of the Virginia High School League at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council on February 29, 1936. The Executive Committee recommended to the Council that the League go on record as being opposed to post-season games, but that it did not consider games which had been postponed on account of inclement weather and other unforeseen conditions as post-season games. It was clearly established in the discussion which followed this proposal that the League was opposed to such games, but would not take steps to prohibit them (any game played after Thanksgiving week to be considered a post-season game, unless prevented by weather conditions, etc.). A motion was made to adopt this recommendation by Mr. Fred M. Alexander, Principal, Newport News, Virginia and seconded by Mr. F. E. Fowlkes, Chairman of District Eleven and representing John Marshall High School, Richmond, Virginia. 37

36 "Personal Correspondence File of Mr. Richard R. Fletcher, Executive Secretary, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, April 19, 1949, p.2

37 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 29, 1936, p.5
Post-season games tended to create a problem for the Group I High Schools in that they caused an extended playing season in a sport which resulted in an overlapping of the practice in one sport with that of another. The games not only worked an overload on the part of the school officials, but they created an overemphasis upon sports in the high schools.

On February 19, 1937, the Executive Committee brought up the matter of post-season games. The Committee discussed the possibilities of taking a firmer stand in regard to post-season games by disqualifying any school that participated in such a game. This suggestion was abandoned in favor of a recommendation made by Mr. W. E. Parsons, Assistant Superintendent of Roanoke City Schools, Roanoke, Virginia, that the Legislative Council vote to continue to emphasize its disapproval of any post-season game in any sport, post-season being interpreted as any game played after the close of the playing season. The Council voted on this proposal the following day, February 20, 1937, and it was unanimously passed.38

Mr. J. D. Riddick, Principal, Jefferson Senior High School, Roanoke, Virginia, made the following statement in regard to post-season games to the Legislative Council on February 13, 1937:

38 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 20, 1937, p.6
The League, for years, has frowned upon post-season games but instead of enacting some sort of rule to curtail these games it allows them to be played. It was to sponsor inter-school sports on a sound educational basis post-season games should be eliminated.\textsuperscript{39}

Two years later the attention of the League was again called to the matter of post-season games at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council on April 11, 1945. Mr. John Reits, Director of Student Activities, Lane High School, Charlottesville, Virginia, remarked:

The Virginia High School League has been slow in passing regulations governing post-season games. It appears that these games tend to create over-emphasis in interscholastic sports, especially in football, and the delayed action on the part of the League permits this mal-practice to increase.\textsuperscript{40}

At the Legislative Council meeting, March 15, 1927, Mr. L. R. Stanley, Principal, Newport News High School, Newport News, Virginia, made a motion that the Council adopt the recommendation that the existent recommendation against post-season games be made a regulation to read as follows:

No post-season game shall be played in any sport with the exception of those games which have been postponed because of inordinate weather or other circumstances beyond the control of the school. For the purpose of this regulation, sports seasons were considered as ending on the following dates:

\textsuperscript{39} "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 13, 1943, p.3

\textsuperscript{40} "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, April 11, 1945, p.6
This action taken by the Council definitely placed the League on firmer ground in regards to the playing of post-season games. Much of the pressure that, in the past, had come from interests outside of the school was lessened and taken from the high school principal.

On November 21, 1947, at the Legislative Council Meeting, Mr. Richard R. Fletcher, Executive Secretary, reported that the request of Jefferson Senior High School of Roanoke, Virginia, for authorization to play in a December "Milk Bowl" game in North Carolina had been refused in a mail poll of the Group I Principals by a vote of seven to three. This marked the first time that the League had to actually enforce the Post-Season Game Rule after it was passed. It clearly revealed the position that all the Group I High School Principals took with respect to post-season games.

In order to avoid confusion as to the interpretation of the rule prohibiting post-season games, the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. L. R. Stanley, Principal of Newport News High School, Newport News, Virginia, to recommend the transfer of that section of the Post-Season

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Footnotes:

11 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 15, 1947, p.9

12 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, November 21, 1947, p.9
Game Rule relating to dates (for purposes of this rule, etc.), to the section under Football headed Schedule, and to recommend the addition of an interpretation or two to the rule.\textsuperscript{43}

A proposal to amend the Post-Season Game Rule was discussed at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council on March 19, 1949. The proposed amendment was that a post-season basketball game be defined as any game played after the final district championship game, other than games which are part of sanctioned tournaments. The recommendation was thought to be unnecessary in that the Post-Season Game Rule fully covered this matter.\textsuperscript{44}

The policy of the League had been to curtail all attempts of any Group I High School toward participating in any post-season game in any sport. Most of the problems concerning these games were centered in the sport of football. Post-season games in football had their strongest incentive from the fact that the gate receipts were heavy in this sport over all the State. In the past, many of the Group I High Schools have presented strong football teams which have gathered a huge following through game attendance and publicity channels. Granby High School, Norfolk, Virginia, had a football team which was undefeated for two seasons. Much publicity resulted and was climaxd by the League

\textsuperscript{43} Loc. cit.

\textsuperscript{44} "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 19, 1949, p.8
sanctioning the team participating in two post-season games: Granby High School played Clinton High School, Clinton, New Jersey, at Foreman Field, Norfolk, Virginia, in an Oyster Bowl Game, and on the following New Year's Day played a bowl game at Miami, Florida. The two above-mentioned incidences were the only post-season football games played by any member school team after the enactment of the Post-Season Game Rule.

The Virginia High School League recognized the many difficulties involved in allowing member high schools to participate in post-season games. Although from the origin of the Group I High Schools in the State the League frowned upon these games, it was slow in enacting legislation prohibiting them. This slowness of the League's action permitted many problems to occur which otherwise would never have existed.

HONOR TEAMS

The selection of honor teams was an acute problem to the Virginia High School League from the origin of the Group I Schools in 1926 to the post-war years of the League's existence. This problem grew in complexity due to the steady growth, through the years, in the membership of the larger high schools. The many outside interests, such as newspapers, radio, and interested local organizations, selected these honor teams without interference from the League.

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45 Bulletin of Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXVI, August 15, 1948, p.46

46 Bulletin of Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XI, Number 2, August, 1926, p.48
Much of the interest to the public in choosing these honor teams was lessened because of the selection of these unofficial honor teams. Controversies arose from time to time due to the numerous honor teams varying considerably as to the athletes on these teams. The problem centered itself mainly in the two major sports of the Group I High Schools: football and basketball.

The Virginia High School League's first attempt at a solution of this problem came at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council on February 12, 1938. The Council voted that all selections for all-star teams be sent by Group I Coaches to the League office only. All inquiries regarding all-state teams were to be referred to the League office. This action became effective only as a recommendation on September 1, 1939.47

During the years immediately before World War II, interscholastic athletics in the Group I High Schools of Virginia had grown tremendously. Competition was keener among the member schools and publicity in newspapers and radio created a growing interest by the public in these sports. Along with this growth in athletic competition came a similar growth in the problem of selecting honor teams. The emergency year during World War II found curtailment in traveling among athletic teams in the State, but this had little effect with respect to public interest in high school sports. The League still faced the problem of having only one official

47 Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 12, 1938, p.4
honor team selected in each sport by the member schools and eliminating all other honor team selections. Lack of cooperation on the part of the Group I coaches in selecting these teams added much to the difficulty in solving the problem.

On September 1, 1946, the League amended the honor team recommendation to read:

That no official or coach of any member school encourage the selection of or participate in the selection of any all-state, all-regional, all-district, all-county, or similar team or squad of high school athletes except as a part of and through the joint action of the coaches of all teams concerned. No official all-state teams or squads are selected by the League office. Group I Coaches select annually Group I all-state honor squads in football and basketball. 48

The 1946 amendment to the honor team recommendation was an important step in the solution of this problem, but the fact remained that no League rule covered this situation. The League found, to further insure and to make the selection of honor teams more official, that a rule was needed. On September 1, 1948, the Virginia High School League made the 1946 amendment a rule, with this added amendment in the rule: "... and then only when such action has been approved by the appropriate Group Board or District Council". 49 With the addition of the Honor Team Rule the many all-state, all-regional, and all-district teams selected by the interests outside of the high schools became fewer and fewer. The full

48 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXIV, Number 11, August 1, 1946, p.78
49 Handbook of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXXVI, Number 2, August 15, 1948, p.30
cooperation of all newspapers, radio and other interested organizations throughout the State, together with the cooperation on the part of the Group I Coaches, did much toward solving this problem. The years 1949 and 1950 found only one officially recognized honor team or squad for each sport selected and recognized over all the State of Virginia.

PRE-SEASON AND OUT-OF-SEASON PRACTICE

Pre-season and out-of-season practice in interscholastic athletics among the Group I High Schools of Virginia was a problem of utmost importance to the Virginia High School League. The League early recognized the importance of having a rule to curtail this practice, especially in the sport of football.

On March 17, 1928, Dr. Joseph H. Saunders, Superintendent, Newport News Public Schools, made a motion to prohibit spring football practice. It was seconded by Mr. Fred M. Alexander, Principal, Newport News High School, Newport News, Virginia, and passed by a majority vote by the Legislative Council.50

At the same meeting, Mr. J. D. Riddick, Principal, George Washington High School, Danville, Virginia, made a motion that no school, a member of the League, should engage in regular practice in any athletic

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50 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 17, 1928, p.4
sport before the official opening of the said school. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leon Godd, Principal, Woodrow Wilson High School, Portsmouth, Virginia, and passed by the Council by unanimous vote to become effective for the 1927-1928 school year.\footnote{Loc. cit.}

The writer found from this date (1927-1928) that the Virginia High School League kept pace with the many problems evolving from pre-season and out-of-season practice by passing legislation to cope with these problems.

**COACHES**

The Virginia High School League was sound educationally toward its legislation concerning the high school coaches of the member schools. The League, from the beginning, frowned upon practices of having "outsiders" coach a high school team. This was clearly shown by a resolution of the Executive Committee at its annual meeting on February 5, 1926.

The Committee was sensitive to the loyalty and ideals of the coaches of athletics in the schools of the State, and it wished to go on record as expressing confidence in them. The resolution was, in no way, meant to reflect upon their ideals or abilities. However, the Committee was of the opinion that the athletic coaches should be members of the faculty...
of the school which they represented and that their activities should be supervised by the principal of the school in the same manner in which the activities of the various other departments in the school were supervised. 52

Five years from the date of this resolution the Legislative Council passed the Coaches' Rule, which read as follows:

All coaches shall be certified teachers regularly employed by the Board of Education. They shall not have less than three regular periods of classes, gymnasium or study hall duty per day. This rule does not apply to students in training at institutions of higher learning who may be available in assisting with the physical education program.

The problems in this area were held to a minimum because the principals of the Group I High Schools of the Virginia High School League were strict in seeing that the type of personnel hired to direct athletic interests of the schools met the qualifications of both the local school board and the State Board of Education. At no time did the League become lax in providing regulations to govern the employment of coaches.

**STATE SANCTION**

During the early years of the participation of the Group I High Schools in the League inter-school athletic program there was no rule governing any particular game or tournament. The usual procedure was

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52 "Minutes of the Executive Committee, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 5, 1926, p.1

53 *Bulletin of the Virginia High School League*, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XIV, Number 11, May, 1930, p.20
for all tournaments (athletic contests involving more than two schools) to be voted on for approval of the League. Thus, every time a question arose concerning a tournament in which a state member school would be taking part, the Virginia High School League would have to approve this participation.

In 1928, on March 28th, at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council, the League was asked to sponsor the National High School Basketball Tournament. On motion of Mr. J. Leon Codd, Principal of Woodrow Wilson High School, Portsmouth, Virginia, and seconded by Mr. Fred W. Alexander, Principal of Newport News High School, Newport News, Virginia, the National Tournament was unanimously disapproved. 51

An attempt was made, on February 29, 1926, at the Legislative Council Meeting, to adopt some sort of Sanction Rule. The Executive Committee presented a recommendation that the Council adopt the wording of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations in regards to inter-state tournaments and meets. This rule of the National Federation, which prohibited any school whose state association was a member of the National Federation from taking part in any inter-state or national tournaments, was protested. It was moved by Mr. F. E. Fowlkes, Chairman of District V, that action on this question be postponed. The Council voted to appoint a committee to investigate

51 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 28, 1928, p.4
the matter of inter-state tournaments and report its findings at the
next meeting of the Legislative Council.55

Mr. Charles H. Kauffmann, Executive Secretary, Virginia High
School League, in a report to the Legislative Council on February 8, 1941,
stated, in part . . .

The League had few problems concerning inter-school athletics of
the Group I High Schools during the early years of its operation.
The ever changing and fast growing sports program in these schools
has changed the picture. For the past several years many of the
Group I schools have been participating in athletic events without
the full sanction of the League. There is immediate need for a
State Sanction Rule to govern these games. 56

The Council felt that any action taken concerning a State Sanction
Rule must be studied before a rule could be passed. 57

At the Legislative Council Meeting on February 13, 1943, Mr. J. E.
Mallonee, Principal, Hopewell High School, Hopewell, Virginia, made a
motion that the League adopt a State Sanction Rule to cover all games
and tournaments within or without the State of Virginia. This motion
died from lack of a second. Mr. J. E. Olde, Council Chairman, expressed
his opinion of the matter as follows:

If the League is to uphold all it has worked for in Group I
interscholastic athletics for the past seventeen years a State
Sanction Rule is most eminent. We are permitting our athletic
teams to participate in these tournaments without sanction and the

55 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High
School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 29, 1936, p.7
56 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High
School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 8, 1941, p.8
57 Loc. cit.
problem is becoming more complex year after year. Further delay by
the League shows evidence that we are not keeping pace with our
growing inter-scholastic athletic program.

The League sponsored the Group I inter-school athletic program
for twenty years without a State Sanction Rule. Negligence, on the part
of the League, was evident in that the tournaments were held and games
were played without the sanction of the State Association. This study
found that the League allowed problems to arise which probably would
have never occurred if it had enacted a sanction rule in time to cope
with these problems.

On March 9, 1946, at the Legislative Council Meeting, Mr. L. R.
Stanley, Principal, Newport News High School, Newport News, Virginia,
recommended that the League adopt the State Sanction Rule to read as
follows:

No member of the League shall participate in any kind of meet or
tournament, within or outside the State, involving more than two
schools, unless that meet or tournament has been sanctioned by the
Executive Committee.

JUNIOR VARSITY COMPETITION

In 1926, at which time the Virginia High School League classified
the high schools of the State, the Group I High Schools had few problems

58 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High
School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 13, 1943, p.1

59 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High
School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 9, 1946, p.9
concerning Junior Varsity Competition. The following ten years found a rapid growth in the enrollment of these schools, along with a constant rise in the number of students entering interscholastic sports. This situation created a need for Junior Varsity athletics. Boys who were entering inter-school athletics for the first time were allowed to compete on a more equal level. Coaches found this an ideal situation in that first-year aspirants in athletics could gain needed experience for varsity competition later. Junior Varsity competition was centered in the sports of basketball and football, with a few schools sponsoring Junior Varsity teams in track and baseball.

At the annual meeting of the Legislative Council on February 12, 1938, the first reference was made by the League in respect to Junior Varsity sports. The Council ruled that a student participating on a Junior Varsity team would not be charged with a year's competition in the sport concerned. The League recognized the value of having Junior Varsity teams because they curtailed the dangers involved in playing young, inexperienced boys against older and more experienced athletes.

The problems that arose out of Junior Varsity competition multiplied because of the lack of action on the part of the League in providing legislation to govern these sports. The Group I schools, for years,

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60 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 12, 1938, p.2
sponsored teams in Junior Varsity inter-school athletics without any sort of regulation. One problem that bothered the schools was that some coaches played boys in both Junior Varsity and Varsity games. In basketball, this meant that a boy could play in a Junior Varsity game and on that same night participate in a Varsity game. This practice was common in many parts of the State and presented a situation in which the health of young boys was in constant danger. Playing in two games in one night was far in excess of the physical reserve of these youths.

Mr. Charles H. Kauffmann, Executive Secretary, in a report to the Legislative Council on February 25, 1939, concluded: "Immediate action should be taken by the Virginia High School League in respect to erasing many of the growing problems found in Junior Varsity Athletics of the Group I High Schools". 61

Two types of high schools were in existence in Virginia during the years previous to World War II. The four-year high school consisted of grades eight, nine, ten, and eleven and the three-year high schools of grades nine, ten and eleven, when these schools were a part of an eleven-year system. 62 The post World War II years found the State changing from eleven-grade to twelve-grade systems, thus creating four-

61 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 25, 1939, p. 4

62 Handbook of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXVIII, Number 5, October 1, 1950, p. 10
year high schools of grades nine, ten, eleven and twelve and three-year high schools of grades ten, eleven and twelve. 63

The Group I Schools consisted of both types of high schools. This brought forth a situation in which pupils in a four-year high school could enter Junior Varsity Sports while in a three-year high school most of the students were needed for Varsity Competition. Several of the Group I High Schools were senior high schools with junior high schools in their school systems. These junior high schools sponsored athletic teams, and in many cases, competed with Junior Varsitys of other schools. A few of the Group I schools used these junior high students on their Junior Varsity teams. A problem evolved out of this situation in that the principal did not have these junior high pupils under his jurisdiction.

Mr. A. B. Haga, Principal, Cradock High School, Portsmouth, Virginia, put this question before the Legislative Council at its annual meeting on March 9, 1945, "Can pupils in Junior High School be played?" 64 Concerning this question, Mr. R. B. Walker, Principal, Fairfax High School, Fairfax, Virginia, moved that the Executive Secretary be instructed to interpret the use of ninth-grade pupils in Junior High School as follows:

If a ninth grade is in the same building and under the supervision of the principal of the last three years of high school, he is eligible; if not, the pupil is ineligible to represent the senior high school.

63 Loc. cit.

64 Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, March 9, 1945, p.14
school. A three-year high school cannot use ninth-grade pupils in the junior high school unless these pupils are housed in the same building and are under the same administrative head. 65

The motion was unanimously passed.

Competition on the Junior Varsity level became stronger and comparable to that of Varsity competition in interest and participation by students. Seventeen of the Group I High Schools sponsored Junior Varsity in football and basketball during the 1946-1947 school year. 66

The Handbook of the Virginia High School League (1947) listed Junior Varsity sports as being under the same League Rules and Regulations as Varsity competition unless a specific exception was made under a rule. 67

This statement was general in nature and did not refer to any specific rule covering Junior Varsity competition. Evidence of this fact was shown at the Eastern District, Group I Council Meeting, held on March 3, 1949, when Mr. Richard R. Fletcher requested all schools to cooperate in insisting upon observance of eligibility requirements for Junior Varsity participants. All principals present stated that they believed their teams did meet eligibility requirements. It was pointed out that some schools were encouraging grade school students to participate with Junior Varsities. This was deemed a questionable practice, but there was no League regulation against it. 68

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65 Loc. cit.
66 *Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXIV, Number 1, August 1, 1946, p. 11*
67 *Handbook of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXV, Number 2, August 15, 1947, p.39*
68 "Minutes of the Eastern District, Group I Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 8, 1949 p.1
Further attention to Junior Varsity athletics was brought to the League at the Executive Committee Meeting on May 19, 1949. The Committee discussed the League's Four-Year Rule in that it did not apply to teams other than varsity teams—only varsity participation counted as a year of participation. This was not the case in most state associations. The Executive Secretary was requested to present the situation to the member principals in an effort to determine whether or not there was any sentiment for counting all participation, "B" teams, junior varsity, etc., as participation under the Four-Year Rule. 69

The Virginia High School League, after sponsoring Group I interscholastic athletics for twenty-two years, passed the Junior Varsity Rule:

(a) Students may participate in competitions of less than varsity level for one year only in the grade below the first year of the last four years of high school. (b) No students who participate in an interscholastic contest in any sport as a member of the junior varsity squad may participate in a varsity squad contest until after 36 hours have elapsed since his participation in the junior varsity squad contest. No student who participates in an interscholastic contest as a member of a varsity squad may participate in a junior varsity contest until after six days have elapsed since his participation in the varsity squad contest. 70

The passing of this rule eliminated many of the problems that existed over the long span of years of junior varsity competition. Junior varsity sports were placed in the position they could best serve and that was to provide inter-school athletic competition for young boys who were first entering sports.

69 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, May 19, 1945, p.5

70 Handbook of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXVIII, Number 5, October 1, 1950, p.29
CHAPTER III

PROBLEMS CONCERNING INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

This investigation revealed pertinent problems concerning the individual eligibility of student participants in the interscholastic athletic program of the Group I High Schools in the State of Virginia. These problems were found to be centered in the following areas: Bona Fide Student, Grades, Enrollment Date, Scholarship, Age, Semesters and Years of Competition, Transfer, Post-Graduate, Amateur Status, Parental Consent and Physician's Certificate, Awards, and Independent Team Participation.

BONA FIDE STUDENT

As early as 1926, the League was confronted with the problem of individual students who were not in good standing at the school they represented in inter-school athletic competition. Mr. Walter C. Chapman, Executive Secretary, in attempting to eliminate recurrences of this problem, appeared before the Executive Committee on February 5, 1926. He concluded that:

The responsibility of maintaining high standards of inter-school competition rests largely with the member schools of the League. These schools must be absolutely sure that all student participants are bona fide members of their schools and in good standing.1

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1 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 5, 1926, p.3
A lengthy discussion followed Mr. Chapman's appearance before the Committee.

At the Legislative Council Meeting on March 17, 1928, Mr. Joseph H. Saunders, Superintendent of Newport News Public Schools, Newport News, Virginia, made a motion that all participants in inter-school contests should be students in regular attendance and in good standing in their respective schools. Mr. Fred M. Alexander, Principal, Newport News High School, Newport News, Virginia, seconded this motion. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.\(^2\)

The Bona Fide Student Rule was passed at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council on February 8, 1930. The rule stated:

He shall be a "regular" bona fide student in good standing of the school which he represents.\(^3\)

After the Bona Fide Student Rule became effective, several of the problems that confronted the Group I schools were eliminated, but the League did not make the rule inclusive enough, nor was the wording of the rule clear. Evidence of this fact was shown in a statement made by Mr. A. B. Bristow, Principal, Maury High School, Norfolk, Virginia, to the Legislative Council on February 16, 1933. Mr. Bristow remarked:

The Bona Fide Student Rule has eliminated many of the mal-practices.

\(^2\) "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 17, 1928, p.5

\(^3\) "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 8, 1930, p.2
which existed prior to the enactment of the rule. Classification of this rule is needed, especially should the phrase "regular student" be defined. The rule as it now reads is too general to be fully understood by all member schools. 4

The Council voted to postpone this recommendation and to make further study of the matter. 5

Three years later, at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council, on February 29, 1936, Mr. Fred M. Alexander, Principal, Newport News High School, Newport News, Virginia, said:

Through correspondence with several of the other Group I High School principals, I have found that what one school might term as a "regular" student would not hold true for another school. I believe that all member schools are attempting to abide by the Bona Fide Student Rule, but an amendment is most essential to clarify many of the misinterpretations. 6

The Council held a lengthy discussion of this matter, but no agreement was reached concerning the amendment to the rule. 7

Mr. Charles H. Kauffmann, Executive Secretary, Virginia High School League, criticised the passive attitude of the League in regard to the Bona Fide Student Rule at the annual meeting of the Executive Committee on February 24, 1939. He said, in part . . .

Immediate action should be taken concerning the amendment of the Bona Fide Student Rule. At the time the rule was passed it well covered the situation, but the picture has changed considerably since

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4 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 18, 1933, p.5

5 Loc. cit.

6 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 29, 1936, p.2

7 Loc. cit.
1929. The rapid growth of inter-school athletics necessitates rule changes to keep abreast of this growth.

Further evidence that the Virginia High School League was slow in amending the Bona Fide Student Rule was revealed by a statement made by Mr. Hugh L. Sulfridge, Principal, Lane High School, Charlottesville, Virginia. Mr. Sulfridge suggested the following:

The League must awaken to the fact that a rule placed in force ten or twelve years ago possibly does not govern practices found in the interscholastic sports today. The attention of the League has been called, more than once, to the need of an amendment to the Bona Fide Student Rule. I think that a complete study should be made of the situation and proper legislation carried out.9

The Bona Fide Student Rule remained unchanged and was not placed on the agenda of the Executive Committee or the Legislative Council for a period of six years. On March 20, 1948, the Legislative Council proposed a change in the interpretation under the Bona Fide Student Rule. The proposed revised interpretation reads:

A "regular" student is considered as one who is carrying a schedule of four subjects which carry credit towards the sixteen required for graduation, with the proviso that seniors who need only three subjects for graduation be considered as "regular" students if they are carrying the three subjects which, if passed, will lead to their graduation.10

This recommendation was rejected since the Council felt the rule sufficient as it stood.11

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8 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 24, 1939, p.3
9 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 14, 1942, p.5
10 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 20, 1948, p.5
11 Loc. cit.
The original Bona Fide Student Rule remained unchanged, but this study has cited five occasions in which proposals were made by a member of the Legislative Council or the Executive Committee to amend the rule. In each case these proposals were either tabled for further study or for rejection. Since these proposals to change the rule were placed before the League meetings by men who, for years, had served as League officials, it was sufficient evidence to reveal the slowness with which the League acted in the matter. On one occasion the Executive Secretary brought the matter before the Executive Committee, but no recommendations were made by the Committee for amending the rule. The need for a rule change was evident, and possibly a clarification of the rule might have eliminated some of the problems that existed.

GRADES

The Virginia High School League was cognizant of the fact that to standardize the inter-school athletic program the participants should be on the same grade levels. On January 19, 1929, the Executive Committee held a lengthy discussion concerning the elimination of pupils in the elementary grades from participation in high school athletics. The danger in permitting elementary grade pupils to take part in the high school athletic program centered around these problems: (1) The

12 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, January 19, 1929, p.1
practice of allowing pupils purposely to remain in the elementary school as long as possible so they could have more years of varsity competition upon reaching high school, (2) Tendency to lower educational standards of the Group I schools, and (3) Placed too much emphasis on sports participation on the part of the schools as well as the students.

As a result of the above, the Legislative Council passed the Grade Rule which read as follows: "He must have been promoted to the eighth grade". This rule was made effective at the beginning of the 1931-1932 school year. It relieved the high school principals of the sole responsibility of deciding on the eligibility of elementary pupils for high school athletic competition.

The Grade Rule was misinterpreted by several of the Group I schools, especially those high schools which were a part of a twelve-year system. This resulted in a problem for League consideration in that the five-year high schools were greatly benefited by the participation of eighth-grade pupils, while three and four-year high schools did not have these pupils. At the annual meeting of the Executive Committee on February 8, 1935, it was suggested that the League office offer a resolution that the Grade Rule be revised to include only those students that had been promoted to the first year of a high school.

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13 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XIV, Number 1, May, 1931, p.14
The Executive Committee's recommendation to revise the Grade Rule was unanimously passed by the Legislative Council on February 29, 1935. This rule became effective for the school year 1935-1936.\textsuperscript{14}

The League passed legislation in time to cope with the problems that arose from the school year 1931-1932, at which time the original Grade Rule became effective, up to and including the school year 1935-1936.

This investigation found that the Virginia High School League did not make any further amendments to the Grade Rule for a period of eleven years. During that time interscholastic athletics of the Group I schools were expanded and problems came up which might have never occurred if legislation had kept pace with this growth.

Mr. E. B. Broadwater, Principal, Andrew Lewis High School, Salem, Virginia, made a proposal to the legislative Council on February 20, 1937, that the Grade Rule be clarified in order to eliminate any possible misinterpretation.\textsuperscript{15} The Council rejected this proposal and suggested that a study be made of the matter.\textsuperscript{16}

At the annual meeting of the Executive Committee on February 28, 1939, Mr. Charles H. Kauffmann, Executive Secretary, reported:

\textsuperscript{14} "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 6, 1935, p.2

\textsuperscript{15} "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 20, 1937, p.7

\textsuperscript{16} Loc. cit.
During the past-school year as many as ten letters from various Group I Principals have been sent to the Extension Office requesting changes to be made in the Grade Rule. The majority of these letters are concerned with the practice of some high schools permitting eighth grade pupils to participate in varsity sports. The consensus of opinion is that the rule should designate the types of high schools.

The Committee voted to bring this problem before the next meeting of the Legislative Council.

Mr. H. L. Sulfridge, Principal, Lane High School, Charlottesville, Virginia, presented the proposed change in the Grade Rule to the February 10, 1940, meeting of the Legislative Council. A lengthy discussion followed but several of the Council members felt they were not in position at the time to vote and that they would need to study the proposed change in order to vote wisely.

The following year, on February 8, 1941, Mr. J. E. Malonee, Principal, Hopewell High School, Hopewell, Virginia, stated that he was in favor of changing the Grade Rule in that several high schools in the State were at a disadvantage as the existing rule did not adequately cover situations in these schools. Mr. Malonee felt that some provision should be made for eighth-grade students in the five year high school.

The Council tabled this motion because numerous principals thought that

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17 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 24, 1929, p.10

18 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 10, 1940, p.3

19 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 8, 1941, p.5
there were more important problems to be discussed. They, too, felt that problems involving the Grade Rule could be taken care of by the individual Group I schools in their respective districts.20

The attention of the League was called to the need for a revision of the Grade Rule again on February 13, 1942, at which time Mr. J. D. Riddick, Principal, Jefferson Senior High School, Roanoke, Virginia, remarked:

Some procedure should be devised by the League for notifying all member principals of numerous district problems that occur during a school year, so that these principals will know how to vote intelligently on motions that are presented at the annual meetings. Proposed revisions in the Grade Rule have been on the agenda at these meetings for the past seven years and each time some of the members present did not vote because they did not have ample time to study the issue.21

Mr. Z. T. Kyle, Principal, Andrew Lewis High School, Salem, Virginia, sent a letter to Mrs. Mary H. Spalding, Acting Executive Secretary. A question was raised by Mr. Kyle concerning whether participation in interschool sports would be limited to four years of competition regardless of the type of high school the pupils were enrolled in.22 Mrs. Spalding replied in a letter dated September 7, 1945, that this problem should be referred to the Group I Conference for discussion and clarification. Nevertheless, her verdict was that an eighth-grade pupil in a five-year school would be eligible to participate in athletics provided he did

20 Loc. cit.
21 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 13, 1942, p.9
22 "Rules Interpretations File, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, September 1, 1945, p.49.
not play more than four years.\textsuperscript{23}

During the 1945-1946 school year letters were sent to the League office from nine different Group I schools, requesting clarification in regard to the Grade Rule.\textsuperscript{24} This brought action from the Legislative Council for, at its annual meeting on March 9, 1946, the Grade Rule was revised to limit athletic participation in the League to four years. In a five-year high school the upper four-year standard was adhered to.\textsuperscript{25}

Many of the misinterpretations concerning the Grade Rule were due largely to the existence of three types of high schools in the State at the time. One type had only three grades, another had four grades and another had five grades, which included the eighth grade. This situation resulted in the member principals interpreting the Grade Rule in three different ways.

The Western District of the Group I Committee recommended to the Group I Board, at its annual meeting on March 15, 1947, that any student otherwise eligible be permitted to represent the high school serving his district in inter-school sports, provided he was pursuing a high school course of study. Participation would begin with the eighth grade level in the case of an eleven-year school, and the ninth grade

\textsuperscript{23} Ibid., p.50

\textsuperscript{24} Ibid., p.65

\textsuperscript{25} "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 9, 1946, p.6
in the case of a twelve-year school. The student was to be eligible regardless of whether he was enrolled in the building under the supervision of the principal of a senior high school or not. The principal, though, was responsible for his eligibility. This recommendation was referred to the Executive Committee.26

The final revision of the Grade Rule was made by the League for the 1950-1951 school year. This rule stated:

He shall have been promoted to the first year of a four-year high school course, or its equivalent, except that a student may compete for one year on a junior varsity, while in the grade immediately below the last four years of high school.27

This study, from the cases cited, found that the Virginia High School League was lax with respect to revising the Grade Rule. The League allowed eleven years to pass by before a revision was made in the rule and during that span of years the attention of the League was brought to this needed change on seven different occasions.

ENROLLMENT DATE

In 1926 the larger schools of the State were operating under the League's direction in interscholastic athletics as Group I High Schools for the first time. The change over under this new classification was

26 "Minutes of the Group I Board Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 15, 1947, p.5

27 Handbook of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXVIII, Number 5, October 1, 1950, p.3
a gradual process in inter-school sports. Problems arose, at the time, which required enactment of specific rules in attempts to eliminate them. One of these early problems was the enrollment of pupils who were to participate in inter-school athletics.

The Virginia High School League gave early recognition to the importance of having a student enrolled in the high school previous to athletic participation. This was shown by the League's inserting in the Standard Contract for the 1926-1927 school session, the following statement concerning enrollment:

Each member of the team must have enrolled not later than the opening of the tenth day of the semester. In case of enrollment after tenth day, a student must be in regular attendance at the school he represents for twenty school days before the game in which he plays.

For the school year 1929-1930 the Enrollment Rule found in the Standard Contract was omitted. The Legislative Council rescinded the rule because of the adverse criticism from the member high schools.

Several of the schools felt the rule worked a hardship on those pupils that had summer jobs and had to enroll late.

The following school year, 1930-1931, the Legislative Council, at its annual meeting on February 14, 1930, reinstated the Enrollment Rule, which read: "He shall have been enrolled not later than the beginning of the tenth day of school of the semester".

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28 "Reprint from the Annual Report of the Virginia High School League, Published by the University of Virginia Extension, Charlottesville, Virginia, June 5, 1926, p.18.

29 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 14, 1930, p.3.
At the Executive Committee Meeting on February 9, 1940, the Committee held a discussion concerning the need of a revision in the rule making clear the minimum number of days a student must have been in attendance during a semester in order to count that semester.30

At the Legislative Council Meeting on February 9, 1941, Mr. Charles H. Kauffmann, Executive Secretary, cited the need for a revision of the Enrollment Rule. He called the Council's attention to the fact that in some Group I High Schools athletic participants were allowed to enroll late and still play on one of the teams.31 The Council held a discussion, but some of the principals felt that they were not qualified to vote, since they had not the time to study the proposal.32

Mr. J. D. Riddick, Principal, Jefferson Senior High School, Roanoke, Virginia, appeared before the Executive Committee on February 13, 1942. Mr. Riddick stated:

An immediate revision should be made in the Enrollment Rule to eliminate the practices some of the Group I schools are carrying on. The rule, as it now reads, is not inclusive enough to curtail these practices. Provisions should be made in the Rule to govern specific situations.33

30 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 9, 1940, p.1

31 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 9, 1941, p.3

32 Loc. cit.

33 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 13, 1942, p.6
The Committee was in full agreement with Mr. Riddick and proposed to bring the matter before the next meeting of the Legislative Council.

At the Legislative Council meeting on February 13, 1943, a discussion was held concerning a possible revision of the Enrollment Rule. During this discussion, Mr. J. T. Christopher, Principal, George Washington High School, Danville, Virginia, criticized the passive attitude of the Council in regard to needed changes in the rule. A committee was formed to study this situation and ordered to report its findings to the Executive Secretary.34

The Committee's report was read at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council on February 12, 1944. In more than fifty percent of the Group I schools problems existed concerning the enrollment of athletic participants. The Committee urged the League to revise the Enrollment Rule in order to eliminate these problems. The Council tabled this proposal and placed it on the agenda for the 1945 meeting.35

This study found that the League was lax in regard to revising the Enrollment Rule. A period of five years passed during which time the League was aware of the needed changes, but in each incident cited the matter was postponed. On April 11, 1945, the Legislative Council added two exceptions and one interpretation to the Enrollment Rule.

(See Appendix)36

34 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 13, 1943, p.7

35 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 12, 1944, p.2

36 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, April 11, 1945, p.8
The League added a temporary exception to the rule by a mail vote of the membership of the Legislative Council members. This exception read as follows:

Any student returning to school after having been honorably discharged from the armed services. Such a student is eligible under this rule throughout the semester during which he was discharged, regardless of the date of his enrollment. However, in any subsequent semester he shall be required to meet the provisions of this rule.

This exception was stricken from the League Rules and Regulations for the school session 1947-1948.

Over a majority of the time that the Virginia High School League sponsored Group I Inter-school athletics, the necessary changes were made in the Enrollment Rule to care for any problems that arose. The one exception was the years from 1941 through 1944, during which time needed legislation was evident, but the League was passive in its attitude toward amending the rule.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Virginia High School League was cognizant of the problems that arose from year to year in regard to the scholarship requirements of athletic participants in the interscholastic athletic program of the Group I High Schools. Legislation was passed to cope with these problems, and the League maintained a positive attitude toward eliminating problems in this area.

37 "Personal File Mr. Richard R. Fletcher, Executive Secretary, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, November 21, 1948, p.12
AGE

The age of participants in interscholastic athletic competition was significant for two reasons. First, in order to maintain competitive athletics on an equal basis among all member schools, an age limit was placed on boys eligible for participation. Secondly, from the standpoint of academic standards the schools realized that under average conditions, boys should terminate their high school careers at a certain age.

This study found that the League was aware of the problems that arose concerning the age of athletes and that legislation was passed to govern any changes that took place.

SEMESTERS AND YEARS OF PARTICIPATION

The Virginia High School League kept within its policy of attempting to maintain a strong competitive sports program among the Group I schools in regard to the number of semesters and years a student was eligible to participate. As early as the school year 1927-1928 the number of years of participation were placed in the Standard Contract. The statement was as follows:

No student is eligible for a phase of competition who has represented a high school or high schools in that branch of interscholastic athletic contest during a period of four years, whether or not said
school has been a member of the Virginia High School League for that length of time.38

The League published a bulletin which included the Eligibility Rules in the Standard Contract. Provisions for the number of years were called the Four Year Rule, to which the League added: "A student who enters a game has represented his school in that sport for a year".39

During the next fourteen years the Four Year Rule remained unchanged, but these years found a rapid growth in inter-school athletics of the Group I schools. Along with this growth problems arose. Some of these problems very definitely concerned the Four Year Rule. Not only was there a growth in athletic competition, but the size and the number of Group I schools increased.

Mr. W. E. Parsons, Principal, Jefferson Senior High School, Roanoke, Virginia, appeared before the Legislative Council Meeting requesting that the Four Year Rule be changed so that those schools having five years would definitely know which of the five years a boy would be eligible to participate. This proposal was discussed, but several members requested more time to study the matter.40

38 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume III, Number 9, May 19, 1927, p.73

39 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XV, Number 11, May, 1931, p.15

40 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 18, 1933, p.6
At the Executive Committee meeting on February 8, 1935, Mr. A. B. Bristow, Principal, Maury High School, Norfolk, Virginia, made the following statement concerning the revision of the Four Year Rule:

At the time the Four Year Rule was passed the majority of the problems resulting were curtailed by this rule. Today inter-school athletics of our Group I schools are growing in both interest and numbers. Following their growth are many problems. There is immediate need for an amendment to the Four Year Rule to govern those students enrolled in the five-year high schools. 41

An appeal to revise the Four Year Rule was made at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council on February 20, 1937, by Mr. Fred Greene, Principal, George Washington High School, Danville, Virginia. Mr. Greene proposed that the existing rule be clarified to eliminate the numerous misinterpretations made by member schools. The Council was in agreement with this proposal, but felt that further study should be made before an attempt could be made to revise the rule. 42

Mr. H. L. Moncure, Principal, George Washington High School, Alexandria, Virginia, at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council on February 25, 1939, suggested that the Four Year Rule be amended to govern a situation in which a member school might play an ineligible boy. Mr. Moncure wanted to know if the school found the boy ineligible could his having participated count as one year on a varsity squad.

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41 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 8, 1935, p.2
42 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 20, 1937, p.3
This question was discussed, but the Council was of the opinion that the members present could not wisely vote until thoroughly studying the problem.

Three years later, on February 14, 1942, Mr. H. Wilson Thorpe, Principal, Hampton High School, Hampton, Virginia, stated:

The way the Four Year Rule reads at present there is no provision made for those boys in a five year high school. These types of schools have a decided advantage over three-year senior high schools in that they can play boys over a five year period on the Junior Varsity and the Varsity Squads.

A Committee was appointed to make a survey of the existing inequalities and problems involving the years of participation in the five-year high school. Mr. Thorpe's motion was postponed.

The Legislative Council revised the Four Year Rule by adding amendments c, d, e, f, and g to become effective for the 1946-1947 school session. (See Appendix)

On November 29, 1946, a recommendation was presented to the Group I Board to limit athletic participation to a period of ten consecutive semesters in a four-year high school and eight consecutive semesters in

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43 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 25, 1939, p.5

44 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 14, 1942

45 Loc. cit.

46 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXIV, Number 1, August 1, 1946, p.41
a three-year high school. The semester in which the student was enrolled for the first time in the lowest school grade to be counted consecutively, regardless of whether or not the student is enrolled in school.\(^{47}\)

This type of regulation would strengthen the Four Year Rule by requiring that participation be within a limited period, and it was felt to be worthy of consideration in view of the current high age limit for participation, the highest in the nation.\(^{48}\)

At the annual meeting of the Legislative Council on March 9, 1947, the Council passed the Semester Rule as presented by the Group I Board. The rule was to become effective on September 1, 1949.\(^{49}\) (See Appendix)

The effective date of the Semester Rule was postponed on March 19, 1949, to September 1, 1951, and the rule was revised so that it would apply uniformly to all Group I schools regardless of their grade organization.\(^{50}\)

This study has cited the delaying action of the League in providing legislation to cope with the resulting problems concerning the Four Year Rule. A period of fourteen years passed during which the League's

\(^{47}\) "Minutes of the Group I Board Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, November 29, 1946, p.5

\(^{48}\) Loc. cit.

\(^{49}\) "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 9, 1947, p.7

\(^{50}\) "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 19, 1949, p.1
attention was directed on numerous occasions to needed revisions in the rule. From the time the Semester Rule was passed the League was most active in passing legislation toward eliminating problems that arose.

TRANSFER

The transferring of students from one member school to another for sports participation was a problem which bothered the League, especially during the early years of the Group I interscholastic athletic program. From the school year 1926-1927 to the school year 1930-1931 there was no rule governing these transfers. This practice of transferring from one school to another not only created embarrassing situations for the schools involved, but tended to lower the academic standards of the schools.

The League passed the Transfer Rule to become effective for the 1930-1931 school year. It read: "He shall be ineligible for one semester if he transfers from one school to another without a corresponding change in his parent's address". 51

At the Legislative Council meeting on February 18, 1933, Mr. A. B. Bristow, Principal, Maury High School, Norfolk, Virginia, stated:

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51 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XIV, Number 11, May, 1930, p.30
The Transfer Rule should be amended to cover a situation in which a boy's parents might be divorced and he has a choice of living with either parent. A problem is created here when the parents might be living in different cities or communities.52

The attention of the League was called to a revision of the Transfer Rule on February 18, 1933, by Mr. Floyd E. Fowlkes, Assistant Principal, John Marshall High School, Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Fowlkes cited five different cases. All of these boys happened to be good athletes, which added impetus to the problem. These boys all changed schools to live with their mothers while their permanent residences were in another city. He felt the Transfer Rule should be changed to cover situations like this.53

The following year at the annual meeting of the Executive Committee Mr. W. E. Parsons, Principal, Jefferson Senior High School, Roanoke, Virginia, remarked:

Something should be done to curtail the transfer of athletes from one school to another and becoming eligible to participate by having a legal guardian declared. This sort of thing can lead to many misunderstandings between member schools competing in athletics.54

On February 29, 1936, at the annual meeting of the Legislative Council, Mr. H. D. Wolff, Principal, Petersburg High School, Petersburg, Virginia, criticised the League for its passive attitude toward revising

52 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 18, 1933, p.4

53 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 18, 1933, p.1

54 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 9, 1934, p.5
the Transfer Rule. He mentioned the rapid growth taking place in interschool athletics of the member schools and that this growth was creating much pressure from outside interests on sports. Mr. Wolff was of the opinion that the League legislation should keep abreast of current problems.55

Mr. J. Leon Godd, Principal, Woodrow Wilson High School, Portsmouth, Virginia, in his criticisms of League policy in regard to the revision of the Transfer Rule, said:

Many rivalries are developing in athletics between member schools throughout the state. The League should do all in its power to keep these rivalries healthy and to curtail ill feeling between these schools. The Transfer Rule was added to the Rules and Regulations seven years ago, since that time numerous problems have developed, but no revisions have been made in the rule to cope with these problems.56

The League revised the Transfer Rule for the 1939-1940 school session. The revised rule stated: "He shall be ineligible for one semester if he transfers from one school to another without a corresponding change in the residence of his parents or guardian".57

For the purposes of this study, the writer found that the League was lax in its revision of the Transfer Rule. Evidence of this fact was shown by the League's attention being called to the need for a

55 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 29, 1936, p.7

56 "Minutes of the Group I Conference Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, October 5, 1937, p.4

57 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XVII, Number 9, February 1, 1940, p.22
change in the rule on five different occasions. For a period of seven years, this situation prevailed. After the 1939-1940 revision of the Transfer Rule, the League did not allow problems to exist which could be eliminated by amending the rule. On March 8, 1946, the rule was amended to make the last sentence read: "When parents or guardians have made a bona fide change in residence, a pupil may elect to continue in his original high school for the remainder of his high school career without loss of eligibility." 58

Nine interpretations were added to the Rule at the same time the Rule was amended. 59 (See Appendix)

POST-GRADUATES

The participation in the inter-school athletic program of those students who had completed their high school academic requirements were banned by the League. Evidence of this was found in a statement in the Standard Contract (Effective May 17, 1926) which read: "No post-graduate shall be allowed to participate in these contests". 60

The problems involved in the playing of post-graduates were held to a minimum. The League early recognized the dangers in allowing graduates to continue their sports participation. This investigation

58 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 8, 1946, p.7
59 Loc. cit.
60 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XII, Number 2, August, 1926, p.91
revealed that the League stood firm from the school year 1926-1927 up to and including the school year 1950-1951 in not permitting any post-graduate to take part in interscholastic athletics of the Group I schools.

AMATEUR STATUS

Many heated debates have been precipitated on the subject of amateurism in school athletics. There are those who protest bitterly against barring from school competition a boy who has been paid at some time for his athletic ability. These opponents claim that the amateur rule does not operate for the other school subjects, such as music, art, speech, literature and the like. As a result of the amateur rule, much subterfuge has been resorted to for the purpose of evading it in spirit if not in letter. The purpose of the rule is, ostensibly, to prevent the individual who has sufficient skill to command a price for his services from competing against others who do not have this degree of skill. 61

The Virginia High School League sponsored the Group I sports program for four years without a ruling as to what the League considered an amateur. During the school session 1930-1931, the League passed the Amateur Rule, which read as follows: "An amateur is one who engages

in sports solely for the physical, mental and social benefits he derives therefrom and to whom the sport is nothing more than an avocation." 62

For a period of fourteen years the Amateur Rule remained unchanged. During this time the number of Group I schools increased from seven in 1930 to seventeen in 1946. Along with this increase the enrollments of these schools became larger. Competition in inter-school sports became stronger with greater emphasis being placed on the sports program. Problems concerning amateurism resulted from this growth which possibly might have been eliminated if League legislation had kept abreast of these increases.

The first time the attention of the League was called to the need for an amendment to the Amateur Rule was at the Legislative Council meeting on February 18, 1933. Mr. Charles H. Kauffman, Executive Secretary, informed the Council that letters had been sent to his office requesting an amendment to the rule to govern the playing of boys in some schools under assumed names. In the discussion that followed several of the Council members thought further study should be given the matter. 63

Two years later at the Executive Committee meeting on February 8, 1935, Mr. A. B. Bristow appeared before the group in an attempt to revise

62 *Bulletin of the Virginia High School League*, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XIV, Number 11, May, 1930, p.20

63 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 10, 1933, p.3
the Amateur Rule. Mr. Bristow stated:

I believe the Amateur Rule should be clarified so that each member school would have a list of acts that are considered violations of the rule. The rule as it now reads leaves room for different interpretations by the member schools. 64

The League was cognizant of the need for a change in the Amateur Rule, yet it was hesitant in passing legislation to meet this need. On February 20, 1937, at the Legislative Council Meeting, Mr. Maurice Given, representing George Washington High School, Alexandria, Virginia, expressed his opinion concerning the amendment of the Amateur Rule. He remarked that several schools were allowing athletic participants to receive prizes and other rewards for their successes on the playing field. These schools did not believe that they were violating the rule. Mr. Given further stated that some provision should be made in the rule to care for such situations. 65 The Council, after a lengthy discussion felt that the majority of the members were not informed sufficiently to vote wisely on the matter, and it was postponed at the time. 66

A proposed amendment to the Amateur Rule appeared on the agenda of the Legislative Council on February 25, 1939. This proposal brought up the demonstrations of unsportsmanlike conduct that had appeared on several of the athletic fields and in several of the gymnasiums during

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64 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 8, 1935, p.4
65 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 20, 1937, p.8
66 Loc. cit.
the past school year. Mr. L. F. Gaines, Assistant Principal, Maury High School, Norfolk, Virginia, who made the proposal suggested a revision of the rule to curtail such practices among the Group I schools. The Council agreed to investigate the situation before taking any action. 67

Mr. J. D. Riddick, Principal, Jefferson Senior High School, Roanoke, Virginia, stated that several member schools were in doubt as to whether an athlete who worked in a summer camp or playground and who received wages was eligible to participate in athletics. He proposed that the Legislative Council amend the Amateur Rule to cover this matter. The Council was of the opinion that an athlete in such a category would be eligible to participate, but no revision was made in the rule. 68

The Legislative Council at its annual meeting on April 14, 1945, held a lengthy discussion in regard to the Amateur Rule. The discussion centered upon the recommendation made by the Executive Committee. The Committee's proposal called for an amendment to the rule to declare ineligible a student who participated in athletic competition under any conditions except as a representative of a high school team after reaching his sixteenth birthday. The Council appointed a committee to study and make recommendations on the question of professionalism in athletics as it affected the League. 69

67 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 25, 1939, p.10

68 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 14, 1942, p.5

69 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, April 14, 1945, p.5
The Committee on Professionalism in athletics on March 8, 1946, proposed the revision of the Amateur Rule to read as follows: "No pupil shall represent his school in any sport sponsored by the League who is not an amateur as defined by the National Collegiate Athletic Association." Added to the revised rule were interpretations and acts that were considered as violations of amateurism. (See Appendix) The entire recommendation was unanimously approved by the Council.

The Virginia High School League after the major revision of the Amateur Rule passed legislation in time to cope with any problems that arose concerning the amateur status of student participants in interschool athletics of the Group I schools.

PARENTAL CONSENT AND PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATE

The Virginia High School League was cognizant of the need for having the consent of the parents of any student before he participated in the sports program of the Group I schools. The League was also aware of the dangers involved in permitting students to participate in interschool athletics without a physical examination by a competent physician.

The problems in this area were minimized through the positive action of the League in passing this rule and making amendments to this rule to cope with problems that resulted.

70 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 9, 1946, p.11.
71 Loc. cit.
AWARDS

The practice of granting awards to those who competed in interscholastic athletic competition was found practically in all member schools. The custom was in accord with the universal practice of honoring successful or outstanding performance. This practice received considerable condemnation on the grounds that the student should engage in an activity for itself rather than for any outside rewards. When the award had only a sentimental value attached to it, instead of a monetary value, it was unlikely that the award would become the sole goal of the activity. As an incentive to engage in worthwhile activities it seemed that an inexpensive reward was perfectly justifiable.

The Virginia High School League, throughout the twenty-five years included in this investigation, found itself confronted with numerous problems concerning awards to participating athletes of the Group I inter-school sports program. The League passed rules and regulations and made amendments to these rules and regulations to keep pace with the majority of the problems that resulted. The writer found that at no time in the League's sponsorship of the Group I schools, was the League lax in regard to this rule.

INDEPENDENT TEAM PARTICIPATION

The League, during the school year 1928-1929, was cognizant of the dangers involved in permitting the participation of students in the
Group I inter-school athletic competition while playing at the same time on an outside independent team. Inserted in the Standard Contract for the 1928-1929 school year was the following: "A student who represents his school as a member of an athletic team may not become at the same time a member of an organized team which is independent of the school's control." 

This rule was omitted in the Standard Contract for the 1929-1930 school year. This was soon found to be a mistake in that Group I athletes in practically every community throughout the State were playing on independent teams. This practice was brought to the League's attention at the Legislative Council meeting on February 11, 1931, by Mr. A. B. Bristow, Principal, Maury High School, Norfolk, Virginia. He discussed the problems which could evolve from independent team participation and moved that the Independent Team Rule be re-instated into the Rules and Regulations of the League. This motion was seconded by Mr. Fred M. Alexander, Principal, Newport News High School, Newport News, Virginia, and unanimously passed by the Council. 

Mr. Charles H. Kauffmann, Executive Secretary, appeared before the Legislative Council at its annual meeting on February 18, 1933. Mr. Kauffmann directed the Council's attention to the need of amending

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71 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XIII, Number 2, August 1929, p.83

72 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 11, 1931, p.4
the Independent Team Rule. He cited numerous questions from member principals who had sent letters to the league office concerning a change in this rule. The Council voted to postpone this matter to a later date.73

On February 9, 1934, at the Executive Committee meeting, Mr. W. E. Parsons, Principal, Jefferson Senior High School, Roanoke, Virginia, made the following statement in regard to an amendment to the Independent Team Rule:

The League must awaken to the fact that with each passing year, more and more emphasis is being placed on athletics both in and out of our schools. Numerous independent teams are being formed in softball, basketball, baseball, and touch football throughout the state. I firmly believe that the rule as it now reads is not inclusive enough to govern the many particular situations.74

In a letter dated January 21, 1936, from Mr. Fred M. Alexander, Principal, Newport News High School, Newport News, Virginia, to the Executive Secretary, was found a request to revise the Independent Team Rule. The letter read, in part:

There has been a tremendous increase in the number of independent teams in the Eastern District. We find many problems involving boys who are playing on high school baseball teams, but who also join independent baseball teams before the high school season is over. This situation calls for a revision of the Independent Team Rule.75

73 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 18, 1933, p.2

74 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 9, 1934, p.6

75 "Personal Correspondence File, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, January 21, 1936.
Mr. J. E. Malonee, Principal, Hopewell High School, Hopewell, Virginia, made a proposal to the Legislative Council meeting on February 12, 1938. Mr. Malonee thought that the Independent Team Rule should be revised to eliminate the practice found in some member schools of allowing students to participate in a varsity sport while, at the same time, playing on a club team of the school. He was of the opinion that this was a strain on the physical well-being of those students and that it eliminated other students from playing on these club teams. The Council agreed to make a study of the matter, but called for no vote. 76

At the Executive Committee meeting on February 12, 1938, the question was raised as to whether the Independent Team Rule referred to like or unlike teams. For example, could a boy participate in football in the fall, if, at the same time, he was a member of an independent baseball team in the spring? Further discussion followed this question, but no definite conclusions were reached. 77

Mr. J. D. Riddick, Principal, Jefferson Senior High School, Roanoke, Virginia, on February 8, 1931, proposed to the Legislative Council that some provision be made in the Independent Team Rule to eliminate the participation of boys in professional baseball tryout schools or similar professional recruiting plans. This, he remarked, could lead to serious problems for the Group I schools. 78

76 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 12, 1938, p.7
77 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 12, 1938, p.1
78 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 13, 1933, p.9
In a discussion of the Independent Team Rule held by the Legislative Council on February 13, 1943, Mr. R. L. Sweeney, Principal, Woodrow Wilson High School, Portsmouth, Virginia, criticised the League for its passive attitude in enacting legislation to cope with problems that arose during the years since the original rule became effective. He further stated that some method should be devised whereby all the representatives of the Legislative Council and the Executive Committee could be notified in advance of developing problems. He felt this would enable the members to vote wisely on motions that were made.79

Two years later at the Group I Conference meeting on March 8, 1946, reference was made to revising the Independent Team Rule. The Conference proposed that this problem be referred to the Executive Committee and that a group be selected to study this revision.80

The League amended the Independent Team Rule effective for the 1946-1947 school session by the addition of five interpretations and a penalty clause.81 (See Appendix)

The final revision of the rule with the addition of Interpretations (f) and (g) was made effective for the school session 1947-1948.

79 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 13, 1943, p.9
80 "Minutes of the Group I Conference Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 8, 1946, p.1
81 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXIV, Number 1, August 1, 1946, p.77
(See Appendix). The revised rule read as follows:

He shall not, while he is a member of a school squad or team in any sport become a member of, or participate with, any other organized team in the same sport, representing the school, or independent of the school's control. 82

This study found that the Virginia High School League sponsored the interscholastic athletic program of the Group I schools for eighteen years without amending the Independent Team Rule. The attention of the League was called on nine occasions to the need for revising the rule, but each time legislation was postponed. The problems that resulted possibly could have been eliminated and League sponsorship probably could have been more efficient if revisions had been made.

82 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXIV, Number 2, October 15, 1947, p. 54
CHAPTER IV

PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM CONDUCTING ATHLETIC CONTESTS IN THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THE LEAGUE SPONSORS A COMPETITIVE PROGRAM

The problems in this area were studied as they appeared from year to year in the competitive interscholastic athletic program of the Group I schools. For the purpose of this study the problems were grouped under the following competitive sports sponsored by the Virginia High School League:

Football, Basketball, Baseball, Track (Outdoor, Indoor, Cross-Country) Tennis, Wrestling, Golf and Swimming.

FOOTBALL

The Legislative Council of the Virginia High School League at a meeting held at the University of Virginia on May 19, 1927, unanimously voted that a conference of the Group I schools should be worked out for the determination of a state championship team.\(^1\)

With the advent of this regulation, football in the Group I high schools was recognized as one of the major sports in the inter-school athletic program. The growth in this sport brought about much over-emphasis both from the schools themselves and interests outside the schools. This eventually led to many problems. These problems were

\(^1\) Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XIII, Number 2, August, 1928, p.38
concerned with the number of games per season, the starting date of
practice, means of determining a state championship, tie-games, and
practicing during physical education class periods.

The writer found that the Virginia High School League was slow
in enacting legislation to curb some of these problems. On numerous
occasions the League's attention was called to the need for a rule or
an amendment to a rule but, in many incidents, at the League meetings,
this matter was postponed. The laxity, on the part of the League, not
only prolonged problems, but allowed other problems to develop.

The number of games per season were indicated by the League in
order to curtail some of the over-emphasis placed on football. The
problems as to the number of games per season were minimised in that
the League set the length of the playing season which, in turn, permitted
only a certain number of games to be played in any given season.

The League, during the 1926-1927 school year passed a rule that
no member school could start regular football practice before the
official opening of the school.² At the Legislative Council Meeting
on February 8, 1930, Mr. J. D. Riddick, Principal, George Washington
High School, Danville, Virginia, stated he thought that the rule con-
cerning the starting date of football practice was unfair to several
of the member schools. He related that some of the schools had different

² Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of
Virginia Extension, Volume XI, Number 2, August, 1926, p.68
dates for officially opening their schools and that these dates varied from a week to ten days. Mr. Riddick felt that this gave those schools that opened school earlier, a decided advantage in developing a football team. The Council discussed the possibility of changing this rule, but tabled the proposal at the time.

The following year Mr. Fred M. Alexander, Principal, Newport News High School, Newport News, Virginia, made a motion at the Legislative Council meeting on February 11, 1931. The motion read:

The League has operated the Group I sports program for a period of six years with a glaring inequality existing in the rule governing the opening date of football practice. I move that this date be changed to the Thursday after Labor Day of each year.

The motion died for lack of a second.

The Executive Committee on February 24, 1932, held a lengthy discussion in regard to changing the date of opening football practice. Several of the members present were of the opinion that the rule was sufficient as it read. Others were strongly opposed to the existing rule. This discussion terminated in the Committee proposing a study of the problem.

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3 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 8, 1930, p.3
4 Loc. cit.
5 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 11, 1931, p.2
6 Loc. cit.
7 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 24, 1932, p.5
Mr. A. B. Bristow, Principal, Maury High School, Norfolk, Virginia, at a meeting of the Legislative Council on February 16, 1933, requested that the rule be revised so that all schools would open football practice on the same date. Mr. Bristow objected to the unfairness in the rule, as it permitted some schools to get their football teams in better physical condition, which could have a direct effect on the success of a team. The Council appointed a committee to make a study of this situation and report its findings at the annual meeting the following year.  

On February 10, 1934, Mr. Floyd C. Fowlkes, Assistant Principal, John Marshall High School, Richmond, Virginia, made the following proposal in regard to the starting date of football practice:

I do not believe the League is fully aware of the unfairness in allowing some Group I schools to start their football practice earlier than do other schools. According to our coaches at John Marshall the beginning practice sessions are probably the most important ones in the entire season. Apparently a rule change should be made so that all Group I schools will start practice on the same date.  

The starting date of football practice was changed to the Thursday after Labor Day and made effective for the 1935-1936 school year.  

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8 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School Leagues", University of Virginia Extension, February 16, 1933, p.4

9 Loc. cit.

10 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School Leagues", University of Virginia Extension, February 10, 1934, p.2

11 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XX, Number 3, September, 1935, p.23
fact that the League permitted a period of eight years to pass before making this change revealed the passive attitude the League had in changing the opening date of football practice.

In 1926 the League adopted the following plan for determining the Group I championship in football:

The right to contend for the state championship is gained by means of winning the district championship and by eliminating the contending district champion. The various steps in the state championship are as follows: Sectional championship, district championship, Northwestern or Southeastern championship, and Group I championship.¹²

This plan called for a state championship game between the Northwestern champion and the Southeastern champion.

During the first five years of the League's sponsorship of the Group I sports program the state championship in football was determined by the play-off game between the two top teams of the State. This method was frowned upon by numerous of the member school principals.

Mr. A. B. Bristow, Principal, Maury High School, Norfolk, Virginia, appeared before the Executive Committee on February 24, 1928, in an attempt to abolish the state championship game as a method of deciding the state football champion. A discussion followed this proposal, but the Committee felt that more time was needed to make a study of the matter before a change could be made.¹³

¹² Ibid., p.67

¹³ "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 24, 1928, p.3
There was a movement among the member schools of the State to eliminate the championship play-off game in football. The game tended to create an over-emphasis on football and added pressure on both coaches and players. Voltmer and Esslinger based their objections to the championship game on the following points:

1. Championships, rather than the game itself, become the object of play.
2. The school becomes disorganized (disrupted).
3. The importance of winning is over-emphasized.
4. There is greater attention devoted to those who need it least.
5. The communities expect too much of their teams.\footnote{\textsuperscript{14}}

At the Legislative Council meeting on February 8, 1930, Mr. Charles H. Kauffmann, Executive Secretary, called for an open discussion in regard to abolishing the state championship play-off game. Mr. Kauffmann thought that in the best interests of the Group I schools, the game should be eliminated and that the state championship in football should be determined by a percentage basis. This percentage was to be declared upon the results from the conference games played during the regular season. The Council appointed a committee to make a study of this proposal and submit its findings at the next annual meeting.\footnote{\textsuperscript{15}}

The League changed the method of determining a Group I state

\footnote{\textsuperscript{14} Arthur A. Esslinger and Edward F. Voltmer, \textit{The Organization and Administration of Physical Education}. (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1929) p. 70}

\footnote{\textsuperscript{15} "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 8, 1930, p. 6}
champion in football by abolishing the play-off game and substituting the conference games won and lost during the regular season on a percentage basis. This method remained in existence for the next twenty years of the League's operation.

Tie games in football were given no consideration by the Virginia High School League from the 1926-1927 school session up to and including the 1931-1932 school session. This brought about a situation in which misunderstandings and controversies prevailed among the member schools. On March 5, 1927, at the Executive Committee meeting, Mr. Joseph H. Saunders, Superintendent of City Schools, Newport News, Virginia, requested that a tie game in football be omitted in rating team standings. The Council asked for a vote on this proposal, but in the discussion that followed several principals were of the opinion that they needed more time in which to study the suggestion.  

Mr. Walter C. Chapman, Executive Secretary, in his annual report to the Legislative Council on January 19, 1929, stated:

Immediate action should be taken toward enacting a rule concerning tie-games in football. Interest in this sport is state-wide and we are leaving ourselves open for adverse criticism by delaying legislation to solve this problem.  

16 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XV, Number 11, May, 1931, p.30

17 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, March 5, 1927, p.3

18 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, January 19, 1929, p.10
The Legislative Council called for a discussion of devising a means of rating tie-games in football. Mr. L. E. Burke, Principal, Salem High School, Salem, Virginia, added that he felt the League should insert a definite rule governing tie-games. He further stated that several other state associations counted tie-games as a half game lost and a half game won.19

The passive attitude of the League in regard to tie-games culminated in what was probably one of the bitterest disputes between the member schools throughout the history of Group I interscholastic athletics. Newport News High School was declared the Group I football champion with a season record of two wins, no losses and four ties. Since there was no rule concerning tie-games, Newport News High School finished the season with a percentage of one thousand.

Following this decision made by Mr. Charles H. Kauffmann, Executive Secretary, Mr. A. B. Bristow, Principal, Maury High School, Norfolk, Virginia, sent a letter to Mr. Kauffmann. The letter read, in part... .

I do not see how a team that engaged in six contests with two wins and four ties can be counted a perfect score. If you are to eliminate tie-games entirely you would be giving the championship to a team that could win only two games out of six as against other teams that won as many as four games out of six with the same opponents in many instances ... I cannot see how tie-games can be disregarded entirely. It must be counted as a game played.20

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19 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 14, 1931, p.5

20 Letter from Mr. A. B. Bristow, Principal, Maury High School to Mr. Charles H. Kauffmann, Executive Secretary, Virginia High School League, Group I Football File, December 16, 1931.
Mr. Charles H. Kauffmann, in a letter concerning the championship controversy addressed to Mr. H. A. C. Walker, Principal, E. C. Glass High School, Lynchburg, Virginia, said:

I am more than ever convinced that the rules for awarding Group I championships should be revised or amended so as to be more definite and I think that this should be done in the near future. I am simply the Executive Officer and the initiative for such changes could hardly come from me, but since I know of your interest in the future of the League work and your saneness of attitude, I wish that you would make an issue of this and start some movement toward this end.21

During the month of December, 1931, Mr. Kauffmann received fifteen letters protesting the decision of making Newport News High School the Group I champion in football. Each of these letters revealed the laxity of the League in relation to the rating of tie-games.22 Possibly there would have been no misunderstanding if a definite tie-game rule had been included. Thus, the League allowed a period of five years to lapse before passing a rule as to how tie-games in football would be counted. The tie-game rule was inserted in the League Rules and Regulations effective for the 1932-1933 school session.23

Football in the Group I schools expanded so that competition between the schools became stronger and stronger with each passing year. Along with this expansion in football came added pressure and over-emphasis

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21 Letter from Mr. Charles H. Kauffmann, Executive Secretary, to Mr. H. A. C. Walker, Principal, E. C. Glass High School, Lynchburg, Virginia, Group I Football File, December 21, 1931.

22 Loc. cit.

23 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XVII, Number 3, September, 1932, p.28
from both the public at large and the schools themselves. The desire to
win possibly over-rulled all other features of the game. This emphasis
on winning at any cost seemed to have grown until the coach's job depend-
ed upon his winning or losing.

This situation brought about many problems of which one, in par-
ticular, seemed to have bothered the League the most. This problem
concerned the attempts the numerous Group I coaches made in practicing
football during physical education class periods. Several coaches were
of the opinion that this added practice would lead to better football
teams. Mr. H. DeWolff, Principal, Petersburg High School, Petersburg,
Virginia, at the Legislative Council meeting on February 20, 1937, made
a motion that football practice be confined to only those hours after
school and during the regular football season. The Council held a
discussion which resulted in a vote to make a study of the matter.

The following year Mr. H. Wilson Thorpe, Principal, Hampton High
School, Hampton, Virginia, at the Executive Committee meeting on February
11, 1938, remarked:

Several Group I schools are permitting their coaches to practice
football during the physical education classes. This seems to me
not a sound educational practice, nor does it aid in keeping down
over-emphasis on the sport.

24 "Minutes of the Group I Coaches Association Meeting, Virginia
High School League", University of Virginia Extension, April 14, 1936, p.2

25 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High
School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 20, 1937, p.5

26 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High
School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 11, 1938, p.4
The Committee postponed the problem to a later date.\textsuperscript{27}

At the Legislative Council meeting, February 10, 1940, Mr. F. W. Greene, Principal, George Washington High School, Danville, Virginia, pointed out that some definite rule should be enacted in regard to football being practiced during physical education class periods. This Council was of the opinion that this should be taken care of by the individual member schools.\textsuperscript{28}

Mr. R. C. Day, Coach, Petersburg High School, Petersburg, Virginia, at the Legislative Council meeting on February 13, 1943, stated that he thought it decidedly unfair for some schools to be able to practice football during physical education classes, while others confined their practice to after-school hours.\textsuperscript{29} A committee was appointed to survey these conditions and make its report at the next annual meeting of the Council.\textsuperscript{30}

At the Legislative Council meeting on April 14, 1945, Mr. L. H. McCue, Principal, E. C. Glass High School, Lynchburg, Virginia, made the following motion: "Any school physical education program in which headgear, shoulder pads, or hip pads are used individually or collectively

\textsuperscript{27} Loc. cit.

\textsuperscript{28} "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 10, 1940, p.3

\textsuperscript{29} "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 13, 1943, p.6

\textsuperscript{30} Loc. cit.
shall be deemed spring football practice. The Council passed this motion with only two dissenting votes, effective in the spring of 1945. This legislation eliminated the usage of physical education class periods for practicing football, but much of the over-emphasis on football might have been lessened if the League had taken action to negate this practice.

The Virginia High School League, since the 1945-1946 school session, was cognizant of the developing problems concerning the Group I football program by enacting rules and regulations to control these problems.

**BASKETBALL**

Basketball was considered, along with football, as one of the major sports in the Group I interscholastic athletic program. Solutions were reached to a majority of the problems concerning Group I basketball by prompt action on the part of the League. One problem that appeared on the agenda for several years at the annual meetings was the number of games to be played a season.

Limitation as to the number of games per season was brought to the League's attention at the Legislative Council meeting on February 29, 1936. The Group I Conference recommended to the Council that a committee be appointed to look into the question of the number of games scheduled in basketball for that season.33

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31 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, April 14, 1945, p.7

32 Loc. cit.

33 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 29, 1936, p.5
At the Legislative Council meeting on February 20, 1937, Mr. Hugh L. Sulfridge, Principal, Lane High School, Charlottesville, Virginia, made the following statement concerning the number of games a basketball team should play a season:

Some of the Group I schools are playing as many as twenty-five basketball games a season. In order to play this number of games they either must schedule four or five games before the Christmas holidays or they must play more than two games per week during January and February. I firmly believe that this entails too many games for any one season. Mr. A. B. Bristow, Principal, Maury High School, Norfolk, Virginia, at the Executive Committee meeting on February 11, 1938, stated that the number of games of basketball per season should not exceed twenty. The Committee discussed the proposal but reached no definite decision in the matter.

During the Legislative Council meeting on February 25, 1939, Mr. W. E. Bloxsom, Athletic Director, Thomas Jefferson High School, Richmond, Virginia, expressed himself as being in favor of limiting the number of games of basketball a season to twenty. He further remarked that this was sufficient games for the length of the regular season and particularly if a team was to play in the State play-off for the championship.

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34 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 20, 1937, p.2
35 "Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 11, 1938, p.3
36 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 25, 1939, p.5
The Executive Secretary, Mr. Charles H. Kauffmann, sent form letters to each of the Group I schools on January 25, 1940. These letters dealt with the subject of including in the Rules and Regulations a statement that each school make a schedule of only twenty basketball games during the regular season.37

At the Legislative Council meeting on February 12, 1944, Mr. Kauffmann was of the opinion that much of the controversy over the number of basketball games a Group I team could play during the regular season would be eliminated if a rule were put into effect to restrict each school to a certain number of games. He added that this question had been before both the Legislative Council and the Executive Committee almost every year at their annual meetings since the 1936-1937 school session. The Council postponed action on the proposal, but appointed a committee to study each school's schedule and report its findings the following year.38

The League passed a rule restricting the number of basketball games per season to twenty, exclusive of tournament games and such games as might be necessary to break ties in district standings. This rule was to become effective for the 1946-1947 school year.39

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37 "Personal Correspondence File of the Executive Secretary, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, January 15, 1940, p.15

38 "Minutes of the Legislative Council Meeting, Virginia High School League", University of Virginia Extension, February 12, 1944, p.7

39 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXIV, Number 1, August 1, 1946, p.64
According to this investigation the League was lax in regard to enacting a rule to designate the number of games the Group I schools could play during the regular basketball season. If earlier action had taken place to limit these games, the misunderstandings that existed might possibly have never resulted.

The numerous other problems that occurred during the League's sponsorship of the Group I inter-school basketball program were not permitted to exist for any period of time before legislation was passed to eliminate them.

BASEBALL

The Rules and Regulations governing the conduct of baseball in the Group I High Schools were adequate in that they were brought up to date from time to time to cope with any problems that arose.

TRACK

The Virginia High School League was punctual in its legislation to cope with the problems that existed in the three types of track competition carried on by the Group I schools.

TENNIS

Tennis was considered a minor sport by the Virginia High School League. Since the competition in this sport was carried on by a minority of the Group I schools, the League experienced little difficulty in keeping legislation abreast of the resulting problems.
WRESTLING

Inter-school wrestling was sponsored by only four of the Group I schools during the 1946-1947 school session, and the sport was not recognized, on a state-wide basis, by the League until the 1947-1948 school session. Due to the late arrival of the sport in the Group I interscholastic athletic program, few problems occurred that were not cared for by prompt League action.

GOLF

Golf, as an inter-school sport, was first recognized by the League during the 1948-1949 school year. In the three years that this sport has been in operation in the Group I schools, League legislation has been adequate to parallel the problems that arose.

SWIMMING

Swimming in the Group I schools was encouraged by the Virginia High School League, but the sport was never sponsored on an inter-school basis. The League never formulated any rules or regulations to govern the sport. Thus, the problems in this area were non-existent.
CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

This investigation has presented an historical analysis of the actions and decisions of the Virginia High School League in regard to sponsoring the interscholastic athletic program of the Group I High Schools of Virginia. The following findings, based on the data presented in this study, are listed under each of the three major problem areas:

Problems dealing with the responsibility of the local school administration.

1. That the Virginia High School League was lax, in regard to its legislation, in seven out of the ten problem areas under local administration.

2. That a period of twenty years existed before the League definitely stated the specific responsibilities, concerning inter-school athletics, of the principal.

3. That problems arose over a period of nineteen years before the League passed an Inter-State Competition Rule.

4. That the League, throughout the twenty-five years of this study, was lax with respect to sponsoring a state officials association.

5. That the League, from the school year 1935-1936 up to and including the school year 1946-1947, had no Post-Season Game Rule in effect to curb the resulting problems.
6. That a passive attitude was shown by the League, for a period of ten years, concerning the selection of honor teams.

7. That the League, for a period of twenty years, sponsored Group I inter-scholastic athletics without a State Sanction Rule to possibly solve occurring problems.

8. That junior varsity sports were sponsored by the Group I schools for twenty years before the League enacted rules and regulations for this type of competition.

Problems concerning individual eligibility of student participants.

1. That the Virginia High School League was slow in reacting to the problems which arose in six of the ten problem areas under individual eligibility of student participants.

2. That the original bona fide Student Rule remained unchanged, in spite of the League's attention being called to this matter on five different occasions.

3. That over a period of eleven years the League was passive toward revising the Grade Rule.

4. That the problems, concerning the enrollment of student participants, were possibly greatest during the 1941-1944 period without any League legislation being enacted to cope with these problems.

5. That the Virginia High School League permitted no problems to appear, concerning the scholarship and age of student participants, which it did not attempt to eliminate by prompt legislation.
6. That a period of fourteen years existed, during which problems arose, before the League took action to change the Four Year Rule.

7. That for a period of seven years no revision was made in the Transfer Rule in spite of the fact that problems were developing and that the League’s attention was called to the need of a revision on five separate occasions.

8. That the problems involving the playing of post-graduates were held to a minimum by prompt League action.

9. That the Virginia High School League did not amend the Amateur Rule until fourteen years after it became effective. Problems developed during this time without the League attempting any solution.

10. That the Virginia High School League was cognizant of the need for having the consent of the parents and a physician’s certificate before allowing a student to participate in any athletic contest.

11. That the League passed rules and regulations and amended these rules and regulations in ample time to curtail developing problems in regard to athletic awards.

12. That on nine occasions over a period of fourteen years, at the annual League meetings, the League’s attention was called to needed revisions in the Independent Team Rule without any reaction from the League.
Problems resulting from conducting athletic contests in the various activities in which the League sponsors a competitive program.

1. That the League permitted an inequality to exist, concerning the starting date of football practice, for a period of eight years.

2. That, in determining a method of selecting the state champion in football, the Virginia High School League was lax in revising the rule to curtail developing problems. The laxity covered a period of five years.

3. That a period of five years passed in which no provision was made by the Virginia High School League in regard to counting tie-games in football.

4. That football practice was held, in some of the Group I schools, during physical education class periods for six years before the League adopted a rule to abolish this practice.

5. That, for a period of ten years, the number of basketball games to be played during a regular season, was not designat-ed by the League.

6. That the Virginia High School League enacted rules and regu-lations concerning inter-school baseball of the Group I schools in ample time to possibly eliminate out growing problems.

7. That the Track rules and regulations, over the twenty-five year period, were passed and amended as problems arose in this area.
8. That the legislative functions of the Virginia High School League were sufficient to cope with the problems that developed in minor sports competition.

The following conclusions, based on the above data, are made:

1. That there is a need for the League to be able to identify developing problems in the various localities of the state much earlier than has been done heretofore;

2. That the League should set up machinery for solving these problems much more rapidly than has been done in the past;

3. That there is a need for the Legislative Council members to be aware of proposed legislation in ample time to think over and discuss this legislation before the annual meeting;

4. That it would be desirable to have a complete review by the District Boards of the legislation to be proposed to the Legislative Council;

5. That there is a need for as much direct contact between the member schools and the League administration as can possibly be developed;

6. That apparently problems are presented periodically to the League for consideration without positive action being taken. Often these problems are allowed to remain dormant, thereby allowing them to continue for long periods of time and even to develop into larger problems before the League is forced into action. The Virginia High School League regulations, at the present time, do not specifically place responsibility for
this situation on any one individual;

7. That developing problems should be identified as early as possible through every means at hand. A study of the rules and regulations of the various state athletic associations shows a great similarity in general coverage, which would seem to indicate a similarity of athletic problems experienced by high schools throughout the country.¹ This should suggest to the League a source of information as to action found appropriate by other associations in the solution of similar problems;

8. That it is important that the order of business at League meetings be so designed as to give priority to problems which have had a tendency to re-appear from time to time. In reading the minutes of annual League meetings during the course of this study, the writer found numerous instances in which business that was either tabled, post-posted or referred to a committee, was overlooked in making up the agenda for the next regular meeting;

**Recommendations.**

1. The following recommended procedure, based on conclusions one

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¹ George J. McIntosh, "Analysis of Rules and Regulations of State Athletic Associations with Implications for the Virginia High School League", (Unpublished Master's Thesis, the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, 1946), p.103
through four above, is presented as a possible means by which the Virginia High School League might make problems and suggestions better understood on a state-wide basis so that thinking can be crystallized prior to the annual meetings of the League. This proposal is submitted for the League’s consideration in possibly shortening the time span between the development of a problem and the subsequent control of that problem:

a. A questionnaire to be circulated, in October of each year by the administration office of the Virginia High School League, to each of the principals of the Group I High Schools in the state of Virginia. The purpose of this annual inquiry will be to seek out any problems and proposed legislation to solve such problems that are in evidence in the Group I interscholastic athletic program. This questionnaire will be returned to the League office in Charlottesville, Virginia in sufficient time for the Executive Secretary to compile the results by the first of December.

b. During the month of December the compiled information from the questionnaires will be submitted to each of the District Chairman so that it can be thoroughly discussed at the district meetings in January.

c. A digest of the District reactions to be sent to the League office after the January District meetings. This report is to be used as a basis for the discussion at the annual meeting of the Executive Committee in February. Following
the Executive Committee meeting, the reactions to the discussions held concerning the compiled information should be organized and further digested.

d. The Executive Committee, on the basis of this material, will propose legislation for consideration and discussion by the Legislative Council.

2. The League should probably investigate the desirability of increasing the size of the Executive Committee by the addition of principal representation. At the present time the eight man Executive Committee provides for the inclusion of not more than four principals in its membership. The increase should create a much closer contact with League inter-scholastic athletic problems at the school level.

3. Since the study has indicated that many problems were brought to the attention of the League, on numerous occasions, before they received League action, it is fairly obvious that there is a need for someone to compile this information and expedite its disposition. In general, problems are brought to the attention of the League in two manners:

a. Presented on the floor at the regular League meetings.
b. By correspondence with the League office.

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2 Bulletin of the Virginia High School League, University of Virginia Extension, Volume XXVIII, Number 5, October 1, 1950, p.12
Since the Executive Secretary is the logical person to assume this responsibility it is recommended that he:

a. Circulate periodically to the member schools information concerning such current problems as have been brought to his attention through regular correspondence.

b. Include all such problems as he has been able to identify, either through correspondence or unfinished business at a previous League meeting, in the compiled list of information that he circulates to the District Chairman during the month of December, as recommended in (1-b) above.

4. Past studies\(^3\) have indicated that secondary schools in all parts of the country seem to experience common inter-school athletic problems. It is, therefore, suggested that an annual check with other state high school athletic associations be made by the Executive Secretary in order to discover developing trends that might have implications for the Virginia High School League.

5. That the Executive Secretary, in preparing the agenda for the League meetings, assign priority to each problem and make up the order of business on the basis of this assigned priority.

\(^3\) McIntosh, loc.cit.
All matters tabled or referred to a committee at previous meetings should definitely be listed for action.

6. That the Constitution of the Virginia High School League be amended to provide or assure the disposition of interscholastic athletic problems of the Group I schools.
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APPENDIX
SCHOOL REGULATIONS

MEMBER SCHOOLS SHALL OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS IN ALL INTER-SCHOOL CONTESTS, INCLUDING THOSE NOT SPONSORED BY THE LEAGUE:

1. Principal's Responsibility - Final authority and ultimate responsibility in all matters pertaining to the inter-school activities of the school, both athletic and non-athletic, shall be vested in the principal, who acts under authority granted by the division superintendent.

The principal's responsibilities shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

a. Control. The principal shall exercise control over all interscholastic contests in which his school engages. It is his responsibility, as well as that of his coaches, faculty members, and all representatives of his school, to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship in all interscholastic relationships with visiting coaches and official representatives, contest officials, visiting contestants, and the general public, as well as to inculcate a sportsmanlike attitude toward visitors on the part of his school and community.

The principal shall seek by every reasonable means at his command to prevent the development of riots, fights, pilfering, defacement or destruction of property, or any other unsportsmanlike conduct in connection with contests with other schools, on the part of his students, or supporters or partisans of his school.
b. **Finances.** The principal shall exercise control over all finances involved in the inter-school activities program and not otherwise controlled by the school board.

c. **Contests.** The principal shall approve all contests in which representatives of his school participate. No agreement to engage in any contest not so approved shall be considered binding.

d. **Contracts.** The principal shall sign all contracts to engage in inter-school athletic contests, unless proxy has been delegated by him in writing to a member of his faculty, in which case the proxy's signature will be considered binding. Students' signatures to contracts will NOT be considered binding.

League contracts (League Form No. 1 - Contract for Athletic Contest) are recommended for all inter-school athletic contests. These forms should be prepared in duplicate and exchanged by competing schools. Principals of schools may, by mutual consent given in writing, cancel any contract upon which they have entered. Should a school fail to fulfill its contract for reasons within its control, the contest may be declared forfeited to the offended school by the District Committee. The offended school may, if it so desires, appeal to the District Committee for further redress if the contract was executed on the League standard contract form. No verbal contract of protest of a contract not executed on the standard League form, will be considered through protest channels by the District Committee.
Unless otherwise specified in the contract, athletic contests between schools shall be considered to be between the strongest representative teams of those schools on that day. When a school has two or more teams competing on the same day in the same activity, one shall be clearly designated in the contract as the first or varsity team.

Principals are expected to act without delay upon contracts presented for their signature. The home school should prepare and sign the contracts in duplicate and send them to the principal of the visiting school for signature. Principals should make reasonable efforts to regain possession of contracts which have not been returned promptly, before entering into agreements with other schools for contests on the same dates.

e. **Eligibility List.** The principal shall certify on League Form No.3 (Master Eligibility List) the eligibility under League rules of all athletic contestants representing his school. A separate list shall be prepared for each sport. Signed copies of each list shall be sent at least five days before the first contest to the Executive Secretary, to the District Secretary, and to the principal of every school appearing on the schedule in that sport. The principal shall be responsible for keeping all recipients of the original list informed as to subsequent additions to, and deletions from, the master list. Since the principal is held strictly accountable for the accuracy of lists submitted by his
school, he should check carefully the eligibility of each student whom he certifies. The principal shall, when so requested, furnish such additional information to the District Committee as may be required to determine the eligibility or ineligibility of a student in his school.

The date of birth and the number of years of prior participation given on the Master Eligibility List on which a student appears for the first time will be considered authoritative, and may not be changed in later lists for that year or later years except when specifically authorized by the Executive Committee, to correct error.

It is recommended that a new principal, before certifying a Master Eligibility List, verify the information given by checking it with lists previously submitted.

f. Participation List. The principal shall submit to the Executive Secretary at the conclusion of each inter-school sports season, on League Form No.1 (Season Participation List), a complete list of all players who participated (even if for only one play) in that sport during the season just completed, these lists to be kept as permanent records in the League office. The list shall include all students who participated in any inter-school contests in that sport, excluding junior varsity and reserve team games. A separate list shall be filed for each sport.

Should a principal fail to file any Season Participation List
on or prior to June 30th, the Master Eligibility List which he submitted will be considered as the participation list for that sport during the previous year. All students listed thereon will be considered as having participated one season in that sport until such time as the Season Participation List has been filed.

- **Exclude Injured.** The principal shall exclude from athletic participation any student who has suffered serious illness or injury, until such time as that student has been pronounced physically fit to participate by the school or other physician.

- **Accompany Teams.** The principal, or his authorized faculty representative, shall accompany all groups representing his school in any interschool activity, and shall be responsible for the conduct of all students under his or her charge during that activity.

- **Local Rules.** The principal shall be authorized to make and enforce any local rule supplementary to League rules and regulations, but not inconsistent with them. The authority of a principal to impose and enforce such local rules is absolute, and will not be subject to League review. The League will not question the right of any principal to exclude any student in his school from participation in any League activity at any time.

**Interpretations:**

- **The principal may delegate the exercise of responsibilities under this rule to one or more faculty representatives, but**
he will himself be held responsible for observance of all provisions of this rule by the League.

b. "Principal", as used in this rule, refers to the high school principal, or to the Superintendent of Schools in those cases in which the superintendent performs the duties of the principal.

2. Coaches Rule - All coaches and sponsors of inter-school and League activities, both athletic and non-athletic, shall be certified teachers regularly employed by the Board of Education and responsible to the school principal. They shall have not less than three regular periods of classes or study hall duty per day.

Exceptions: a. Students in training at institutions of high learning.

b. Principals, assistant principals, or other members of the school supervisory or administrative staff with duties comparable to those of teachers carrying three regular periods of class.

Interpretations:

a. This rule bars special coaches or sponsors of any activity who are not employed to serve in any other capacity, or who are employed during the season of the activity only. It is not intended to bar assistants for whose services no recompense is given, either directly or indirectly, from any source.

b. Duties after school hours, such as athletic coaching, shall not be counted as one or more of the three regular periods of classes or study hall duty required per day.
3. **State Competition Rule** - No member school shall engage in athletic competition:

a. With a non-member Virginia public high school.

b. With any school under suspension from the League, from the comparable organization in any other state, or from the National Federation.

c. With any Virginia non-public secondary school (private, preparatory, parochial, etc.) which does not agree in writing to abide by the special regulations governing preparatory schools in athletic competitions with League member schools (See Appendix).

**Interpretations:**

a. Member schools shall comply with all League rules and regulations in all inter-school contests, including those not sponsored by the League.

b. Member schools may not waive any League rule or regulation by mutual agreement with an opponent. Such action renders all member schools involved liable to disciplinary action.

c. Member schools shall not use ineligible students in contests with non-member schools, and no member school shall knowingly compete against any school which is represented by an ineligible student.

d. No member school shall become a member of any organization whose Constitution and/or By-Laws are in conflict with the rules and regulations of the League.
NOTE: While there is no League regulation governing athletic competition with so-called "outside" or "independent" teams, such games are not recommended when sufficient competition can be had in school circles.

4. State Sanction Rule - No member school shall permit its teams or individual representatives to compete in any type of athletic meet or tournament in which three or more schools participate, unless that meet or tournament has been expressly sanctioned by the Executive Committee.

Exception: Contests, meets, or tournaments held under League auspices or as a part of the League program, such as district basketball tournaments and track meets, shall not require Executive Committee sanction.

NOTE: Schools interested in competing in "outside" meets or tournaments should advise the sponsoring institution or agency to make application for League sanction on League Form No. 5 (Application for Sanction of State Meet or Tournament), included in the Principal's Workbook or available from the League Office. This application should be submitted well in advance of the date for the meet or tournament. Meets and tournaments which receive League sanction will be announced in the Leaguer. Each such request for sanction will be evaluated in the light of established League policies. Factors such as distance to be traveled, time lost from school, number of games required per day, commercial exploitation of competing teams, and similar items will be...
considered in the evaluation of each contest, meet or tournament for which sanction is requested. Sanction will not be given to meets or tournaments (1) which conflict with League-sponsored events (2) in which non-member Virginia public high schools are invited to participate (3) in which non-high school teams are invited to participate, unless satisfactory entrance requirements are established and enforced (i) which are sponsored or conducted by other-than-educational institutions or agencies (5) in which awards offered to winners or participants do not meet League standards (6) in which any school under suspension from the League, from the comparable organization in any other state, or from the National Federation, has been invited to participate.

5. Interstate Competition Rule - No member school shall engage in athletic competition:

a. With any school outside of the state which is not a regular or affiliated member in good standing of its home state high school association, or which (in a state in which there is no approved association) does not agree in writing to comply with the recommended minimum eligibility requirements of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations in its contest or contests with the member school.

Exception: Member schools may participate with members of recognized out-of-state city associations such as those of Washington, Philadelphia and Baltimore - provided that other rules as to distance to be traveled, agreement to comply with VHSL rules, etc., are adhered to by these schools.
b. In any interstate meet or tournament in which three or more schools participate, or in any interstate contest between two schools involving a round trip exceeding 600 miles, unless such event has been sanctioned by all interested state associations through the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations.

c. In any inter-state two-school contest (regardless of the distance to be traveled) which is sponsored by an individual, or by an organization other than an educational institution.

NOTE: Federation forms on which to make application for sanction of an interstate meet or tournament, or of a distant inter-state game, will be supplied by the League office upon request.

6. Officials Rule - Officials for all League athletic contests shall be mutually agreed upon by the faculty representatives of all schools concerned.

Interpretations:

a. The selection of officials may not be delegated to students.

b. A coach may not officiate in contests in which students from his school may be participants, except by mutual consent in writing, and signed by both or all coaches concerned.

NOTES: a. It is recommended that principals or their authorized representatives take steps to insure that the most competent officials available are obtained. It is suggested that officials be especially
requested to enforce the playing rules strictly and impartially, penalizing promptly all unnecessary roughness or unsportsmanlike conduct and administering the rules in an impersonal and effective manner. Officials should be reminded that their decisions of judgment will not be protested, but that the coach, if properly recognized, is entitled to question decisions based upon interpretations of playing rules.

b. When possible it is recommended that officials be selected and agreed upon well in advance of the contest. Only when a contest is properly and competently officiated is it of maximum value or pleasure to the participants.

c. Plans have been established under which local boards of football or basketball officials, which have met minimum standards, will be approved by the League and subsequently members of these local boards, who meet established standards of experience and training, will be registered in the League office, be issued official cards and shoulder patches and come under the program of training which has been established.

Schools are urged to use only those officials who have been approved through regular channels. (It is expected that continued improvement in the supply of adequate officials will make it possible for the League to require approved officials. For the present, it is not felt that such a step is advisable.)

Schools and local boards of officials are urged to cooperate in a mutually agreeable plan to have officials assigned in advance for an entire season. Such a plan has in general proved to be the most satisfactory one. It usually involves the use of some inactive member of the
local board of officials to do the assigning. This task is a difficult one and one which should bear some financial remuneration. For such a person to be paid for his services, either the members of his own association must pay dues or the schools receiving the service pay direct for the same. In the first instance, the schools can pay a fee to the association and be in a better position to insist on the type of service they wish. Hence, the plan of paying the officials association for assignment services is suggested. In any assignment procedure, plans must be incorporated to assure the schools that the officials of the same are given an opportunity to express preferences and to list any game officials which they do not wish to use. (Plans have been instituted by which the coaches will be asked, at the end of each playing season, to report to the Executive Secretary on their judgment of the effectiveness of individual officials).

7. Pre-Season and Out-Of-Season Practice Rule. - No member school shall engage in any form of pre-season or post-season practice, or in any pre-season or post-season interschool competition, in any athletic sport. For the purposes of this rule sports seasons shall be defined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Opening Date</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Sports</td>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>December 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Sports</td>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>March 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Sports</td>
<td>No opening date</td>
<td>Closing date of school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Post-Season Game Rule. - No post-season game shall be scheduled or played by any member school in any athletic sport, with the exception of those games which have been postponed because of
inclement weather or other circumstances beyond the control of the school.

Exception: League play-off games, meets or tournaments.

Interpretation:
The factors that cause a game to be classified as "post-season" relate primarily to the time of its scheduling and to certain attendant circumstances. The presumption is that any game added to the ESTABLISHED schedule and which extends the playing season beyond the original closing date is a post-season game. Schedules shall be considered as "established" when released through the press, announced to the student body, printed, in any way made public, or submitted to the League office. Such attendant circumstances as the "desire to play another game," for "charity purposes", "sports promotion", "to recoup financial losses", "community demand", etc. are typical of post-season games.

It should be noted that the rule limiting the number of games permitted and that specifying the closing date of the particular sport season are separate and distinct rules and in no way related to the Post-Season Game Rule. In case of any uncertainty as to the post-season status of a proposed game the principals of the schools involved shall seek an interpretation from the Executive Committee.

9. All-Star Game Rule — No official or representative of a
member school shall participate, either directly or indirectly, in the
promotion, management, supervision, player selection, coaching or offici-
ating of any contest involving so-called all-star high school teams or
squads.

NOTE: The League is unalterably opposed to all-star and out-of-
season athletic contests in which high school students or high school
graduates of the previous year are participants, because:

a. Such contests do not harmonise with the generally accepted
educational philosophy of high school athletics, which emphasises varied
seasonal activities, broad participation, and school direction and super-
vision.

b. There are few tangible values apparent, either to the individ-
ual, or to the selected team as a whole, resulting from such contests.

c. No practical or satisfactory method has yet been devised for
the selection of members of all-star teams to insure that injustices
are not perpetrated.

d. There is growing evidence of commercialism and exploitation
of high school athletes through their participation in such contests.
In too many instances such games have been the "market place" in which
their "wares" have been displayed before the highest bidder.

e. It is believed that the closing of all-star and out-of-season
contests in the garment of "sweet charity" is insufficient justification
for their existence. Often relatively small proportions of receipts
from such games have been realised for their avowed purposes.
Such contests are likely to imbue immature and inexperienced high school students selected for them with the false idea that they should capitalize commercially upon their athletic prowess, rather than use their endowed talent for the pleasure and satisfaction which they may receive from athletic competition.

In most all-star contests, insufficient and inadequate practice periods are provided prior to the playing of the games. In football particularly, a practice period of five or six days for a group of boys who previously have never played together is deemed insufficient. Most high school, college, and professional teams require a minimum pre-game practice period of fifteen days or more.

10. Honor Team Rule — No official or coach of a member school shall encourage the selection of, or participate in the selection of, any all-state, all regional, all-district, all-county, or similar team or squad of high school athletes except as a part of and through the joint action of the coaches of all teams concerned and then only when such action has been approved by the appropriate Group Board or District Council.

11. Junior-Varsity Rule — (a) Students may participate in competition of less than varsity level for one year only in the grade below the first year of the last four years of high school. (b) No student who participates in an inter-scholastic contest in any sport as a member of the junior-varsity squad may participate in a varsity squad contest until after 36 hours have elapsed since his participation in the junior-
varsity squad contest. No student who participates in an inter-scholastic contest as a member of a varsity squad may participate in a junior-varsity squad contest until after six days have elapsed since his participation in the varsity squad contest.

Interpretations:

The varsity squad is the selected first team or the one which represents the particular school when contests are arranged without representations as to the use of all eligibles. Junior-varsity is any less team which represents the school. Participation means actual play in a game and does not refer to the act of being "dressed" for the game or sitting on the bench.

b. Participation in junior-varsity contests does not count as "participation" under the Four Year Rule.

c. Eligibility lists: Players who engage in junior-varsity contests shall be included on eligibility lists and must be eligible in every respect except that students are eligible for one year only in the grade below the first of the last four years of high school. Players eligible only for junior-varsity competition shall be added to the eligibility list under a heading entitled: Eligible for junior-varsity only. (It is left to the integrity of each school to follow the rules relative to the shifting of players from varsity to junior-varsity and from junior-varsity to varsity.)
INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO REPRESENT HIS SCHOOL IN ANY INTER-SCHOOL CONTEST A STUDENT SHALL MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Bona Fide Student Rule — He shall be a regular bona fide student in good standing of the school which he represents.

   Interpretations:
   a. A "regular" student is considered as one who is carrying a schedule of subjects which, if successfully completed, will render him scholastically eligible for League participation the ensuing semester.
   b. Any student who is under penalty of suspension, or whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon his school, is not considered in good standing.

2. Grade Rule — He shall have been promoted to the first year of a four year high school course, or its equivalent except that a student may compete for one year only on the junior-varsity, while in the grade immediately below the last four years of high school.

   Interpretations:
   a. Participation is limited to the high school grades only.
   High school grades are defined as the upper four grades in either an eleven-year or a twelve-year system. (See exception in junior-varsity rule.)
   b. Any student otherwise eligible may represent the high
school serving his district, provided that he is pursuing a high school course of study, regardless of whether or not he is enrolled in the building which is under the supervision of the high school principal. However, in all cases the principal shall be responsible for his eligibility.

c. A student who is carrying three regular high school subjects or their equivalent is considered a high school student, even though he may not have completed all grade school work.

3. **Enrollment Rule** — He shall have been regularly enrolled in the school which he represents not later than the beginning of the tenth day of school of the semester.

   Exceptions:  a. Any transfer student who was regularly enrolled within the required ten-day period in the school from which he transferred.

b. Any student for whom waiver of the provisions of this rule has been granted by the District Committee to avert an obvious injustice, when enrollment within the required ten-day period was not accomplished because of circumstances beyond the control of the student. In each such case the waiver shall be requested in writing by the appropriate principal, giving all pertinent details. Each such case will be judged on its merits; however, no waiver will be granted unless it is clearly shown that the student was prevented by circumstances beyond his control from meeting the requirements of this rule.
Interpretation:

"Paper" enrollment is not considered as meeting the requirements of this rule.

4. Scholarship Rule — He shall have passed, at the end of the semester immediately preceding that in which he desired to compete not less than three subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit or required for graduation, and requiring full time in the regular schedule of classes. Deficiencies may be made up only by work recognized by the Department of Education.

Exceptions: a. Any student who is enrolled in the lowest high school grade for the first time.

b. Any student who has been forced to drop out of school because of a confining illness, provided specific exemption has been granted to him by the District Committee. Upon re-entry of such student into school at the opening of a subsequent semester, his principal may request from the District Committee exemption from the provisions of this rule, attaching thereto an affidavit from the attending physician stating that the illness on the part of the student was of such nature and duration as to make it impossible for him to earn credit for a semester's work. In making application for such exemption the principal shall indicate the grades of the student at the time of his withdrawal from school. These shall be taken into consideration by the District Committee, in each such case.
Interpretations:

a. "Immediately preceding" semester is the last regular school semester prior to the semester in which the student desires to compete.

b. A student scholastically eligible or ineligible at the beginning of a semester shall be considered eligible or ineligible under this rule throughout that semester.

c. Physical education may be counted for eligibility under this rule provided it meets the specified requirements: offered for credit (regardless of amount) or required for graduation, and requiring full time in the regular schedule of classes. Membership on an athletic team may be substituted for class work in physical education, and counted as credit for eligibility under this rule.

d. A student who is suspended or expelled from school and as a result of this does not finish a semester, is ineligible throughout the following semester, since his record is "incomplete".

e. The scholastic eligibility of a student who attended another school during the preceding semester may be established only by an official certificate or transcript from that school.

f. Grade school subjects may not be counted in determining eligibility under this rule.

g. A student shall become eligible or ineligible under this rule at the hour appointed for the official opening of the next semester, and not before.
h. A subject for which credit has previously been granted, may not if repeated, be used by any student to satisfy the requirements of this rule.

5. **Age Rule** - He shall not have reached the age of twenty years and six months on September 1st. of the current school year.

   Effective September 1st., 1952, he shall not have reached the age of nineteen years and six months on September 1st. of the current school year.

   **NOTES:** a. In case of doubt as to age, the following evidence may be accepted as proof thereof: Birth certificate from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, affidavit of the physician attending at birth, and documentary evidence such as the family record of birth in the bible, official school record and the affidavit of parent or guardian. Documentary proof of age other than a birth certificate will be accepted in cases of doubt only when the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state of birth reports that no record exists.

   b. If there is a discrepancy in the age recorded on the Master Eligibility Lists filed in the State Office by member schools, the earliest listed date of birth shall be considered correct until proof otherwise has been submitted and accepted.

6. **Four-Year Rule** - He shall not have represented for four years a high school or high schools in that inter-school activity in which he desires to participate.

   **Interpretations:**

   a. A student is considered to have represented his high
school for one year if he has participated in any regular contest as a representative of his school, except those pre-high school students participating in baseball under the provisions of the exception to Rule 2 (Grade Rule). Participation on second, junior varsity, and other similar teams is not counted as participation under this rule.

b. A student who enters a game, even if for only one play, is considered to have represented his school.

c. A student is eligible for not more than four years in any one inter-school activity. These years need not be consecutive.

d. Participation of an ineligible student does not void the counting of that participation as a year of competition.

e. Should a student, knowingly or inadvertently, who has not been promoted to the first year of a four-year high school course, or its equivalent, represent a high school in an inter-school contest, each year of such representation is counted as one of the four years of participation to which he is entitled as a high school student. Exceptions under this interpretation may be authorized by the Executive Committee, upon written request of the school principal, in those cases which, prior to September 1st, 1946, a student who had not been promoted to the first year of a four-year high school course or its equivalent, represented his school in inter-school competition, provided that his school was not a member of the League during the period of such pre-high school participation.
f. Participation in 6-man football is interpreted as participation in football.

g. Reporting to an official as a substitute in an athletic contest is interpreted as participation in that contest.

7. Transfer Rule — He shall not have enrolled in one public high school and subsequently transferred to and enrolled in another public high school without a corresponding change in the residence of his parents, parent or guardian.

Exception: Any student who has completed one full semester of attendance in the high school to which he has transferred.

Interpretations:

a. Enrollment is defined as official registration and attendance in classes for at least three consecutive days thereafter.

b. A semester is defined as that period of time required by the school for a pupil to earn two Carnegie units of credit.

c. A student retains his eligibility under this rule at his original school throughout his school career, even though his parents may change address. However, if a student chooses to remain in his original school longer than the end of the school year in which his parents moved, he forfeits the right to transfer to the school serving the district to which his parents or guardians have moved without meeting the requirements of one semester of attendance in that school.

d. A student whose parents live in a district served by one
School, but who establishes eligibility under this rule in another school, must comply with the requirement of one full semester in attendance before he may be considered eligible in the school serving the district in which his parents or guardians reside.

e. If the parents of a student move to separate districts, a student may transfer to the school serving the district in which either parent lives without loss of eligibility under this rule.

f. The appointment of a legal guardian will not render a student immediately eligible under this rule in the school to which he transfers except in the case of the death of his parents, parent, or guardian, and then only if the new guardianship is made legally and without delay. A student who has neither parents nor legal guardian must meet the requirements of one full semester of attendance in the school to which he transfers.

g. If there is an accredited, qualified, or certified high school serving the district in which he resides, an entering student (freshman) is considered immediately eligible in that school under this rule. If he enrolls in any school other than the one serving the district in which he resides, he must meet the requirements of one full semester of attendance in that school prior to participation in inter-school activities.

h. The provisions of this rule do not apply in the case of a student transferring from a private or boarding school to the public high school serving the district in which his parents reside.
1. If the county or city board of education re-districts the city or county for high school purposes, students who by this action are transferred to another high school are not considered as transfer students within the meaning of this rule.

8. **Post-Graduate Rule** - He shall not have been graduated from, or be eligible for graduation from, or have completed the requirements for graduation from, a senior or four-year high school, or from any other secondary school, private or public, which has the same or equivalent requirements for graduation.

Exception: A student who has been graduated in the spring prior to the official conclusion of the school's activities program for the year. Such student shall be eligible under this rule until the conclusion of that program, regardless of his post-graduate status.

**Interpretations:**

a. Credits, once granted by a school, may not be cancelled by that school, or by any other, to render a student eligible under this rule.

b. A student who has completed the requirements for graduation is considered a graduate under this rule, even though he may not have received a diploma.

c. In determining credit to be granted to veterans returning to school from the armed services, each school is expected to follow the policy established by its school board under the
permissive provisions of State Department Memorandum No. 1692, dated February 16, 1945. Credit, once granted and entered on the official school records, may not be cancelled later. If a veteran does not request basic training or other military service credit upon his enrollment in school, in order to remain eligible under the provisions of this rule, it is expected that he will not thereafter be granted such credit.

9. **College Rule** - He shall not have matriculated in, or attended classes at, any regular recognised institution of higher learning, or have represented any such institution in any activity.

   Exception: Any student who matriculated, or attended classes, at such institution of higher learning as a part of his service with the armed forces.

**Interpretations:**

a. This rule does not apply to a student who has been a member of the preparatory department of an institution of higher learning, unless such student has taken work in the college department, or has represented the college department in some activity.

b. Any team or group representing the college and composed of both preparatory department and college department representatives shall be considered a college team or group. Members thereof are permanently ineligible for high school inter-school activities thereafter under this rule.

c. Enrollment in college summer sessions, or college extension classes, is not interpreted as college matriculation under
this rule.

10. **Semester Rule** — (Effective Sept. 1, 1951). He shall not have been enrolled in high school for a period of more than ten consecutive semesters in a four-year high school, or for a period of more than eight consecutive semesters in a three-year high school, the semester in which he was enrolled for the first time in the lowest high school grade to be counted as the first of these semesters, and the semesters to be counted consecutively, regardless of whether or not he is enrolled in school.

In addition to meeting the foregoing individual eligibility requirements, a student shall meet the following additional requirements to be eligible to represent his school in any inter-school athletic contest.

11. **Amateur Rule** — He shall be an amateur as defined by the National Collegiate Athletic Association: "An amateur sportsman is one who engages in sports for the physical, mental, or social benefits he derives therefrom, and to whom the sport is nothing more than an avocation."

**Interpretations:**

a. The spirit of amateurism includes all that is stated in the definition above and more: a high sense of honor, honesty, fair play and courtesy. It permits of no stooping to petty technicalities, evasions of rules of play, or taking unfair advantage of opponents.

b. The following acts are among those considered as violations of amateurism:

(1) Competition or exercise in any sport under an
assumed name.

(2) Receipt, directly or indirectly, of any pay or financial benefit in consideration of, or as a reward for, participation in any sport in any public competition or exhibition, or disposing of prizes for personal gain.

(3) Receipt, directly or indirectly, or pay or financial benefit in consideration of, or as a reward for, appearing in person in or for any competition, exhibition, or exercise in sports.

(h) Intentional violation of the eligibility rules established by the League, or by the school in which the student is enrolled.

(5) Fraudulent misrepresentation of facts, or other grossly unsportsmanlike conduct in connection with any sport, or with the rules governing any sport.

c. Caddying for pay shall not be construed as a violation of this rule.

d. Recreational, playground, or camp employment of a public of semi-public nature is not construed as a violation of this rule.

e. Participation in sports of any kind during the summer, or during a season when a student is not a member of a school athletic squad or team, shall not be considered a violation of this rule if the participant does not receive, directly or indirectly, any pay or financial benefit therefrom.

f. An individual may accept reimbursement for the actual expenses which he incurred in transportation to and from a contest and in reasonable amounts, reimbursement for meals and lodging while on athletic trips without jeopardizing his amateur standing. However, he may not at any time accept any portion of a livelihood in return for his participation in athletics without violating this regulation.
g. Acceptance of payment for loss of time or wages while participating in athletics is construed as a violation of this rule.

h. Any student who accepts material or financial inducement to attend a school for the purpose of engaging in athletics, regardless of the source of that material or financial inducement, shall be ineligible under this rule.

i. Any student may play with any baseball team which is not classed by the Commissioner of Baseball as a part of Professional Baseball without loss of his amateur standing, provided he receives no pay or financial benefits.

j. A professional in one sport is considered a professional in all sports.

NOTE: The League has accepted the invitation of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations to participate in an agreement between state high school associations and organized Professional Baseball, whereby the latter agrees not to sign a high school student to a contract, or otherwise jeopardize his eligibility through professionalism, until the day following his graduation, or (if he has left school) the day following graduation of his class or after a boy may have become ineligible for further participation in high school athletics. The penalty provided for infraction of the agreement by a representative of Organized Baseball is $500.00 for the offending professional baseball club concerned, or suspension from the League of the school whose employee or official encourages or collaborates in such illegal contractual negotiations.
Penalty - A pupil who has lost his amateur standing through violation of this rule shall be ineligible for inter-school athletic competition. However, such student may be re-instated as an amateur by the Executive Committee after not less than one calendar year has elapsed since he was officially declared a professional, provided his principal requests in writing his re-instatement as an amateur and certifies that the student has not during that year period violated the rules of amateurism, and that the student is not now under contract to, or owned by, any professional athletic organization.

12. Parental Consent and Physician's Certificate Rule - He shall have submitted to the principal of his school, prior to becoming a member of any school athletic squad or team, League Form No.2 (Student Participation Parental Consent - Physician's Certificate Form), completely filled in and properly signed, attesting that he has been examined and found to be physically fit for athletic competition, and that his parents consent to his participation.

NOTES: a. The physical examination should be required before any student is accepted as a squad member or is permitted to engage in practice. Examinations may be made by any licensed physician. It is recommended that further thorough physical examinations be given periodically throughout the playing season in football, basketball and track.

b. Students taking part in athletic contests should be in fit physical condition. This condition can be attained only through properly conducted and systematic training procedures. It is recommended that
coaches and physical directors insist upon strict observance of the accepted rules of training, as a requisite for squad membership.

Penalty - A student who has failed to fulfill the requirements of this rule shall be ineligible for practice or competition until such time as the requirements have been met. Schools failing to require strict adherence to this regulation may be subject to such disciplinary action as the appropriate District Committee may see fit to impose.

13. Proselyting Rule - He shall not have been subjected to undue influence by any individual or group of individuals in causing him to transfer from one school to another for athletic purposes.

Interpretation:

The appropriate District Committee will decide as to what constitutes undue influence on the basis of the evidence presented in each case.

Penalty - Any student transferring from one school to another as a result of undue influence shall be ineligible for a period of one calendar year from the date of his transfer. Any school adjudged guilty of bringing such undue influence to bear upon a student, through any individual connected with the school, either directly or indirectly, shall be subject to such disciplinary action as the appropriate District Committee may see fit to impose.

14. Awards Rule - He shall not accept or have accepted from any source whatsoever, in recognition of or as a reward for his athletic skill, any award other than letters, medals, charms, cups, plaques, letter sweaters, or similar trophies. These listed awards may be
accepted only when presented or approved by his school, or when earned in sanctioned meets or tournaments.

**Interpretations:**

It is intended by this rule that control of awards to school athletes be in the hands of the school principal. Outside agencies or organizations which desire to present awards or recognitions to students for achievement in some phase of the school's activities program should first secure the concurrence of the school principal.

**Penalty** - A student who accepts an award in violation of this regulation shall be ineligible for further inter-school competition.

15. **Independent Team Rule** - He shall not, while he is a member of a school squad or team in any sport, become a member of, or participate with, any other organized team in the same sport, either within the school, representing the school, or independent of the school's control.

**Interpretations:**

a. Participation in any inter-school athletic contest is interpreted as evidence of team membership.

b. No student may under any circumstances represent in an athletic contest any school other than the one of which he is a member.

c. Baseball and softball are not considered as the same sport. School baseball players may, therefore, compete as members of outside or independent softball teams without penalty under this rule.
d. Participation on an outside or independent team prior to the first school contest in which the student engages is not interpreted as a violation of this rule.

e. School baseball players may play on outside or independent baseball teams only after the completion of the high school baseball season.

f. A student may not represent his school in interschool competition as a member of more than one organized team within the school in the same sport during any one sports season. Participation on both the school team and a team representing some school club or agency engaging in interschool competition is prohibited under this rule. This interpretation does not prohibit participation in two or more different sports during the same season.

g. He shall not, while a member of a high school team, participate in professional baseball tryout schools or similar professional recruiting plans.

Penalty — ineligibility for the remainder of the school session.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The League ACTIVELY SPONSORS a competitive inter-school athletic program for boys leading to either district, regional, or state championships in football (regular and six-man), cross-country, basketball (fall and winter), baseball, track (indoor and outdoor), tennis and golf. The
League has endorsed competitive inter-school wrestling, but does not sponsor a championship program in this sport.

**FOOTBALL**

It is recommended that no member school engage in regular football which has less than twenty-five students physically fit and eligible for participation, and that no member school engage in six-man football which has less than fifteen students physically fit and eligible for participation.

*Out-of-Season Practice* — Any form of post-season, winter, spring, summer, or pre-season football practice, organized under the coach or his representative, is forbidden, regardless of what equipment, if any, is used.

**NOTE:** The beginning date for football practice shall be August 25, except for Group II Districts 7 and 8, and Group III Districts V, V, and W, for which the beginning date for football practice shall not be earlier than August 15, for the 1950 season only. The official end date for football is December 1, except for the 1950 season only December 2 is the closing date.

**Interpretations:**

a. The interpretation adopted at the April, 1945, meeting of the Legislative Council, stipulating that "any physical education program in which headgear, shoulder pads, or hip pads are used, individually or collectively, shall be deemed spring football practice" was designed to strengthen the rule prohibiting
out-of-season practice, and to eliminate abuses that had arisen in connection with physical education classes. This interpretation is applicable only to regular school physical education programs conducted within the regular schedule of the school day. Some schools have construed it as permitting practice at other times out-of-season, provided the restriction as to equipment used is observed. This interpretation is incorrect, and such a practice is strictly forbidden under the provisions of this regulation.

b. In some communities high school coaches are employed during the summer months in organized city or county recreation programs. Where such is the case, possible candidates for high school football teams may, under existing regulations, participate in those programs without violation of this rule. However, such programs must be an integral part of an official city or county recreation program, and may not be restricted as to participation in such a way as to cause such a program to become, for all practical purposes, a high school squad practice scheme. A great responsibility rests upon the coaches engaged in such a recreation program to make certain that the spirit, as well as the letter, of this interpretation is observed.

Playing Rules - The playing rules published by the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations shall be the official rules for regular and for six-man football.

Schedules and Practices - Each member school shall make its own schedule.
No member school shall permit its football team to engage in any football game before it has had a minimum of fifteen regular daily sessions of training and practice. (Effective September 1, 1949).

No member school shall play more than ten football games during any one season, exclusive of League scheduled playoff games, nor more than an average of one game per week by the same team. (It is recommended that the football playing schedule be limited to nine or fewer games.)

**Group I Championships** - Group I schools shall determine a state Group I championship. A minimum of seven games with other Group I schools shall be required for championship ranking. (By action of Group I Board March, 1950, six games may be counted for the 1950 season only.) Determination of District Group I championships shall be optional with each District Council.

**Determining Championships** - All League football championships (both eleven and six-man) shall be determined on a percentage basis, considering all games with member schools of the same Group within the District only (or state, as in the case of Group I) in the percentage ranking.

Tie games shall count as one-half a game won and one-half a game lose. No tie games shall be played off.

A forfeiture shall be counted as a game won by the team receiving the forfeit, and as a game lost by the team forfeiting.

If two or more teams are tied in the percentage standing, the team which has played the larger or largest number of games counted in
the ranking shall be declared the champion. If two or more teams tied in
the percentage standing are ranked on the basis of the same number of
League games, such teams shall be declared co-champions.

The minimum number of games to be required for championship rank-
ing shall be established by the appropriate Group Board or District
Council.

Awards — The Group I state champion or co-champions will be
awarded a bronze plaque plate for attachment to the school’s League
plaque.

League certificates will be awarded to individual members of
championship teams.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Rules — Rules for cross-country running, as set forth in Rule 11
of the National Federation edition of the Track and Field Rules, shall
govern all League cross-country competition.

Schedules — It is recommended that no member school schedule
or engage in more than one cross-country meet per week, or in a total
of more than five cross-country meets per season. A preliminary train-
ing period before the first meet of NOT LESS THAN FIVE WEEKS is strongly
recommended.

Group I Championships — Group I schools determine both team and
individual Group championships in a meet held annually at the University
of Virginia on the second Saturday in November. (NOTE: no other program
in cross-country, leading to either District or Group championships,
has as yet been authorized).
Meet Regulations -

1. Only entries which are submitted on the official entry blank, properly certified by the school principal, and postmarked not later than the deadline date for entry, will be accepted.

2. Rules shall be those published in the National Federation edition of the track and field rules.

3. The meet shall be conducted over a course approximately two miles in length.

4. No student who has not reached the age of fourteen years and six months on September 1st shall be eligible to compete.

5. No additions to, or changes in, the official list of entries (other than scratches) shall be permitted after the entry blank has been received by the Meet Director.

6. Teams shall consist of seven members. All competitors who finish the race shall be ranked and tallied as follows: 1st place, one point; 2nd place, two points; 3rd place, three points, etc. The team score shall be determined by totalling the points scored by the first five finishers of each team. The team which scores the SMALLEST number of points shall be the winner.

7. All expenses of travel, board, and lodging shall be defrayed by competing schools or their representatives.

Awards - The school winning the Group I championship is awarded a bronze engraving plate for attachment to its League plaque. Certificates are awarded to individual winners of first, second and third place.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Out-of-Season Practice - No member school conducting a program in WINTER basketball shall hold any organized practices in basketball prior to November 1st., or play any interschool basketball game
prior to December 1st or after March 15th.

**Playing Rules** - The Playing Rules as published by the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations Guide shall be followed in all League basketball games, both indoor and outdoor.

The quarters of all games shall be eight minutes in length unless shortened by a mutual agreement in advance of the game.

**NOTE:** New training films for National Federation rules are available. See Principal's Workbook. ("Basketball Today" and "Modern Basketball").

**Schedules** - Each member school shall make its own playing schedule. Group I district basketball championship shall be determined not later than the first weekend in March.

The number of basketball games in any one WINTER season shall be limited to twenty, exclusive of tournament games and such games as may be necessary to break ties in district standings.

So called "alumni", "faculty", and "practice" games shall be counted as games in the number of games permitted.

No team shall be permitted to compete in more than one tournament in addition to the district tournament and its extension (regional and/or state). Attention is called to the League regulation prohibiting any member school from competing in any tournament, within or outside of the state, unless that tournament has been expressly sanctioned by the Executive Committee.
It is recommended that no more than two games be scheduled or played in any week, except in the case of tournaments.

Group I Championships - Group I schools shall determine winter district championships and a state Group I championship. Each District Council shall determine the method by which it shall select its champion, preferably on a percentage basis. District champions shall be declared not later than the first week-end in March. Failure of a district to determine a champion on or before this deadline date shall disqualify the district winner from participation in the state Group I tournament.

The state Group I championship shall be determined by means of an eight team tournament to be held the second week-end in March, with the champion of each district plus four other teams to be selected as prescribed by the Group I Board. The location of the tournament shall be determined by the Group I Board.

INDOOR TRACK

Rules - Track and Field Rules of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations (A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, Publishers) shall govern all League indoor track meets. The list and order of events are determined by each Meet Director, in accordance with available facilities and time.

Championships - Group I schools determine a state Group I indoor track championship annually in a meet held at the University of
Virginia in February or early March. Entries may be limited at the discretion of the Meet Director.

**Meet Regulations** - Regulations governing entry and participation in the state Group I championship indoor track meet will be published in the Leaguer.

**Awards** - Schools winning the Group I indoor track championships are awarded a bronze engraving plate, for attachment to their League plaque. Championship certificates are awarded to winners of first places.

**WRESTLING**


**Schedules** - It is recommended that no member school schedule or engage in more than one wrestling meet weekly, or in a total of more than eight meets in any one season.

**Championships** - Although wrestling has been formally approved as a League and Group I athletic activity, no League or Group championships have been established. The scholastic season culminates in an invitational prep-high school tournament held at the University of Virginia on the first week end in March.
Invitational Tournament Regulations

1. Only entries which are submitted on the official entry blank, properly certified by the school principal, and postmarked not later than the deadline date for entry, will be accepted.


3. Entries will be limited to eight teams representing preparatory and/or high schools in Virginia. Schools with the best dual meet records will be given priority when the invitation list is made up.

4. Preparatory schools will be required to abide by League regulations governing athletic competitions between member schools and preparatory schools.

5. No individual shall be permitted to compete in more than one weight class.

6. Matches will be conducted in twelve weight classes: 96 lbs., 104 lbs., 113 lbs., 121 lbs., 128 lbs., 132 lbs., 139 lbs., 146 lbs., 155 lbs., 166 lbs., 176 lbs., and unlimited.

7. Teams shall weigh-in competitors in at least eight weight classes to render any individual contestant from the team eligible to compete.

8. The Tournament Team winner will be determined on the basis of total points earned by the competitors from each team as follows: winner in each weight class, 6; runner-up, 4; third place, 2; fourth place, 1. One additional point will be awarded for each match won by fall or forfeit.

9. Contestants will be placed in brackets by a Seeding Committee consisting of coaches and the Meet Director.

10. No additions to, or changes in, the official list of entries (other than scratches) shall be permitted after the entry blank has been received by the Meet Director. When a competitor has entered and subsequently withdraws from competition, no substitute may replace him.

11. All expenses of travel, board, and lodging shall be defrayed by competing schools or their representatives.
Awards — Appropriate awards, in keeping with League policies, will be awarded to winning and runner-up teams and individual competitors.

TRACK

Rules — Track and Field Rules of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations shall govern all League dual meets and district, regional and state meets. Additions to, or deletions from, the list of events may be made by the several Group Boards. The order of events as given shall be followed in all district, regional and state meets.

Schedules — It is recommended that no member school engage in any track meet before its team has had a minimum of fourteen regular daily sessions of training and practice. It is recommended that no member school schedule more than one track meet weekly, or more than a total of six track meets for the season. Relay carnivals, with both senior and junior divisions, are encouraged.

Group I Championships — Group I schools determine a state Group I track and field championship in a meet held annually on the third weekend in May. District championships may be determined at the discretion of the appropriate District Council.

BASEBALL

Playing Rules — The Baseball Playing Rules as published in the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations Guide
shall be followed in all League baseball games. Games may be shortened to seven innings by mutual agreement in advance of the contest.

Schedules - Each school shall make its own playing schedule. The number of baseball games for one season shall be limited to twenty games for Group I.

So-called "Alumni", "Faculty", and "Practice" games shall be counted as games within the number permitted.

It is recommended that no more than three games be scheduled or played in any one week. In making up baseball schedules, schools are advised to make generous provisions for games postponed because of inclement weather.

Group I Championships - Group I schools shall determine district championships. Each district shall determine the method by which it shall select its champion, preferably on a percentage basis.

Methods of Determining District Championships - It is recommended that the district championships be determined on a straight percentage basis, with each District Council establishing the number of games to be required for championship ranking. All games with member schools in the same Group and District should be considered in the ranking. Forfeitures should be counted as a game won by the school receiving the forfeit, and as a game lost by the team forfeiting. If two or more teams are tied in the percentage standings, the team which has played the larger or largest number of games counted in the ranking should be declared the champion. If two or more teams are tied in the
percentage standings and are ranked on the basis of the same number of League games, it is recommended that a play-off be arranged.

**Awards** - Schools winning district championships in each of the three Groups will be awarded a bronze plaque plate for attachment to the School’s League plaque. League certificates will be awarded to individual members of district championship teams.

**TENNIS**

**Playing Rules** - The tennis rules as set forth in the United States Lawn Tennis Association Guide shall be followed in all League matches.

**Schedule** - Each member school shall make its own playing schedule. However, it should be noted that all Group I district team championships should be determined not later than the first weekend in May. District championships are not required as a requisite for entry in the state singles and doubles championships.

**Group I Championships** - District and state team championships are determined in Group I. District team champions shall be determined not later than the first weekend in May. Failure of a district to determine its team champion on or before this date shall disqualify the district winner from competing in the State Group I team championship playoffs. The State Group I team championship playoffs are held annually on the second weekend in May, with the four district team champions eligible to compete.
Group Singles and Doubles Championships — State singles and doubles championships in each of the three Groups are determined in elimination tournaments held annually at the University of Virginia on the third weekend in May. Entries are limited to one singles player and one doubles team from each school. Each entrant shall have been the winner of at least one inter-school match. The total number of entries is limited to eight singles players and eight doubles teams per Group, the eight to be selected on the basis of their records in interscholastic play throughout the season.

Method of Determining District Team Championship — Each team shall consist of six singles players and three doubles teams. Singles players shall be permitted to compete in doubles, or separate doubles teams may be entered. A team match shall consist of nine individual matches, six singles and three doubles. One point shall be scored for each individual match won. District championships shall be determined on a percentage basis, considering all team matches with other member schools in the district only in the ranking. In Group I districts, each school shall meet every other school in the district twice, on a home-and-home basis. Forfeitures shall be counted as a match won by the school receiving the forfeit, and as a match lost by the team forfeiting. If two or more teams are tied in the percentage standing, and the team which has played the larger or largest number of matches counted in the ranking shall be declared the champion. If two or more teams are tied in the percentage standing and are ranked on the basis
of the same number of League matches, it is recommended that a play-off match be arranged.

Method of Determining State Group I Team Championship - The state Group I team championship is determined by means of playoffs between the four district team champions, held annually on the second weekend in May. Teams are paired by lot in the opening round on Friday, with winners meeting on Saturday for the Group I team championship.

Method of Determining Individual Singles and Doubles Championships, all Groups - Individual Group I, Group II and Group III singles and doubles championships are determined in elimination tournaments for each Group, held annually at the University of Virginia on the third weekend in May. Entries are limited to one singles player and one doubles team from each school. Each entrant shall have been the winner of at least one inter-school match.

Meet Regulations - Only entries which are submitted on the official entry blank (included in the Principal's Workbook), properly certified by the principal, postmarked not later than the deadline date for entry will be accepted. All expenses of travel, board and lodging must be defrayed by competing schools or their contestants. Competing schools or contestants must provide their own practice balls. All contestants shall be required to wear tennis (not basketball) shoes, and are requested to wear white shirts and shorts if these are available to them. The Executive Secretary shall designate a Tournament Manager, who will provide all necessary officials. He shall decide all
points of question growing out of the tournaments, shall assign umpires to semi-finals and finals matches, shall postpone any match or part of a match if in his opinion the state of weather or of light or conditions of the playing surface renders it advisable so to do, and shall default any player or players failing to appear promptly for scheduled matches.

Awards - The school winning the state Group I championship, and schools represented by the individual singles and doubles champions in each Group, shall each be awarded a bronze engraving plate for attachment to their League plaque. Certificates will be awarded to members of Group I district and state championship teams, and to individual singles and doubles champions in all Groups.

GOLF

Playing Rules - Rules of the United States Golf Association shall be followed in all League matches and tournaments.

Schedules - Each member school shall make its own playing schedule. It is recommended that no more than two team matches be played in any one week.

Championships - League schools determine both state team and individual championships in a tournament held on the third week-end in May. District individual and team championships may be determined at the discretion of the appropriate District Council.

Method of Determining District Team Championships - Each team shall consist of four players, with alternates as desired. Team
matches shall consist of eighteen holes of match play for each of four twosomes and two foursomes. The foursomes matches shall be played simultaneously with the twosomes. Opponents shall be paired according to their ranking, with the number one and number two players of each team meeting in the first foursome, and the number three and number four players of each team meeting in the second foursome. Three points shall be scored in each of the six matches (four twosomes and two foursomes) on the Nassau plan, which provides one point for the match play winner of the first nine holes, one point for the match play winner of the second nine holes, and one point for the match play winner of the entire eighteen holes. Points shall be divided when matches, or sections of matches, are halved.

District championships shall be determined on a percentage basis, considering all team matches with other member schools in the district only in the percentage ranking. Forfeitures shall be counted as a match won and one-half a match lost by each team. If two or more teams are tied in the percentage standing, the team which has played the larger or largest number of matches counted in the ranking shall be declared the champion. If two or more teams are tied in the percentage standing and are ranked on the basis of the same number of League matches, it is recommended that a playoff be arranged.

**Method of Determining Team and Individual Championships**

State team and individual championships are determined in a tournament held on the third weekend in May. Team entries are limited to those
which have won district championships; individual entries shall be limited to two players from each school, each of whom shall have been the winner of at least one inter-school match during the season prior to the tournament. Only entries which are submitted on the official entry blank (included in the Principal's Workbook), properly certified by the school principal, postmarked not later than the deadline date for entry, will be accepted.

Each entrant shall play 36 holes of medal play. The four-man district championship team with the lowest aggregate score for the 144 holes shall be declared the State team champion. The individual with the lowest 36-holes aggregate shall be declared the individual champion. Competing teams and individuals shall defray all expenses of travel, board and lodging, and shall pay all caddy fees and other incidental expenses. All equipment, including balls, shall be furnished by competing teams or individuals. Local rules of the host club shall be observed implicitly, and a faculty sponsor from each competing school shall be responsible for such compliance by members of his group.

The Tournament Director will assign competitors to threesomes, on the bases of school represented and scores reported on the entry blank. Starting times will be assigned by lot. Players failing to report promptly to the Starter will be scratched. The Tournament Director will rule on all technical questions arising from play.
Awards - The school winning the State team championship will be awarded a bronze engraving plate for attachment to its League plaque. League certificates will be awarded to individual members of the championship team. The individual winning the state championship will be awarded a medal and a championship certificate.

SWIMMING

The League favors swimming as an inter-scholastic sport and wishes to encourage it as a sport.