



## Constitution for Valley Junior High Athletic Conference

### Purpose Statement:

We believe that a variety of student-selected activities are an important part of a student's educational experience. The Valley Junior High Athletic Conference provides an educational and competitive opportunity for middle/junior high school boys and girls.

### **Article I. Name and Purpose**

- A. The name of this organization shall be the Valley Junior High Athletic Conference and it shall remain a registered Non-Profit Organization with the State of Arizona.
- B. The Conference includes two leagues: 5A large school conference and 4A small school conference.
- C. The purposes of the organization are:
  1. To serve as an organization through which member schools can conduct interscholastic athletic programs.
  2. To establish the responsibility for the administration of the Leagues' athletic programs.
  3. To provide a Constitution and Bylaws by which the interscholastic programs can be administered.

### **Article II. Membership**

- A. Membership shall be open to all Junior Highs/Middle/K-8 Schools with fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade classes located in Maricopa County; with the approval of the Executive Committee. Junior Varsity will consist of grades (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>) and Varsity will consist of grade (8<sup>th</sup>). It is the Athletic Director's discretion to let 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> graders participate on the Varsity level.
- B. Admissions of New Members
  1. A written request for membership shall be submitted to the Executive Committee. All written request needs to be handed in by April 15<sup>th</sup>, for board review before May Athletic Directors' Meeting, at which meeting the application may be approved or rejected.
  2. Schools approved for full league status will be scheduled into the next year's competitive 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade schedule.
  3. Schools who are rejected may re-apply the following school year.
- C. Expulsion of Member Schools

1. A Member School failing to conform to the principles of the Valley Junior High Athletic Conference may, upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee, be placed on probation.
2. A school on probation, who continues to act in a manner not commensurate with the best interests of the conference may be, removed from the Valley Junior High Athletic Conference.

**D. Procedures for Dismissal**

1. On probation for one year
2. Notified in writing of the charges presented against them and given the opportunity to present material in their support.
3. Upon consideration of the charges and all other information available to them, the Executive Committee may either vote to continue the probation or vote to drop the School form Membership in the Valley Junior High Athletic Conference.

Present Members: Santa Maria, Western Valley, Osborn, Atkinson, Borman, Desert Sands, Estrella, Raul Castro, Avondale West, Avondale East, Avondale South, Western Sky, Wigwam, Verrado, Verrado Heritage, L. Thomas Heck, Madison Meadows, Madison Park, Madison Traditional, Madison #1, Udall, Isaac, Pueblo Del Sol, Estrella Academy, Andalucia, Barcelona, Cordova, Sevilla West, Simpson, Catalina Ventura, Granada East, Montebello, Dos Rios, Hurley Ranch, Wilson, Kenilworth, Herrera, Kings Ridge Prep, Garcia, Sullivan, Kuban, Hamilton, Gila Crossing and Tillman.

**Article III. By-Laws**

A set of By-laws shall be drafted and adopted to supplement this Constitution. These By-laws shall provide for the necessary rules that are of such importance that they can not be changed in any way without previous notice, except those placed in the Constitution and the Rules of Order.

**Article IV. Amendments**

- A. Proposed amendments may be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee.
- B. The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire Executive Committee.

The Constitution, if changed, will be distributed to all Heads, Principals, and Athletic Directors on an annual basis.

**Article V. Meetings**

- A. The Executive Board will hold four meetings annually. These meetings shall be scheduled in the August, November, February and May.
- B. The May meeting will be considered the annual meeting where elections will be held for the following year. The League Commissioners may call other meetings as deemed necessary.

## **Article VI. Financial Policy**

- A. The Commissioners are responsible for the financial condition of the Conference.
- B. The Valley Junior High Athletic Conference shall implement generally accepted accounting principles when handling and disbursing funds.
- C. All financial practices and information shall be open to review by Conference schools.
- D. Receipts must accompany request for disbursements of Conference funds.
- E. Hosting schools for the play-offs and championships will be incorporated into the membership dues equitably.
- F. Conference Dues: Schools that participate in all sports \$400.00 fee and schools that participate in two sports pay \$200.00 fee.
- G. Conference dues are due forty-five (45) days after the first notices are sent to member schools. These dues are to help pay for trophies, medals, and ribbons and pay for play-off host schools.

## **Article VII. Responsibility of School Personnel**

### **A. Principals**

- 1. The Principal or appointed Representative of each school shall be responsible for the overall operation of the Athletic Program at their School.
- 2. The Principal shall be responsible for the provision of adequate supervision of the Spectators at all Athletic Events which their School hosts.

### **B. Coaches**

- 1. Shall be directly responsible for meeting all schedule games, meets, and/or matches.
- 2. Shall be directly responsible for the conduct of their Athletes at all Athletic Events, practices, and while traveling to and from such Athletic Events.

## **Article VIII. Eligibility of Athletes**

- A. Rosters need to be carried by coach to all athletic events. Rosters need to have date of birth and signed by an administrator.

### **B. Age Requirements**

- 1. Any student who becomes 15 years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the School year will be ineligible to compete on either the 8<sup>th</sup> grade or 7<sup>th</sup> grade level.
- 2. Any sixth or seventh grade student who attains the age of 14 on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year may not compete on the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team of any sport, but may compete on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level.

### **C. Attendance Requirements**

All athletes must be regularly enrolled according to the regulations of the State of Arizona in the School, which they represent.

## **Article IX. Policies Regarding Operation of Sports Program**

- A. All Schools must play all games scheduled unless mutually agreement.
- B. Conference Schedule will take precedent over any other **Contest or Tournament**.
- C. Insurance coverage for participating students is strongly recommended.
- D. Protests may be made over Rule Interpretations, Eligibility and/or League Regulations but not on Judgment Calls. Referee/Umpire must sign Score Book and state situation.
- E. Verbal Protest must be made to the Commissioner within 48 hours with opposing Coach and Official notified at the time of the incident.
- F. A written protest shall be sent to the Commissioner and to the opposing coach within three (3) school days from the time of the verbal protest.
- G. National Federation Rules shall be the basis of all Sports unless exceptions are voted by Majority of the Executive Board and approved.
- H. First Aid Equipment and access to a phone shall be available at the site of each Athletic Event.
- I. Any Team leaving the field without completion of the contest would forfeit the contest.

## **Article X. Officials**

- A. In the event of conflict, the following procedures will be followed:
  - 1. It is highly recommended that the Host School shall provide at least two (2) Adult Officials for each Athletic Event.
  - 2. Officials shall be paid by all Host Schools in all Conference Sports.
  - 3. Coaches of a particular Sport should not be involved in the officiating of the Sport except with the mutual consent of the schools involved.

## **Article XI. Conference Championships**

### **Conference Championships**

Conference Championships will be determined at the end of the season by using a playoff structure in all sports except Cross Country, Wrestling and Track and Field.

- 1. If there are two Divisions in the Conference, the top three teams in each Division will enter a Conference Tournament structured as such:  
**#6 seed vs. #3 seed and #5 seed vs. #4 seed (Higher seed will have home game if not at pre-designated tournament site)**  
**#1 seed and #2 seed earn a bye.**  
**Winner of #6 vs. #3 plays #2 seed, winner of #5 vs. #4 plays #1 seed.**
- 2. If there are three divisions in the Conference, the top two teams in each Division will enter the Conference Tournament structured as such.  
**#6 seed vs. #3 seed and #5 seed vs. #4 seed (Higher seed will have home game if not at pre-designated tournament site)**  
**#1 seed and #2 seed earn a bye.**  
**Winner of #6 vs. #3 plays #2 seed, winner of #5 vs. #4 plays #1 seed.**
- 3. If there are four divisions in the Conference, the top two teams in each Division will enter the Conference Tournament structured as such:  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place West Division vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place South Division**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place South Division vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place West Division**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Central Division vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place East Division**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place East Division vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Central Division**

**Winners will be re-seeded in the Final Conference Tournament according to win-loss record & head-to-head competition. Coin-flip will determine seeds if teams have identical records.**

3. Conference Tournament Playoff Rosters need to be turned in (faxed or e-mailed) to both the Onsite Tournament Director (Host School AD) and the Commissioner 48 hours before the Tournament commences.

#### **TO DETERMINE WHO WILL BE IN THE CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT:**

1. Overall Division Record
2. Head to Head Record
3. Tie for Top Seed will be determined by coin flip (both teams make playoffs)
4. If two teams are tied for the second seed, a one Game Playoff will determine tie for Second playoff spot.
5. If a three-way tie for two playoff spots, a drawing will occur, the team winning will be awarded the #2 seed in the division, the other two teams will play a one Game Playoff for the #1 seed in the Division.
6. If a three-way tie for one playoff spot (2<sup>nd</sup> seed) a drawing will occur, the two teams chosen will play a one Game Playoff. The winner will play the third team. The winner of this game will be awarded the playoff spot.

#### **Conference Championships will be determined in Cross Country, Wrestling and Track and Field by season ending Conference Meet.**

1. Athletes must participate in a minimum of 2 (two) meets or matches throughout the season to be eligible to participate in Conference Meet.
2. Cross Country Conference Meet
3. Only seven runners on boys and girls team per school. Under no circumstances will extra runners be allowed to participate.
4. No junior varsity race.
5. Track and Field Conference Meet
6. Only 3 (three) entrees per event in track & field practice meets.
7. Only 2 (two) entrees per event in track & field prelims and final meets.

#### **Overall School Championship**

School will be rewarded points for each sport participated in. Points will determine as follow:

1. Conference Champion earns the amount of points as teams participating in sport.
2. Conference Runner-up earns one less point than Conference Champions
3. Team with worst record will earn 1 point.
4. All other teams earn points based on final record.

An example: If there are 16 teams in the 5A Conference, the team that is the Conference Champion earns 16 points, runner-up earns 15 points, a tie for third earns both teams 13.5 points; fifth place earns 12

points, and so on. All sports earn points and will be added together to determine the overall Conference Champion.

## **Article XII. Highlighted By-Laws**

The Valley Junior High Athletic Conference will abide by the Rules set forth by the National Federation of State High School Association with the noted exceptions:

1. A 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grader may not play in both the Junior Varsity (6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade) and the Varsity (8<sup>th</sup> grade) game on the same day. A 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grader cannot play in both the Junior Varsity (6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade) and Varsity (8<sup>th</sup> grade) VAC Tournament. Once a 7<sup>th</sup> grader plays in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade or 8<sup>th</sup> grade tournament, that player is ineligible for any other VAC tournaments for that sport. This will result in a forfeiture of the game.
2. At no time may an 8<sup>th</sup> grader play in a Junior Varsity (6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade) VAC competition. This will result in a forfeiture of the game.
3. A **5A** athlete may only participate in one sport during the fall, winter, & spring season. A **4A** athlete may participate in one or more sports during a season, i.e. fall, winter, & spring, due to low numbers in the student body.
4. Definition of a **Tournament game**. Any post-season play, including division tie-breakers, play-in, semi-final, quarter-final and finals will be considered a **Tournament Game**. Furthermore, any game or competition played after the conclusion of the regular season to determine a playoff spot will be considered a **Tournament game**.
5. The Conference waived the accepted AIA Dress Regulations for clothing and Numbers.
6. Coaches are responsible for conveying any Conference Rule Changes to the Officials.
7. Boy's and Girl's volleyball net height is (7'4 1/8")
8. Coaches shall carry to all athletic contest rosters with athletes' age and birth date.
9. Baseball pitcher's mound shall be sixty feet six inches (60'6"); base paths shall be ninety feet (90')
10. Aluminum bats are legal. Max ratio will be up to -8.5 for Junior Varsity (6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade) and up to -7.5 for Varsity (8<sup>th</sup> grade), if athletes bring their own bats ratio must be legible.
11. Soccer points are as followed: 3 pts for a win, 1 pt. for a tie, & 0 pts for a lose.
12. In case of a Protest, both coaches and the official shall be informed. The Official will sign the scorebook, a letter in writing will be sent within 48 hours. A three-person committee will be formed for review of the protest.
13. No jewelry shall be worn during an athletic event. Except a medical bracelet.
14. Cross Country or Track Meets: There is absolutely no pacing from the sidelines or infield by (Coaches, Team mates, and Parents). Runners will be disqualified.
15. **Forfeits**: If a team commits a No Show or last minute cancellation, and does not communicate to the other school's team in a timely matter. Teams may be forced to forfeit a game due to the No Show or last minute cancellation. The school's Athletic Director and coaches have an option to reschedule the No Show or last minute cancellation game at a later date and time or take the forfeit. If the game is rescheduled, the No Show team will pay for the rescheduled game officials.
16. No school's team shall forfeit a game due to transportation issues. Games will be rescheduled at a later date and time.
17. Chain of Command:
  - A. Coach to the Executive Board Member at his or her school.

- B. Executive Board Member will notify the Commissioner so that recorded of the incident can be made.
  - C. If still needed, after the above two steps have be followed, the School Principal is the next in line of command.
18. Ejection from a Contest - If a VAC contest official determines that a coach or player has acted in an unsportsmanlike manner during either a period or intermission, the coach or player may be ordered to leave the contest.
- A. Penalties for Ejection - A coach or player ejected from a contest for any reason shall be subject to the following without appeal:
    - B. First Ejection - Ineligible for the next contest at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim at any level. Any person ejected from a contest shall not participate the remainder of that day.
    - C. Second Ejection - Ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim at any level. Any person ejected from a contest shall not participate the remainder of that day.
    - D. Third Ejection - A similar infraction by the same player during the same season will result in cessation of the season for the player concerned.
    - E. End-Of-Season Ejection - If a penalty is imposed at the end of the sport season and no contest remains, the penalty shall be enforced at the beginning of the subsequent season of competition in which the coach or player participates, regardless of the sport.
    - F. When a player or coach is ejected from a contest that has a bearing on participation in a championship tournament game, a responsible administrative officer of that school may appeal that ejection to the VAC Commissioner. Appeal must be filed within 24 hours of the contest. The Commissioner will form a committee of officials/evaluators to review the ejection and any statements or available game film. The decision of the appeal committee is final.