

SECTION V CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY, OPERATIONS & PROCEDURES

Section V Championship Philosophy: Section V believes in conducting high quality championship events that represent excellence achieved in each sport. Decisions made regarding tournament logistics will be made based on student-athlete participation, equitable competition, minimizing loss of or negative impacts on instructional time, facility availability, along with travel and financial considerations. Section V will sponsor championship experiences for Team Sports, Individual Sports and Combination Team/Individual Sports as defined by the NYSPHSAA. Procedure: In each sport's championship tournament, the Section will divide its participating member schools into classifications using enrollment cut-off numbers established by the NYSPHSAA. A championship experience will be sponsored in a sport where a minimum of four (4) member schools are participating. In Section V, dividing into sub-classifications will be permitted per the Section's Classification Policy.

Section V Participation Philosophy : Section V believes that participation at the Section level should involve as many student-athletes and member schools as possible in order to provide a quality tournament. Procedure: The final decision of whether a Section V tournament or classification(s) within a tournament will be "open" or "closed" and/or what qualifying criteria is utilized is made by the Section V Executive Committee and/or Athletic Council considering input from each Section V Sport Committee. Decisions about these championship experiences will be based on the criteria set forth in the Section V Championship Philosophy and the consideration of all factors should be sport specific.

Section V Gender Equity Philosophy: Section V believes there should be equitable participation opportunities for boys and girls in Section V Championships when the sport is the same or similar (i.e., cross country, soccer, volleyball, basketball, swimming & diving, bowling, skiing, track & field, lacrosse, golf, tennis, baseball/softball). Procedure: The Section V Executive Committee, Athletic Council and Section V Sport Committees will work together to assure Section V Championships are designed and conducted in ways that provide such equity in participation and experiences for our student-athletes. Equity in participation and experiences includes, but is not limited to open vs. closed tournaments, high quality venues and awards and gifts for athletes.

Section V Classification Procedures: Section V will conduct its Championships and divide its eligible member schools into State Classifications using the sport specific cut-off numbers established by the NYSPHSAA. Individual Section V Sport Committees must divide certain classifications into sub-classes if there are 18 schools within that classification. The only exception to this procedure would be if a majority of schools in that class choose not to divide.

The sports committee must insure that the vote of the schools in that class comes from the Athletic Director. If subclasses exist within a certain classification, a play-off system will be required to select the Section V representative for NYSPHSAA competition within that classification. All Section V classification decisions will be made in accordance with the Section V Classification Policy.

Section V Site Selection Philosophy: Section V believes that whenever possible it is preferable to play a Section V contest at the site of a member school, but for various reasons a venue owned or operated by a college, local municipality or private organization may need to be used. Procedural: Each Section V Sport Committee will develop and have approved by the Section V Executive Committee, a process and procedure for selecting all sectional tournament venues. Securing quality high school sites (especially for neutral site events) at a reasonable cost to the Section and the participating schools requires the support and cooperation of Section V Athletic Directors, Principals and Superintendents.

1. (HIGHER SEEDS) In all sports up to the Semi-Finals the higher seeded team is awarded the home site. If this site is not within the Section V Mileage Policy the home team will secure and recommend a site within the mileage limit .This recommendation will go to the Sport Committee for approval. Sites must meet sports standards adopted by the Sport Committee. The home team will be allowed to practice at the site so chosen if the site will allow them. The lower seeded school may waive the mileage rule and travel to the original site.
2. (SEMI-FINAL SITES) Each Sport Coordinator will arrange sites for semi-finals rounds and higher in a timely manner. Semi Finals sites will be arranged in designated geographic sites within Section V. (EAST, CENTRAL, WEST). These sites should also be available for Finals and Class Playoffs if needed.
3. The Section V Transportation Policy will be in effect up to the semi-finals.

When necessary, a member school may appeal the actual venue selection to the respective sectional Sport Coordinator, and if not satisfied, next, to the Section V Executive Director. The Executive Director, with input from the respective Sport Coordinator, will be responsible for the final site selection decision.

The following prioritized criteria are to be used by the Section V Sport Committees when giving input on the selection of sites and scheduling of Section V tournament contests:

- Loss of and/or negative impact on instructional time (consider impact of game start and end times)
- Facility quality and suitability (consider member schools first before other venues)
- Financial implications
- Travel distance for participating schools
- Avoiding Sunday competition
- Impact of start time on parents, communities and fan base

Note: The Section V Executive Committee will conduct a review of these philosophies on a biannual basis.

Adopted 2012

Amended 1/16