

OFSAA BOYS' FOOTBALL BOWL FESTIVALS

The sole basis for the very existence of high school sport is the contribution it makes to the general educational experience of those students who participate.

PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. Events and/or Classifications

OFSAA Football shall be conducted as regional bowl games as follows:

- Western Bowl – SWOSSAA / WOSSAA
- Golden Horseshoe Bowl – GHAC / SOSSA
- Metro Bowl – TDCAA / TDSSAA
- Central Bowl – CWOSSA / ROPSSAA
- Simcoe Bowl – GBSSA / YRAA
- National Capital Bowl – NCSSAA / EOSSAA
- Northern Bowl – NOSSA / NWOSSAA
- Eastern Bowl – LOSSA / COSSA
- Independent Bowl – CISAA / 2nd Entry or 2nd Entry (2 associations)

2. Festival Structure and Procedure:

- (a) The OFSAA Football Bowl Festival will be a minimum of five (5) games to a maximum of nine (9) games.
- (b) Registration materials will be given to the teacher accompanying the athletes upon receipt of the required entry materials as outlined on the OFSAA Football website.
- (c) The teacher-coach/supervisor must attend the coaches' meeting. If the coach is a non-teacher, both the teacher-supervisor and the coach must attend.

3. Entry:

- (a) Entries shall be accepted from Association convenors or designates only.
- (b) Entries must be received by the convenor by the deadline date as indicated in the coaches' information package on the OFSAA Football Bowl website. Late entries will only be accepted if they can be accommodated, and an additional entry fee will be charged.
- (c) Each team may register a maximum of fifty-six (56) participants, which includes players and team personnel. Only registered participants may represent the school and /or attend Championship activities. (ref. Appendix XV)
- (d) Any suspension or disciplinary actions in Association play shall be carried forward into OFSAA Bowl competition. The Association convenor shall be responsible for reporting such players and the nature of the disciplinary action on the OFSAA entry form. Any disciplinary action is subject to appeal to the Competition Committee.

4. Expenses:

- (a) Those schools having entries are responsible for arranging and financing their own entry fee, travel, meals and accommodation for the event.
- (b) All schools entering a Federation Championship shall, by signature of the school principal on the Championship Entry Form, acknowledge responsibility for making restitution for damage resulting from misconduct by their participants.

5. Eligibility:

(a) School/Team Eligibility

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation, a school/team must:

- (i) conduct a 'bona fide' high school program consisting of three (3) practices ([on field or dry land] per week, or a minimum of two (2) practices per week if there is a school holiday) from September until the Bowl Games under the supervision of a teacher as certified by the school principal
- (ii) participate in an Association-approved league if one is held
- (iii) participate in the Association Championship or qualifying event.
- (iv) use only eligible athletes in any competition during the school year or the school forfeits its right to participate in the OFSAA Football Championship.

(b) Individual Student Eligibility

To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation a student **must**:

- (i) be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules (Playing Regulations) of the Association to which his school belongs;
- (ii) be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school;
- (iii) meet the following age requirement: the individual's birth certificate indicates that he has not reached his 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held;
- (iv) be in Grades 9-12;
- (v) be eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy (By-Law 5, Section 4(f));
- (vi) be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9 (By-Law 5, Section 4(g));
- (vii) have signed the Rules of Behaviour signature form for the competition;
- (viii) have executed the Federation's "Release of Liability" form.
- (ix) have participated as a member of a bona fide high school **program** as outlined in (a) above and **attended** the majority of practices and competitions

6. Rules and Officials:

- (a) The Canadian Amateur Football Rulebook shall govern play at the OFSAA Regional and OFSAA Bowls Series.
- (b) It is recommended that each team has a maximum roster of fifty-six (56) players. Each team shall submit an eligibility list of players who shall be eligible to play in the Festival.

7. Uniforms and Equipment:

(a) General

- (i) All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's/Association's name, colours and logos.
- (ii) No sport club insignia on uniforms shall be permitted either in or on the immediate vicinity of the competitive area and during the awards ceremony.
- (iii) A sport club is defined as a community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized competition in single or multi sport programs. Sponsorship recognition is permitted to be visible but must conform with the placement guidelines outlined in By-Law 6, Section 2(h).
- (iv) Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate team uniform in the competition area, AND use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the Competition Committee for resolution.

(b) Sport Specific

- (i) Uniforms shall conform to the Canadian Amateur Rulebook in all sections. Players shall wear identical football-type jerseys and pants. All uniforms must be intact at the start of each game. It is recommended that all teams have numbers conforming to those accepted positions.
- (ii) There cannot be identical numbers on the set of team jerseys.
- (iii) If there is a colour conflict, both teams will change their jerseys to non-conflicting coloured jerseys to be provided by the football SAC.
- (iv) Any knee braces must be approved by the head official at the coaches meeting prior to the start of the Festival. All protective equipment must be covered by the pants or jersey.
- (v) All eye shields (visors) must be clear. Coloured or tinted eye shields (visors) are illegal.
- (vi) Any communication devices within the helmet, or on any part of the athlete is not permitted.
- (vii) No metal cleats are allowed - rubber or moulded cleats only.
- (viii) Drones may not be used in the field of play.

8. Awards:

The school represented by each winning team in each OFSAA Festival Bowl game shall receive an OFSAA banner to be retained by the school.

9. Supervision: (Reference By-Law 6, Section 1)

A teacher is defined as a member of the Ontario College of Teachers or a holder of an Ontario Teacher's Certificate or equivalent.

- (a) For team sports ("A team consists of all athletes from the same school who qualify for Federation competition as a unit..." {reference By-Law 5, Section 3}), a teacher from the same school, or a retired teacher, as approved by the principal of the school, must accompany and be responsible for the team.

- (b) For all sports, where the teacher, as indicated in (a) above, is not of the same sex as the athlete(s), and where the athlete(s) are required or might be required to stay overnight, a supervisory adult, as approved by the principal of the school, of the same sex as the athlete(s), must be present and available at the accommodation site for the duration of their stay in the accommodation.

10. Department: (Reference By-Law 6, Section 2)

(a) Definitions

- (i) A team is defined as, "All participants representing the same school at an OFSAA Championship event".
- (ii) A participant is defined as, "Anyone who has been granted proper authorization to enter a restricted area." "Restricted area" includes "those areas occupied by athletes and to which access by the general public is restricted or prohibited."

(b) Codes of Behaviour

- (i) All participants are expected to abide by the, "Rules of Behaviour for Participants to OFSAA Championships". (see Appendix to By-Laws)
 - (ii) Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants for the duration of the Championships.
 - (iii) Teams are open to censure for failure of its participants to abide by the "Rules of Behaviour".
 - (iv) All coaches are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics for Coaches to OFSAA Championships. (See Appendix II)
 - (v) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Statement of Principle on Recruiting. (See Appendix IV)
 - (vi) Spectators are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour for Spectators. (See Appendix III)
 - (vii) All coaches are expected to adhere to the "Return to Play Guidelines". (See Appendix VI)
 - (viii) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Policy on dispensing drugs, medication and food supplements. (See Appendix IX)
- (c) No artificial noisemakers are permitted at OFSAA Championship events.

11. Social:

There will be no social at the OFSAA Football Bowl Festivals.

12. Medical:

- (a) Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (e.g. tape, Band-Aids, ice packs) for their athletes.
- (b) In the event of any serious injury, the sports therapist will determine the continuation of play for the injured player.

13. Protest Committee

All disputes during an OFSAA Championship/Festival shall be directed to the Protest Committee for resolution.

- (a) The Protest Committee shall consist of three(3) individuals; the chairperson of the Sport Advisory Committee or designate, a tournament committee member, and one other member appointed by the Championship convenor. Members of the Protest Committee must not have any conflict of interest relevant to the incident under protest. Head official in some cases should be asked to sit on the Protest Committee.
- (b) All protests must be submitted in writing to the Championship convenor or designate, shall fully outline the incident under protest, and shall be accompanied by a \$50.00 fee (refundable if protest is upheld).
- (c) A protest must be submitted within thirty(30) minutes of the completion of the game/event in which the incident under protest occurred, or within thirty minutes of the occurrence if protesting an incident outside the field of play.
- (d) The following areas may not be protested at a Championship/Festival:
 - Officials' decisions
 - Eligibility of transfer students
- (e) Any disputes or protests re: tournament structure and procedure must be addressed no later than the coaches' meeting.
- (f) The Protest Committee shall be the body empowered to delay/modify/cancel an event due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. weather conditions) at the site(s).
- (g) Decisions of the Protest Committee shall be final.

A report of all appeals and decisions shall be forwarded to the OFSAA Board of Reference – Sanctions, who may determine that additional sanctions are necessary.

***All Federation Championships/Festivals are non-smoking events.
This includes the use of all tobacco related products.***

Participants must obey the Ministry of Education's Code of Conduct.

SPORT SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

1. Championship Structure and Procedure

- a) OFSAA SAC committee will determine the pairings of the OFSAA Football Festival Bowl games.
- b) The OFSAA Festival structure shall be determined by each Festival Bowl Committee in conjunction with the OFSAA Football Sport Advisory Committee.
- c) Convenors, whenever possible, should ensure that all participating teams are rotated throughout all sites during the preliminary rounds of competition.
- d) **The organizing committee will be responsible for assigning the pairings for the nine bowl games each year.**
- e) **If possible, no two associations should play against each other in consecutive years except the Independent Bowl which pairs the (2) second host entries.**
- f) **Every three years, if possible, the organizing committee will use the traditional pairings as listed below:**

Western Bowl - - SWOSSAA VS WOSSAA

Golden Horseshoe Bowl – GHAC vs SOSSA

Metro Bowl – TDCAA vs TDSSAA

Central Bowl – CWOSSA vs ROPSSAA

Simcoe Bowl – GBSSA vs YRAA

National Capital Bowl – NCSSAA vs EOSSAA

Northern Bowl – NOSSA vs NWOSSAA

Eastern Bowl – COSSA vs LOSSA

Independent Bowl – CISAA / 2nd Entry or 2nd Entry (2 Associations)

- g) There will be two Associations assigned to each bowl game. In 2015, only one of the two Associations will compete in that bowl game (determined by a draw). In 2016 the other Association will automatically participate in that bowl game.
- h) The remaining nine associations will be drawn to determine their pairing. An Association cannot draw the bowl game they were removed from. An Association cannot play an Association they played the previous year.

2. Seeding

- a) Participating teams will not be seeded.
- b) A random draw will be held to determine bowl pairings under the authorization of the Football SAC.

3. Officials

- a) In OFSAA Football Regional Semi Finals, the assignment of officials shall be equally divided between the participating associations.

- a) In the OFSAA Bowl Series the officials will be assigned by the assignor or the OFOA after consulting with the Football SAC. The assignor of the OFOA will invite officials from across the Province.
- b) It is recommended that the officials assigned to the OFSAA Bowl games have a Level 3 certification.
- c) The head official is responsible for communicating the information to all officials participating and head coaches of both participating teams prior to the start of each game.

4. Facilities and equipment

- a) Fields shall be marked as directed by the Canadian Amateur Rule Book; posts shall be sufficiently padded.
- b) In all OFSAA Football Semi Final Regional and OFSAA Bowls Series, the official football used in the game will be provided by the convenor of each series.
- c) Teams will not be permitted to use their own footballs.

5. Medical

- a) Provision **MUST** be made by the Convenor to have a medical doctor in attendance or readily available and to follow appropriate hygienic precautions with regard to bodily fluids and communicable diseases (See Appendix IV to the By-Laws).
- b) Qualified sports therapist(s) and equipment must be readily available at the Festival site(s).