



# COLONIAL VALLEY CONFERENCE

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### FOR ATHLETIC CONTESTS

April, 2017

#### By-laws of the CVC

#### GENERAL STATEMENT

- A. The Board of Control of the Colonial Valley Conference recognizes the importance of supporting Interscholastic and School related activities organized within the Conference.
- B. Member Schools must participate in Conference sponsored competitive activities if a team is sponsored. A majority of member schools must engage in an activity to have the activity recognized by the Conference for a Championship.
- C. All activities sponsored by the Conference will be governed in accordance with the Constitution and adopted By-laws of the Colonial Valley Conference.
- D. The organizational structure of each Conference sponsored activity shall be determined by the Member Schools in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Colonial Valley Conference, and such other State or National regulations which may apply.
- E. An Athletic Director shall be assigned to each Conference sponsored activity for coordinative purposes.
- F. Member schools must declare their intention to compete on a Varsity level in any sport at the end of that sport season in the previous year. If a member school feels it is necessary to compete only on a Sub-varsity level, that school must petition the Conference prior to the start of that season. Said request is to be reviewed annually.
- G. A member school that is either initiating a new program, or restarting a program that has not existed for at least one year, must enter competition on the JV level for at least one year unless it petitions the Conference to enter on the Varsity level. This applies only to those sports that traditionally compete on more than one level.

# COLONIAL VALLEY CONFERENCE

## ATHLETIC BY-LAWS

### **Article 1: General Organization**

- Section 1. The Colonial Valley Conference recognizes the Athletic Directors' Committee as agent of the Board of Control to implement and oversee all Athletic Programs.
- Section 2. The Athletic Directors' Committee will be governed by the Colonial Valley Constitution and By Laws affecting athletics.
- Section 3. The officers of the Athletic Directors' Committee will be determined by its membership at the June meeting, and will be approved by the Board of Control.
- Section 4. All Athletic Directors' meetings will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order as stated in the Colonial Valley Conference Constitution.
- Section 5. The Colonial Valley Conference recognizes the Athletic Directors' Committee and the Board of Controls as mandatory members of the Mercer County Tournament Association.

### **Article II: League Structure and Scheduling**

- Section 1. All members of the Colonial Valley Conference will participate in the full athletic schedule as adopted by the Board of Control. All athletic schedules will be developed on a two year basis. A review will be conducted during the second year of each cycle, in preparation for the approval of the next two year schedule.
- Section 2. The Colonial Valley Conference will function as a single conference, but will be separated into three divisions – The Colonial Division, the Valley Division and the Patriot Division.
- Section 3. Divisions will be determined on the NJSIAA enrollment figures based on the October 15 enrollment of the previous year as outlined in attachment A with the exception of ice hockey and boys' and girls' lacrosse which will be determined by strength-of-program component. These figures will govern the scheduling format for the next two school-year cycle.
- Section 4. Schools will be listed in descending NJSIAA enrollment figures, with the largest schools placed in the Colonial Division, the next largest in the Valley Division and the remaining schools in the Patriot Division. Any waiver requests regarding division alignment must be approved by

the Board of Control as recommended by the Athletic Directors' Committee.

- Section 5. There will be three (3) Divisional Championships in those sports with a minimum of three teams participating in each Division. Sports not meeting this requirement will declare a Single (1) Conference Champion.
- Section 6. A division champion will be determined by head to head competition. The winner receiving 2 points, one point for a tie and no points for a loss.
- Section 7. Schedules will be developed as follows:
- A. In the following sports, each team will play everyone in their division twice and everyone in the other divisions once. All contests counting towards championships.
    - a. Baseball
    - b. Golf
    - c. Ice Hockey
    - d. Softball
    - e. Basketball
    - f. tennis
  - B. In the following sports, each team will play everyone in all Divisions once. All Contests counting towards the Championships.
    - a. Cross Country
    - b. Field Hockey
    - c. Soccer
    - d. Swimming
    - e. Wrestling
  - C. In boys' and girls' lacrosse, the Colonial and Valley division will play each team one time, while the Patriot Division will play a "Home-and-Home" format.
  - D. In spring track, only meets with in a division will count toward a championship.
- Section 8. In boys' lacrosse, girls' lacrosse, and ice hockey divisional placement will be determined by strength of program – as outlined in specific sports regulations.
- Section 9. Home and Away sites will alternate on succeeding years as the schedule allows.
- Section 10. Any deviation from scheduling procedure in Section 7 may be done through Athletic Director and Board of Control approval.
- Section 11. There will be mandatory participation in all post season tournaments approved by the MCT/CVC. CVC member schools with a win

percentage of .300 or lower may opt out of a MCTA event for the season.

Section 12. Preseason and Post-season coaches' meetings for each sport will be held as needed.

### **ARTICLE III: Eligibility**

Section 1. Eligibility for players in Conference competition shall be governed by the NJSIAA eligibility rules or additional rules as approved by the Colonial Valley Conference.

Section 2. Protests against eligibility of any player shall be valid at any time. If ineligibility is established after a championship is awarded, said championship shall be vacated and awarded to that member school next highest in the Conference standings.

### **Article IV: Awards and Championships**

Section 1. A Conference trophy shall be awarded each season to the team successful in winning the League/Division Championship on the Varsity level. This trophy is to become the permanent possession of the winning school.

Section 2. The value of the trophy shall be one that is moderately priced.

Section 3. The championship awards will be made by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Athletic Directors' Committee based upon the records of the teams. In case of a tie, Co-champions will be declared.

Section 4. Conference Championships will be determined in the various activities through divisional head to head competition. Results of all divisional dual meets, matches, or games will be translated into a point award system as follows:

- a. Two (2) points for a win.
- b. One (1) point for a tie.
- c. Zero (0) points for a loss.

Section 5. No Championships will be recognized on the Sub-varsity level in any sport.

### **ARTICLE V: Game Postponements and Rescheduling**

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the home team to notify opponents, officials, and news media as early as possible about the postponement of a contest. Postponed games shall be played on the next available date (except Sundays). If conflicts exist, the game must be played on the next available date.

- Section 2. After the Conference schedule has been approved by the Scheduling Committee, the date of any game may be changed only by mutual agreement of the schools concerned and within the framework of the scheduling philosophy of the league, and the NJSIAA.
- Section 3. Procedure for forfeiture will follow NJSIAA Policy. Forfeits must be approved by the Conference Board of Control, following the recommendation of Athletic Directors.
- Section 4. Any case in which a game is terminated prematurely will be handled as per NJSIAA regulations.

## **ARTICLE VI: Rules Governing Contracts and Officials**

- Section 1. Officials
- A. NJSIAA registered officials should be used in all Varsity contests in accordance with NJSIAA Rules and Regulations.
- B. If contracted officials do not appear, the Administrator of the Home school shall attempt to secure officials. If that attempt fails, the coaches of both teams shall agree on another official. If said official is connected with either of the contesting schools, both parties shall be so informed. In the event mutual agreement cannot be reached on the substitute official, said contest shall be rescheduled, however, if the game is played, there shall be no protest based upon the use of the substitute official.
- C. At the Sub-varsity level, every attempt should be made to play the contest; even if a substitute official is present.
- D. The officials' judgments shall be final in all matters that concern the game, except as to the interpretation of the rules.
- E. Officials fees should be consistent within the Mercer County Tournament Association. However, the determination of fees should be under control of and paid by the home schools.
- F. The NJSIAA rule regarding player disqualification and suspension will be strictly enforced by the Colonial Valley Conference. Coaches must report all infractions to their respective Athletic Director, who will report the incident to the Building Principal.
- H. Prior to the end of a game all information necessary for a pay voucher should be obtained from the official and/or a check should be issued.
- Section 2. Miscellaneous
- A. The visiting school shall pay their own expenses.
- B. It is recommended that each member school send to every other member school copies of their complete schedules for all sports prior to the beginning of that sports' season.

C. Each school must make at least 200 tickets available to the visiting team upon request.

D. Admission prices and procedures shall be under the control of the Board of Control.

E. Faculty of the visiting school shall be admitted by proper school identification.

F. The home team determines the starting time of contests.

Section 3.

Conduct

A. The home team shall be responsible for the conduct of the spectators, except when the misconduct is clearly shown to be by a member of the visiting student body or their followers.

B. Visiting school officials should fully cooperate with the home officials to insure the best in good sportsmanship.

C. Visiting schools should be contacted to provide a representative if problems are anticipated.

D. In situations where schools are not satisfied with the conduct of an opposing school and where the matter cannot be settled by the schools involved, it will be resolved by the Board of Control.

E. The Conference will establish a good conduct code for their spectators and make certain that all spectators are informed as to the provisions of said code.

F. Every school should establish a security plan for all contests which best protects the property and person of those attending a contest.

G. Banners, posters, etc. of any type will not be permitted at athletic contests. (This does not include banners or signs of a permanent nature that have been part of the School's decor for years, team run-thru Mascot signs, or Homecoming activities of a positive nature that have traditionally been used by some schools in the past.

H. Noisemakers, musical organizations, radios, tape players, etc. will not be permitted at any athletic events. (This does not include bands at football games and home team bands or team radios at pre-game warm-up).

**Article VII: Specific CVC Rules and Regulations for Athletic Contests**

Section 1. NJSIAA Rules and Regulations (based on the National Federation) will be followed in all Conference contests.

Section 2. Mutual consent is required if a non-conference opponent is invited to participate as part of a CVC contest.

Section 3. Postponements for all contests should be made at least three hours prior to the starting time of a scheduled contest.

Section 4. Balls used in CVC contests will comply with NJSIAA tournament regulations.

Section 5. It is recommended that Timers, Chair-crew, etc. for all Varsity contests be adults.

Section 6. The following additional regulations pertain to these specific sports:

#### **A. BASEBALL**

- A printed list of ground rules should be given to the visiting team upon arrival and an additional copy given the umpires. Rules will be reviewed by the Coaches and Umpires prior to starting the game.
- Each team is entitled to ten (10) minutes of infield practice prior to the game. The Home Team takes infield twenty-five (25) minutes prior to the game. The Home Team must clear the field fifteen (15) minutes prior to the game and the Visiting team must clear the field five (5) minutes prior to the game.
- A ten (10) run rule will be in effect on all levels of play
- Pitching limitations as established by the NJSIAA will be strictly enforced.

#### **B. BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL**

- For evening games, it is recommended that the JV game be played first, followed by the Varsity game.
- Banners, loud speakers, noisemakers, and signs are not permitted at the facility for spectator use.
- Music played over the public address system for pre-game warm-up, half time entertainment, or during the game is permitted, but must not provide interference for either team.

#### **C. CROSS COUNTRY**

- Starting time for the Varsity meet should be 4:15 pm
- The starting time for walking the course should be no later than 3: 45 pm
- Clarification of CVC Cross Country scoring will be that the first seven runners are placed each cross country meet. The first five runners from each team are the scored runners. Runners six (6) and seven (7) are awarded a place, but are not given team points for their place. A 6th or 7th runner, if finishing ahead of a scoring runner from the opposing team, will take a place, blocking a scoring runner and the scoring runner will fall one place back.

- Ties are broken as detailed in the High School Federation Rulebook.

#### **D. FIELD HOCKEY**

- The NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure will be used in all CVC contests.
- When the Varsity and JV games are played simultaneously, the visiting school must be informed.

#### **E. FOOTBALL**

- See WJFL Constitution

#### **F. GOLF**

- USGA Rules and Regulations will govern all CVC matches.
- Scoring will be Medal Play. The team score will be the total Medal score of the **four (4)** best individual scores. The next deciding factor is the match Medalist.
- Each team will play six (6) players, with the **four (4)** best scores counting for the match. In case of a team fielding only **four (4)** players, all scores will count.
- In the event a team has less than **four (4)** players (that it has fewer than **four (4)** players due to disqualification, etc.), the team that is short will forfeit the match.
- See attached

#### **G. ICE HOCKEY**

- See attached addendum.

#### **H. Boys and Girls Lacrosse**

#### **I. SOCCER**

- The following will be the length of games:
  - a. Varsity forty (40) minute halves
  - b. Junior varsity thirty-six (35) minute halves
  - c. Freshmen thirty (30) minute halves
  - d. Overtime as per State Regulations
- The home team will supply two (2) sideline runners to help keep the ball in play.



- An adult timer is recommended.

## **J. SOFTBALL**

- Each team is entitled to ten (10) minutes of infield practice prior to the game. The Home team is entitled to take twenty-five (25) minutes prior to the game. The Home team must also clear the field fifteen (15) minutes prior to the game and the Visiting team shall clear the field five (5) minutes prior to the game
- Only players in uniform are permitted to coach on the baselines.
- Coaches do not have to be in uniform. Hats are optional.
- A ten (10) run rule will be in effect at all levels.

## **K. BOYS AND GIRLS SWIMMING**

- All dual meets in the Conference will begin at a prearranged time determined by pool availability and mutual agreement.
- Competition will be Double-dual meets with separate Boys and Girls Championships. Co-ed teams will be considered as boys teams.
- For Double-dual meet competition, Girls events will alternate with Boys events, with Girls events beginning first. Diving will be conducted in a co-ed format, but will be scored separately.
- It is recommended that team swimsuits be of uniform color and panels for Conference meets.
- Two officials are permitted to be used for CVC swimming contests.
- Separate Boys and/or Girls teams may compete against Co-ed teams as a Co-ed team for that meet only. The win or loss will be applied to the Boys team record.

## **L. BOYS AND GIRLS TENNIS**

- USTA Rules will govern all matches.

- Each school will rate the top three (3) players according to an established ladder and the Coach will have a copy of the up-to-date ladder results with Him/Her at all matches.
- Substitutions can be made after the match has been decided as to a winner.

#### **M. BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD**

- It is recommended that four officials be utilized for all dual meets, but a minimum of three are required.
- At least one of the Official's should possess an Official's Card and will mediate all disputes (refer to NJSIAA Regulations).

#### **N. WRESTLING**

- All Wrestlers (Varsity, Junior Varsity and Freshman) will weigh in at the same site one hour prior to the first bout of the evening.
- Home team scales will be official and must be properly certified each year and stamped by the Bureau of Weights and Measures.
- Schools should contact each other prior to the match to determine the number of JV bouts.
- The weigh-in period will last a maximum of thirty (30) minutes.