AAASP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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Policies and Procedures

Section 1
Organization Purpose

AAASP is an athletic association whose prime objective is to provide a stable and sustainable infrastructure to a membership of partnering school systems and agencies in support of interscholastic athletics for students with physical disabilities. AAASP believes that participation in interscholastic athletics leads to academic success and that students with physical disabilities deserve equal access to these activities.

Section 2
Governance

The American Association of AdaptEDSports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) governs the adaptEDSPORTS® programs. As an example, in Georgia, the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and AAASP serve in a dual governance alliance whereby GHSA recognizes AAASP as the governing and sanctioning body for interscholastic adapted athletics serving Georgia's students with physical disabilities or qualifying sensory impairments.

Section 3
Membership and Administration

Membership in AAASP is voluntary. Association membership is open to all school districts. If the district elects, they may collaborate with another school district or community partner, such as a local YMCA and/or Parks and Recreation Department.

In order to become or remain a member of AAASP, it is mandatory that all programs complete the **Member Application and Registration** form provided to them annually in May. Members must also keep current all seasonal association fees. And all adaptEDSPORTS® coaches and coordinators must attain AAASP certification in the adapted sport(s) that they coach or oversee.

Fees: AAASP collects two fees annually. An **Association Fee** per sport season, for up to 2 teams per sport season - allowing for both a varsity and a junior varsity team in each sport. A **Game Officials Fee per game, per official** is also applicable for each member's three (3) HOME games per season, per team.

Invoicing: All fees for the year are billed at the start of the school year, and are based on the declared participation levels submitted by members to AAASP in May of each preceding school year, on the Member Application and Registration form.

Due Dates: *The Membership Application and Registration Policies* form, sent to school administrators in May, is due July 15, 2024. This form activates your membership and billing for fees. *Delay may result in a late fee or suspension of membership or your team's omission from the game schedule*. Unless otherwise invoiced, all fees, paid by the members and/or their Community Partner (if applicable), are due in August. A grace period to September 15 is provided. Late fees may apply.

Credits: AAASP does not issue refunds. It will issue *credit*s, per sport season, for a period of up to one (1) year, or more if requested and if the reason for the failure to field a team is unforeseeable and determined to be outside the member's reasonable efforts to do so.

No program, having declared their participation level for the year on the **Member Application and Registration** form shall be entitled to a credit for failure to field a team, unless requested in writing at least 30 days prior to the start of the season, as published on the annual ***Important Season Dates*** calendar, or prior to the game schedule being finalized, if finalized less than 30 days before the start of a season. For example, AAASP issued credits for all teams affected by COVID while our members sought to determine a safe way forward and a timeline that was reasonable. AAASP would not issue a credit if it is informed of a failure to form a team when game schedules have been set, causing the Association to restructure the season schedule for everyone.

Standing and Participation: Only teams whose fees have been paid are in *Good Standing* and entitled all rights of membership. Teams whose fees are unpaid may see their standings and ability to advance affected.

AAASP may allow teams to compete in regular season games though their fees may be late; however, games will not be calculated in the team standings and no team shall advance to a state competition until all fees are current.

Should fees remain unpaid at the end of any post-game season, that program shall not advance to the next sport season, will not be placed on the schedule and will be prohibited from entering the season once it has begun, even if the fees are brought current. Instead, it will endure a probationary season and may rejoin, upon payment of fees in advance of the following season, after the probationary period.

Game Schedule: Once all forms are received, AAASP will work with its members to draft and forward a game schedule as well as conference assignment. If Members require specific answers to any concerns, please contact the **State Sport Director.**

Payment of Game Officials: AAASP will schedule and then pay game officials at the end of each season and issue 1099 tax forms at year end. A time sheet indicating the dates of your HOME games and names of officials who covered them will be provided at the end of each season, or the end of the school year, as a receipt. Two-man crews officiate handball and basketball games, while three-man crews officiate football games.

Section 4
Student Eligibility

Eligible students are girls and boys who attend elementary, middle or high school, and who have an orthopedic impairment as defined under federal law (IDEA). Examples of the types of disabilities served include students with cerebral palsy, spina bifida, spinal cord injury, amputee, muscular dystrophy, osteogenesis imperfecta, and other physical disabilities. Students who are sensory impaired may also be eligible. Students, who are fully mainstreamed, partially mainstreamed, or attending special education classes and whose primary disability is physical (either acquired or at birth) are eligible to participate. Students who are mainstreamed must adhere to the AAASP's no-pass/no-play policy, adopted from the State High School Association policy. Special Education students must adhere to their IEP goals. Students, who register must, at a minimum, have the maturity and ability to understand strategy and to apply standards employed for their safety. From time to time, a student's involvement in the program may be found to be inappropriate if he/she lacks the ability to benefit from the program or if there are safety concerns. When the coach or coordinator raises concerns of this type, they are reviewed on a case-by-case basis with the parents' input and involvement. As a point of clarification, the students served through AAASP are not eligible for Special Olympics because their functional limitations are based solely on a physical disability.

Section 5
Age

Students enrolled in elementary, middle, and high school are eligible to participate. Special Education students who are over the age of 18 yet still enrolled in 12th grade are eligible to participate. Upon graduation from 12th grade the student is no longer eligible to participate.

Section 6
Document Validity

Participants are required to have an annual physical from a physician approving participation. This form must be on file at the AAASP office, and with the local program. If there is a change in the students' health status due to the progression of disease, surgery, accidents, etc. then it

is the responsibility of the student's parent to notify their Area Coordinator. If this change in status requires the student athlete to stop participating for a time, then AAASP will require a written statement from a physician clearing the student to participate again.

AAASP will accept as valid **ONLY** those Athlete Health Forms (which are completed by the athlete's physician) that include a doctor's signature, contact information, including telephone number and date of the physical. AAASP reserves the right to verify this and any information submitted as a requirement of eligibility and registration.

Section 7
Team Eligibility

All AAASP member teams must be in good standing to be eligible for participation. Teams must adhere to all AAASP policies and procedures. All fees and necessary documents and paperwork must be current. The team's coordinator and coaches must hold AAASP certification in their sports. All team members must use a wheelchair for the wheelchair sports whether or not the student uses a wheelchair on a daily basis or at all. Wheelchair handball and wheelchair football allows students to participate in either a manual or power wheelchair. Wheelchair basketball allows students to participate in a manual chair. Track and field allows students to participate in a racing chair for track events and a manual, power or throwing chair for field events. An ambulatory student-athlete must have a permanent orthopedic, neuromuscular, visual, or other physical disability. Permanent orthopedic impairment and/or visual impairment shall be verified by a licensed physician and maintained on permanent file at the school.

Section 8
Team Composition for School Districts and RESA's

Team members are comprised of students from the various schools in a particular district. Student participants may be enrolled at their home school or another school in the district in which they have been assigned. The district will select a centralized, accessible venue for the team to be housed. All practices and home contests will be held at this centralized venue. Depending on the number of eligible students, a district may elect to field more than one team in any particular sport. If this is the case, a second venue may be necessary. All teams in each of the adapted sports are co-ed and will be referred to as Co-op teams. Teams are generally comprised of student athletes with varying physical disabilities.

An AAASP team can be formed through a Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA). Adapted sports student athletes who attend school districts within that particular RESA may be eligible to take part in the program.

Adapted Sports students may only participate in one division (varsity or JV) in their district or RESA, if there is more than one team.

Adapted sports students who attend schools that do not have a team may join an AAASP team if that team is in their RESA alignment and if the district allows it.

If a member athlete plays on a RESA team and a district within the RESA decides to form a team, then the player must go to the district team. If the move provides a hardship such as transportation issues or the player is a varsity level player and the new team is a JV team then the player can make a onetime appeal to remain with the RESA team unless a hardship develops. At that time the parent/custodial guardian can make a hardship appeal to the AAASP state office.

An Adapted Sports Area Coordinator may file an appeal with the AAASP Executive Director for any student athlete who moves out of district or RESA and wants to remain with their original team, instead of joining the AAASP team in the district they have moved. The Executive Director will hear the case and determine that all issues involved are presented properly by both of the school districts. If both districts agree that the student should remain with their original team, then the student will be allowed to do so. If there is disagreement between the districts, the E.D. makes the decision that is best for that situation. If that decision is challenged by one of the districts, it could be appealed to the Executive Committee of the AAASP Board for resolution.

A student who makes a bona fide move from one-member district to another member district cannot begin playing for the new team if the roster submission date has passed.

A player living in a non-member area who wishes to join a member team can apply to play on a district or RESA team.

a) The student may join the geographically closest team to his/her residence as long as that district or RESA approves out-of-district players. The exception would be if the player was a Level A or Varsity level player and the closest team was a JV team.
b) Once an out-of-district individual declares a team he/she wants to play for, the individual must remain with the team the entire year.

In some cases, only individualized participation may be available, as in adapted track and field, due to their location.

Section 9
Divisions

AAASP has two divisions of play for its member teams – varsity and junior varsity. Coaches will be required to complete team and player profiles (see Appendix A) for the team as a whole, and for each individual player. These forms need to be completed and submitted to the State Adapted Sports Coordinator on the due date established by the Association. *AAASP reserves the right to verify this information with an onsite visit during the season (or between seasons)*. Teams will be placed by AAASP in either the varsity or junior varsity division based on player and team profiles. If a player's medical status changes or if a new athlete has joined a team then the Coach will be required to complete and submit a new player profile form. Team placement and formats will be determined by AAASP in cooperation with the state's Area Coordinators prior to each season. There is a limit to how many players can field a team in each adapted sport (see Section 10 below). Certain policies and procedures exist to ensure equitable and fair play.

Section 10
Limits of Participation

Each sanctioned adapted sport has a limit for the number of players a team may roster. Teams may roster 14 players for wheelchair handball and wheelchair football; however, teams may roster only 12 players for wheelchair basketball. For wheelchair handball and wheelchair basketball, every player must play a minimum of one period in each half of the game. All players must play at least one complete, continuous 8-minute period per half. The coach has the option as to which of the three periods in each half to play all of their players. Players that are playing in their first (1st) period of the half cannot be substituted for (except for injuries). Players that have played a complete period may be substituted for in their second (2nd) or third (3rd) period of play in each half. The coach is responsible for making sure that all members of the team play. If a player is illegally substituted during their first (1st) period of play, then an illegal substitution technical foul will be assessed to the head coach and the player must return to the floor. If for medical reasons, a player that is present cannot play, the coach must notify the officials, scorekeeper, and the opposing coach before the game.

Example: 10 Players on a team
First period, 8 minutes, five players play the complete 8 minutes
Second period, 8 minutes, the coach has the option to play the same five players or any combination of players that have played and players that have not played.
Third period, 8 minutes, the coach must play any player that has not played in the first or second period.

For wheelchair football, **all** players should play in **both** halves. The coach is responsible for making sure that all members of the team play. If, for medical or disciplinary reasons, a player

cannot play, the coach must notify the Area Coordinator, officials, and the opposing head coach before the game.

Section 11
Recruiting and Undue Influence

Eligible students for the various sanctioned adaptEDSPORTS® may be recruited within the district that the team(s) is housed. If the team(s) is located in a rural area of the state and the program is comprised of multiple districts, then students may be recruited from those districts. Coaches, coordinators or anyone else associated with a local program may not use undue influence to persuade a player from another local program to join their team. However, if a team is competing within junior varsity and they have a varsity player who wants to play, then that player may elect to compete on the closest varsity team if availability exists on the roster and the coaches and coordinators are in agreement.

Local programs are encouraged to review and possibly adopt their Athletic Department's guidelines and policies concerning year-round athletes. Coordinators and coaches may find eligible students within their districts by conferring with the Special Education Director, the 504 Coordinator, school principals, adapted physical education teachers, orthopedic classroom teachers, itinerate staff, and related services staff.

Section 12
Uniforms

Teams shall have the right to choose the color and type of their uniform including the jersey and pants or shorts, as long as the uniforms meet the requirements stated in this section.

Jersey types: Side inserts, including trim, of no more than four inches (4") in width (two inches on each side of the seam) of any color(s), centered vertically below the armpit are permitted. Side inserts for all team jerseys must be of the same width. Trim is not to exceed one inch (1") around the neck and arm openings. A visible sponsor's logo is *not* permitted on the team jersey, shorts/pants or undershirt.

The AAASP logo: The AAASP "stacked" logo must be worn on the left sleeve of the team jersey and must measure three inches (3") wide by one and a half inches (1-½") high. AAASP will supply the logo to each team's preferred uniform vendor. Vendors may contact AAASP at (404) 294-0070 or via e-mail at sports@adaptedsports.org to request the logo.

Home and away jerseys: The home team will wear white jerseys and the visiting team dark jerseys.

Name of teams and players: Team names will be placed on the front of the jersey. The lettering may be arched but the first and last letters must be on the same horizontal plane. Player names, if used, must be placed on the back of the jersey and must be above the jersey number. If a player's name is used, it must be the player's last name. Any point on any letter shall not be closer than one inch (1") to any point on any number(s).

Player's Number: Team jerseys will include the player's number, which shall be at least six inches (6") high on the back and at least four inches (4") high on the front and not less than three-quarters inches (¾") in width, excluding the border. The number will be centered vertically and horizontally. Each team member will be numbered on the front and back of the team jersey with plain Arabic numerals. The following numbers are legal: 0 or 00, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55. No more than three (3) colors may be used for the number. The numbers on the front and back of the team jersey will be the same color and style. The torso of the team jersey will be the same single color from the base of the neck to the bottom of the jersey. Undershirts must be similar in the color to the torso of the shirt and will not have frayed or ragged edges. If the undershirt has sleeves, they must be the same length.

Section 13
Staff Requirements

Coach (stipend to be determined by local school district)
AAASP requires a student/coach ratio of six to one (6:1) due to the special needs of these student athletes. Member programs are responsible for selecting their coaches and providing them with a coach's stipend. Personnel who serve in the capacity of an adapted sports coach must be AAASP certified and may be orthopedic classroom teachers, itinerate teachers, adapted physical education teachers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, recreational therapists, high school coaches and any other school system employee (or partnering agency employee) who may have an interest in this area.

Referee ($70 per game is recommended)
Each team has three (3) home games and three (3) away games for wheelchair handball, wheelchair basketball, and wheelchair football. Member programs are responsible for paying referees for their home games. AAASP will work in cooperation with local member programs to place referees for all games. Referees are required to be trained by AAASP in each sport that they officiate. Referees with previous experience and/or dual certification are preferred. AAASP pays all tournament officials.

Table Officials (Volunteer)

Table officials are generally volunteers and will receive orientation from the local area coordinator.

Area Coordinator (stipend to be determined by local school district)
Area coordinators serve as the liaisons between their local program and AAASP. They are required to obtain AAASP certification in each of the sports they manage. They are also responsible for the local management of the adaptEDSPORTS® programs. Other responsibilities include, but are not limited to, securing venues, arranging for transportation, distributing and collecting documents from parents, reporting game results; being on-site at all home games in order to oversee contests and resolve conflicts, should they arise. Personnel who serve in the capacity of an adapted sports area coordinator must be AAASP certified and may be orthopedic classroom teachers, itinerate teachers, adapted physical education teachers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, recreational therapists, high school coaches and any other school system employee (or partnering agency employee) who may have an interest in this area.

Section 14
Compensation for Game Officials

AAASP will invoice the member program for the actual costs of game officials at the beginning of the school year.

a) The annual **Officials Fees** are based on the three home games per season per team, with a 2-man officiating crew for handball and basketball; and a 3-man officiating crew for football at $70.00 per official, per game.
b) Scheduling of all game officials is performed by the Association and the State Sport Director.
c) A time sheet will be sent to member programs at the end of each sports season or at the end of the year, as a receipt, indicating the date of each home game and the name of officials who covered those games.
d) AAASP will issue year-end tax forms to the game officials for these purposes.
e) The Home Team Area Coordinator is responsible for game coverage, acting as a game official if for any reason an official is absent or becomes unable to perform their duties. This is in addition to regular administrative oversight of their games, including leading mediation between teams if necessary and monitoring coaches, athletes and game attendees to insure safety guidelines and sportsmanship policies are being followed.
f) Area Coordinators who may be called upon to officiate at one of their home games are not eligible for additional compensation. However, if an Area Coordinator is attending an away game and AAASP or another Area Coordinator calls upon them to officiate at an away game, compensation may be approved.

g) Effective FY25, all game officials shall receive payment electronically and are required to provide the appropriate information to AAASP for these purposes.

Section 15
Absence of Game Officials

If game officials do not arrive for a contest, then both teams should agree on one of the following procedures:

a) Use officials who might be in attendance at the contest.
b) Agree to play the game on another date.
c) Use coaches or school or agency personnel from both teams.

Section 16
Contest Rules

All interscholastic adaptEDSPORTS® contests are to be played according to the rules published by the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. Wheelchair Basketball is the only exception to this rule and is played according to the rules of the NCAA and the NWBA, with AAASP adaptations.

In determining tournament seeding, AAASP will not use a point spread system but will look to the winner(s) of a second-game scenario between teams with the same record. In past years, AAASP used a coin toss to break a tie (teams with the same record who have split 1-1 vs. each other). However, the A/C's determined, by a vote of six to one, that AAASP would no longer use a coin toss, but look to a second game to determine tournament seeding.

Section 17
Interscholastic adaptEDSPORTS® Contests and Practices

All practices and interscholastic contests for AAASP member teams shall be conducted outside the school day. State and National playoffs and tournaments are exempt from this rule. AAASP will provide the rules and regulations for competition among member programs for the sanctioned interscholastic adapted sport. Member teams shall only compete against other member teams who are affiliated with AAASP.

Legal practice dates are established annually by AAASP for each interscholastic adapted sport. Member programs shall adhere to these dates for their team's practices.

Section 18
Forfeiture and Restitution

If a team does not arrive at the game site for any contest without notifying the host opponent of a late arrival, that contest will be forfeited 30 minutes after the scheduled game-time. If the second game or contest was to be played by a different team, then a decision to forfeit that game will be made 30 minutes after the scheduled beginning of the second game.

If there are to be multiple games by the same team and the team does not arrive at the game site without notifying the host opponent of a late arrival, all games will be forfeited 30 minutes after the scheduled game-time of the first contest.

If a team fails to show up for a game or cancels a game within four (4) hours of the scheduled starting time without an emergency condition or weather-related conditions, that team shall pay a forfeiture fee to the host school equivalent to the cost of the officials. NOTE: If the host school is the violating team, the fee will be paid directly to the Association. The host school shall reimburse the visiting team(s) for mileage incurred by the visiting team(s) when the host team violates this procedure.

If a team fails to show up for a game or cancels within four (4) hours of the scheduled game time without emergency reasons or weather-related reasons for a second time, that team must make restitution again and must show cause to the AAASP Executive Director as to why they should not be placed on probation by the Association.

The minimum penalty for allowing an ineligible athlete to participate in an interscholastic contest is forfeiture of the game(s). Fines or other penalties may also be imposed. NOTE: If it is determined by the Executive Director that the school district has exercised every reasonable precaution and has been deceived regarding the student's data, any or all penalties may be set aside.

A team shall forfeit any team standing when an ineligible student participates in a contest.

Section 19
Sportsmanship

AAASP-league schools are required to conduct all relationships with other schools in a spirit of good sportsmanship.

a) It will be the responsibility of a league team to use every means at its disposal to impress upon staff, students, team members, coaches, and spectators the values of sportsmanship in interscholastic contests.
b) Contest officials have the authority to have any and all individuals whose behavior has become a distraction and/or hinderance to the administration of the event, removed from the confines of the contest. Unsportsmanlike behavior may include but is not limited to verbal and visual gestures.
c) The Executive Director shall have the authority to assess penalties against the program, including its parents or participants, coaches or Coordinator, for unsportsmanlike conduct or behavior deemed to be unsportsmanlike.
d) It shall be the responsibility of the home or host school to take the following precautions at all interscholastic athletic events.
    1. Take the proper steps and precautions to ensure crowd and spectator control by having an administrator (or designee) from the host team to function as "Game Manager" at all AAASP sanctioned events.
    2. Take steps to insure the comfort and security of all players, coaches, spectators, and officials.
    3. Have in place sufficient security personnel to handle any crowd control problems that might reasonably be expected (e.g., School Resources Office also known as an SRO).
    4. Provide a safe and secure changing area for contest officials.

Each league member must develop a plan to handle altercations that may occur during an athletic contest.

a) Efforts should be undertaken to ensure that athletes in the bench area and elsewhere not engaged in the altercation remain in place and away from the disturbance.
b) Teams whose athletes leave the bench area and attempt to join in any altercation by not remaining in place will be disciplined by the AAASP Executive Director.
c) All players who are involved in a fight will follow the ejection "sit out" policy.

Section 20
Changing from Manual Chair User to Power Chair User

An athlete must be registered as a power chair or manual chair user at the beginning of a sport season. This can be found on their registration form. An athlete can change this status during a school year between sport seasons only by contacting and gaining pre-approval from AAASP. Requests for change will be evaluated by AAASP on a case-by-case basis. An athlete cannot switch from manual chair use to power chair use once the sport season has started. An athlete cannot switch from a manual chair to a power chair during a game or in between games occurring on the same day. An area coordinator does have the right to appeal to AAASP for an exception to this rule during a sport season. AAASP reserves the right to allow this change in some cases upon an appeal. An appeal may include medical documentation and will require time to assess ruling and notification of opposing teams. The initial appeal must be submitted at least 12 days prior to the game in which the change is desired.

Section 21
Jewelry

Players are **not allowed** to wear jewelry during play. This includes earrings, piercing jewelry, rings, necklaces, etc. Only medical notification jewelry is allowed. Tape must be applied to cover and secure.

Section 22
Coach's Box

All coaches must be listed on the team roster and, with the exception of the head coach (if ambulatory) must be seated in the coach's box, which will be delineated at 14 feet from the end line and then again at 28 feet from the end line. Game officials may choose to enforce this policy at their discretion (this would be based on any unsportsmanlike behavior on the part of the coaches as perceived by the game officials). When this rule is not being enforced, only the head coach (if ambulatory) will be allowed to stand, interact with the officials, or call a time out, etc. Additionally, the officials will only respond to the head coach. When an official does their pre-game check, they will ask who the head coach will be for that contest. Any technical assessed against the coaching staff will be assessed against the head coach. The head coach is responsible for the behavior of the rest of the coaching staff. Even though the head coach is allowed to stand (if ambulatory), he/she should have a chair in the box for the reason that if a technical foul is assessed against them, they must then sit down or if instructed to do so for any reason by the game officials.

PROCEDURE: For the first perceived infraction (as deemed by the officials), the coach(s) will receive a warning to stay in their box and sit (if ambulatory). If the behavior is not corrected, then the game official(s) may administer a technical foul against the head coach. If, or when, the next infraction occurs (a second technical), then the coach will be ejected from the game and suspended for one game. Additionally, if an athlete is ejected from a game for these same infractions, as perceived by the game officials, they too will be suspended for the next contest.

There will be as many chairs in the coach's box as there are rostered (ambulatory) coaches. The rostered coaches need to remain within the box. If they overflow, they may be behind the box, if room allows.

Section 23
Player-Coach-Spectator Ejection

Any player, coach, team personnel, or spectator who is ejected from an AAASP contest for unsporting behavior shall be suspended from all levels of competition (i.e., varsity or junior-varsity) in that sport or activity (regular season or playoffs), or venue in the case of a spectator, until the period of suspension has expired. NOTE: Ejection penalties must be served at the next contest regardless of whether the team has received official notice from the AAASP office by that time.

a) Ejections are based on judgment calls by an official and are not reviewable or reversible.
b) A coach shall have no role nor be in attendance at pre-game warm-ups or activities, and shall not be in attendance at games until the period of suspension has been served.
c) Player, team personnel, or spectators may not be in the competitive area (gym), nor in the team bench area at any time before, during, or after the game until the period of suspension has expired.

Penalties for ejections of a coach, player, or spectator for unsporting acts shall be:

First Ejection:
Coach: The coach shall be suspended from the next scheduled game. The coach must successfully complete the online "NFHS Sportsmanship Course" before returning to coach. The Area Coordinator is required to confirm to AAASP that the coach has completed the "NFHS Sportsmanship Course." If the ejection occurs at the end of the season, the suspension will continue into the next sport (i.e., ejected at the end of the handball season, suspension will continue into the basketball season, etc.).

Player or Spectator: The player, or spectator, shall be suspended from the next scheduled game. The player, or spectator, must successfully complete the online "NFHS Sportsmanship

Course" before returning to play. The Area Coordinator is required to confirm to AAASP that the player, or spectator, has completed the "NFHS Sportsmanship Course." If the ejection occurs at the end of the season, the suspension will continue into the next sport (i.e., ejected at the end of the handball season, suspension will continue into the basketball season, etc.).

Second Ejection:
Coach: The coach shall be suspended for the next two (2) scheduled games. If the ejection occurs at the end of the season, the suspension will continue into the next sport (i.e., ejected at the end of the handball season, suspension will continue into the basketball season, etc.).

Player or Spectator: The player, or spectator, shall be suspended for the next two (2) scheduled games. If the ejection occurs at the end of the season, the suspension will continue into the next sport (i.e., ejected at the end of the handball season, suspension will continue into the basketball season, etc.).

The following examples of unsporting behavior would be cause for an automatic ejection from a contest:

1. Fighting, which includes throwing a punch or attempting to throw a punch at another player, coach, official, or spectator;
2. Leaving your chair in attempt to confront another player, coach, official, or spectator;
3. Flagrant and/or excessive play in an attempt to intentionally injure another player, coach, official, or spectator;
4. Use of profanity directed to another player, coach, official, or spectator; or
5. Any other act that threatens the safety of another player, coach, official, or spectator.

Section 24
Able-Bodied Players

If a team does not have the minimum number of players for a particular sport (six for handball and football; five for basketball) and are short by one or two players, then that team may add one or two able-bodied (AB) players to complete their roster.

A team may not add more than two AB players to their roster and may do so **only** in the circumstance of the team not having enough players with physical disabilities to complete the required minimum number needed to field a team. For example, the minimum number required to play wheelchair basketball is five players and a team only has three eligible players, then they may elect to roster two AB players to complete the minimum requirement for participation. Again, for basketball, if the team has four players then they would be allowed to roster one AB player. The AB player(s) can only be added to the team roster at the beginning

of the season during the registration period and must follow the required registration procedure as the rest of the team.

These AB players may be a sibling or friend of one of the team members. The AB players are required to compete in a wheelchair and must wear a scrimmage vest over their team jersey so that the officials can identify them as an AB player.

The AB player(s) cannot dominate or significantly impact the game greatly. The AB player is to be considered an assist player. The AB player(s) may not score.

When the AB player is defending an offensive player who has control of the ball, the AB player may only defend the offensive player on a vertical plane (upwards or to the side). The AB player cannot reach towards the offensive player or take/slap the ball off the lap of the offensive player. If the offensive player loses possession of the ball (example: pass, dropped ball, shot) then the AB player can make an attempt to obtain the ball.

Able-Bodied (AB) Policies Specific to Each Sport:

Wheelchair Handball: An AB player who violates their restrictions by attempting to score or does not guard a player on a "vertical plane" will be assessed and administered a penalty. The opposing team will be awarded a penalty shot and receive possession at half court to inbound. If an AB player scores, the score will be annulled. If an AB player is awarded a penalty shot, the head coach will designate a teammate who was on the floor at the time the penalty was committed to take the shot. If the AB player deflects or inadvertently scores while on defense in the goal they are defending - the score does count for the other team and no penalty is assessed.

Wheelchair Basketball: An AB player who violates their restrictions by attempting to score or does not guard a player on a "vertical plane" will be assessed and administered a Physical Advantage Foul (PAF). PAF's are ruled a technical foul. They count toward that player's and the team's foul count. When playing basketball, the opposing team will be awarded two foul shots and receive possession at half court to inbound. If an AB player scores, the score will be annulled. If an AB player is awarded a foul shot, the head coach will designate a teammate who was on the floor at the time the foul was committed to take the shot. An AB player is also never allowed to line the lane on a free-throw attempt. They must check back behind the three-point line. Any player receiving two technical fouls will be eliminated from the game.

Wheelchair Football:

Offense: An AB player can block (can't play position of quarterback, running back or wide receiver).

Defense: AB players must start each play lined up as defensive lineman. If the offensive lineman that they are lined across from were to release and go downfield as an eligible receiver, then the AB player could go with them and defend against the pass for that player only. **NOTE**: An AB player MAY NOT line up against a wide receiver and defend against a pass. While playing on the line of scrimmage, they may raise their hands in an attempt to knock down passes; however, they cannot intercept a ball. If they were to intercept, it would simply be ruled an incomplete pass (not an interception). Additionally, as a lineman, they cannot rush the QB or rush over the line of scrimmage to make a tackle on any offensive player with the ball. Once an offensive player in possession of the ball crosses the line of scrimmage, and then retreats behind the line of scrimmage, the AB player can pursue and tackle them. AB players are allowed to make tackles when playing defense. AB players are allowed to make tackles on any player who has crossed the line of scrimmage. PROCEDURE: First time: warning, plus 5-foot penalty; Second time: warning, plus 15-foot penalty; Third and subsequent times: 15-foot penalty.

APPENDIX A

American Association of adaptED SPORTS PROGRAMS

PLAYER PROFILE

1. Player's Name: _____

2. Player's disability? _____

3. Player's age and grade level? _____(Years Old) _____(Grade Level)

4. Player's daily mobility? ☐ Manual W/C ☐ Power W/C ☐ Assistive Devices ☐ Ambulatory

5. Player's: ***(place an "X" under each)***

	Excellent	Good	Moderate	Poor
Balance				
Range of Motion				
Endurance				

Player's ability to:

	Excellent	Good	Moderate	Poor
Push wheelchair				
Pass				
Dribble				
Shoot				

6. Player's competition W/C

	Manual	Power
Handball		
Basketball		
Football		

7. Number of years on team? _____

8. Level you think player is? ☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced

9. Has player ever attended any specialized sports camp(s)? ____ No ____ Yes (If yes, please list camp, sport & year attended)

_____

10. Has player ever been part of a traveling team? ____ No ____ Yes (If yes, please list team, sport & years played)

_____

11. Is player being served under:
    General Education ____No ____Yes
    Special Education ____No ____Yes (If yes, what is the primary and/or secondary disability listed on the IEP?)

_____

    504 Plan ____No ____Yes

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TEAM PROFILE

1. Team Name: _____

2. Number of player's on team? _____

3. How many of those athletes played last year? _____

4. Did team compete in any State Championships last year? _____ No _____ Yes
   (If yes, please list sport[s] below):

   _____

   _____

5. In what division did they compete at State Level? ☐ Varsity ☐ Junior Varsity

6. What were the results of the game(s) at State Level? _____

7. Team standings for:

	Win	Loss
Wheelchair Handball		
Wheelchair Basketball		
Wheelchair Football		