

# THE SUBURBAN PAROCHIAL LEAGUE

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I

#### NAME

This Association shall be known as the Suburban Parochial League.

### ARTICLE II

#### PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Suburban Parochial League West is based on the strong belief that athletics are educationally sound and that they play an important part in the development of the participant's physical, mental, emotional, and moral growth. The Suburban Parochial League West will offer experiences through competitive athletics and their lead-up activities that will enhance the educational programs of the member schools.

The League recognizes that though the elements of competition and winning exist, they will not be the determining factors in developing the scope and nature of the Suburban Parochial League West's programs. The member schools believe that this is educationally sound for it offers training for living in a competitive society. The basic principles of good sportsmanship and high ethical standards should prevail at all times in order to enhance the educational growth of the students who participate in the League's programs.

### ARTICLE III

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Suburban Parochial League is to offer those experiences needed to reach the educational objectives of interscholastic athletics as stated in the philosophy of the League. The League shall provide a means for the member schools to work together in order to enhance their instructional programs. The Suburban Parochial League will provide the student participants with opportunities to learn skills, and develop moral and emotional patterns beyond those offered in the school curricula. The major emphasis of the Suburban Parochial League's programs will be based on learning-through competitive sports as well as learning the skills of sports. These activities shall be modified to meet the physical, mental, and emotional levels of the student participant.

## ARTICLE IV

### ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- Section I: All participants in the interscholastic programs of the Suburban Parochial League West must be currently enrolled in member's school as a full time student.
- Section II: Any participant reaching their fifteenth (15th) birthday before August 15th of the current school year shall be declared ineligible for competition.

## ARTICLE V

### ADMINISTRATION

- Section I: Management of this association shall be invested in a Commissioner and Athletic Directors.
- Section II: Commissioner -- Election and Duties:
- a. The commissioner shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the members to serve for a period of three (3) years. The Commissioner shall not serve as a chairperson of a sport in season during his/her tenure in office.
  - b. The duties of the Commissioner shall be:
    1. Head of the Athletic Directors.
    2. Supervise all League functions.
    3. Uphold the Constitution, Philosophy, and By-Laws of the League.
    4. Set up committees to help in the efficient governing of the League.
    5. Call special league meetings as deemed necessary.
    6. Decisions and/or penalties, except expulsion of a League member, shall be directed from the Commissioner's office.
    7. Order league championship plaques and trophies for the appropriate levels.
- Section III: Secretary – Election and Duties
- a. The Secretary shall be a person representing a member institution and elected by a simple majority vote of the member to serve for a period of three (3) years.
  - b. The duties of the secretary shall be:
    1. Prepare and distribute minutes of all League meetings.
    2. Set game schedule for upcoming year.
    3. Record and update all league scores and standings to member schools.
    4. Maintain and update League website.

- Section IV: Treasurer – Election and Duties
- a. The Treasurer shall be a person representing a member institution and elected by a simple majority vote of the members to serve for a period of three (3) years.
  - b. The duties of the Treasurer shall be:
    1. Prepare and submit SPL West's Annual Finance Report to the member schools one month prior to the "Annual" June meeting for approval at "Annual" Meeting.
    2. Review and prepare all outside contracts, such as Officials Assignment Chairmen, to the member schools for approval.
    3. Assist Secretary with updating and recording league scores/website.
- Section V: The Board of Control shall consist of the Commissioner and two duly elected members from the member institutions, consisting of the League elected Secretary and Treasurer, and shall hold office for 3 full years. Re-election of a Board of Controls member is permissible.
- Section VI: The members of the Board shall be the Commissioner, the Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers shall be nominated and approved at the 'Annual' June meeting. In the event any member of the Board of Controls withdraws from his/her position with the League, the position will be filled through nomination and vote of the general membership of the League at the next 'Regular' meeting.
- Section VII: The Athletic Directors or a duly appointed representative from a member institution, shall determine the rules governing eligibility of contestants, arrange all schedules, and make any rule change that are in the best interests of the member institutions. Any proposed rule change shall be settled by a simple majority vote of the membership.
- Section VIII: The entire Board of Control excluding the officers representing the schools involved or individuals therein, shall hear all formal complaints, decide protests, etc. The Commissioner shall appoint temporary Board members when the Board of Control member's school or individual are involved in the formal complaint, protest, etc.
- a. The Commissioner shall notify all member institutions of any and all formal complaints.
  - b. All complaints and/or protests shall be responded to or decided on by the next 'regular' seasonal SLP West meeting.
- Section IX: Finances: The Treasurer will propose and submit to each member school one month prior to 'Annual June meeting the expense(s) necessary to facilitate the programs for the upcoming season. The annual budget will be subject to the approval of the member schools at the 'Annual' June meeting.

Section X: The Board of Control shall investigate all petitions for membership into the League. This investigation shall include a formal application of membership by said school(s), an investigation of the school's facilities, programs, and an interview with responsible school officials, coaches, etc., in regards to the school's Athletic philosophy.

## ARTICLE VI

### MEETINGS

Section I: There shall be a June meeting of member institutions here in after referred to as "Annual" meeting to review Constitution, By-Laws and Rules, review and approve Treasurer's report, vote on any league business, and set the schedules for the upcoming school year. There will be seasonal "Regular" meetings held throughout the year with a minimum of three to discuss any general league business. Annual June meeting will be set for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in June. Regular meetings will be set for the last Monday of October, and the first Monday of February and May.

Section II: Special meetings may be called by the Commissioner or shall be called by the Secretary upon written requests of four (4) members.

Section III: Each member institution must have an authorized representative empowered to set schedules and vote on issues concerning the League at each regular meeting.

- a. Member institutions will be put on probation for one calendar year for having no representative at a regular meeting.
- b. A second offense during that probation period will result in immediate suspension from all League activities and events.

## ARTICLE VII

### VOTING

All matters involving the Constitution and By-Laws shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the membership. All other matters of routine business shall be decided by a simple majority of the members present. Each member school shall have but one (1) vote.

## ARTICLE VIII

### AMENDMENTS

The Constitution of this league or its By-Laws may be amended by a simple majority vote at the Annual June meeting, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to the commissioner not less than one month before the Annual meeting. The Commissioner shall submit such proposed amendments to the members of this League at least two (2) weeks before the Annual meeting. Any proposed amendment shall be settled by a simple majority vote of the membership.

## ARTICLE IX

### PETITIONING OF NEW MEMBERS

Section I: A written report of the Board's findings shall be given to each League member and a meeting shall be held with all members to evaluate the Board's findings and the school(s) petition. A letter shall be issued to the petitioning school for acceptance into the League, or the reasons for rejection of the petition.

## ARTICLE X

### AWARDS AND FEES

Section I: Plaques will be given to the League conference champion. In the event of co-champions, each school will receive a plaque

## ARTICLE XI

### EXPULSION

Section I: Any violation of the letter or the spirit of this Constitution or Game Rules described herein by an offending school may result in the suspension/expulsion by a simple majority vote of member schools.

Section II: Any complaint concerning a member school must be submitted in writing to the Commissioner for evaluation and action. The offending school shall be notified in writing from the Commissioner explaining the complaint. Such notification must be submitted one month prior to the next regular meeting.

## ARTICLE XII

### WITHDRAWING FROM THE LEAGUE

Section I: Any League member desiring to voluntarily withdraw from the Suburban Parochial League West should make its desire known in writing and in ample time, sending it to the Commissioner to be presented at the next regular meeting. Ample time is so defined as 6 months prior to the date of proposed withdrawal.

### BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I

### CONTESTS

The Suburban Parochial League shall hold such contests and under such rules and regulations as provided for in the By-Laws and in the Rules of Play, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A.

Section I: Levels of Play: Member schools shall form one 'A' level Basketball and Volleyball team at the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Member schools may form 'B' level Basketball and Volleyball teams at the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades as participation numbers allow. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade level for Basketball and Volleyball is Instructional—teams are divided equally by skill.

Section II: Protests: When a member school protests a game, it shall notify the Commissioner within 24 hours. Commissioner, in turn, shall notify all League schools of said game protest. The Board of Control as directed in the Constitution shall act upon game protests.

a. Resolution of said game protests should be made within 48 hours of protest if possible

Section III: Championship: There shall be a League Championship acknowledged at the 8<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade "A" team level. No League Championship will be acknowledged for the "B" team level.

Section IV: Officials: Officials shall be adults certified, and well informed as to any variation of rules as designated by the League.

- a. League officials, excluding the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball officials, are commissioned and scheduled by an Officials Assignment Chairman, contracted by the League.

- Section V: Insurance: All members must maintain insurance for those competing in League sponsored activities. This shall be the responsibility of the individual members.
- Section VI: Cancellation, Schedule Changes: Cancellation or schedule changes must be made 48 hours in advance except for inclement weather. In case of emergency or inclement weather, cancellation of a contest must be made by noon of the day of the contest. In the event a member school closes due to inclement weather, member school's contests, home or away, will be cancelled.
- (a) Failure to do so will result in a forfeit.
- Section VII: Forfeits: Any school who forfeits two (2) contests during one season will face possible suspension from tournament play.
- Section VIII: Uniforms: Numbered shirts are necessary for all contests and must be of the same color. Regulation numbers should be in compliance with the IHSA regulation.
- Section IX: Practice Session: Member schools may not begin practice sessions for one sport while another sport is still in session.
- a. Practice sessions should be set in conjunction with local school administrators or principal in order to avoid conflicts with local educational policies.
  - b. Practice sessions should be in compliance with the Joliet Diocese recommendations.
- Section X: Rosters: Member schools will submit rosters to the Commissioner and/or Secretary within the first week of the current season.
- a. Roster should be signed by local school administrators, athletic directors, or principals to insure validity of participants.
  - b. Rosters should include an adequate number of participants (8 is recommended) in order to negate the possibility of a cancellation or forfeiture, and to insure that a greater number of students are involved as a game situation dictates.
  - c. Failure to submit rosters will result in forfeiture of games until said rosters are submitted.

## ARTICLE II

### RULES OF PLAY

#### Rules of Play for SPL Basketball and Volleyball

- Section I: I.H.S.A. rules will apply subject to the exceptions or variations set forth in Exhibit A, Rules of Play.
- Section II: Participation in more than one contest: If a student/athlete participates in a contest at one level, he/she may not participate in another contest at a different level in the same day. If a given school has difficulties due to illnesses and needs an athlete to participate at two levels, this must be pre-approved by the Commissioner.
- Section III: If a school cannot field a team, another player may be 'borrowed' from a lower level of the same grade (ex. 6B to 6A) or lower level and lower grade (ex 7B to 8A) in order for the game to count in the standings. Borrowing a player from the same level or any other borrowing of players will result in a forfeit. And school 'borrowing' a player must inform the home/host school before the start of the contest. No 'borrowing' will be allowed if a team has the minimum number of rostered players present and eligible to play.
- Section IV: Transfer Students: Transfer students may join a sports team after the start of a season. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure the transfer student is placed at the appropriate team level. Exception: a transfer student from another member school is not allowed to participate in a sport once the season has started; however schools maintain the right to petition the league/commissioner for a waiver. There will be no restriction on the transfer student for participation in subsequent sports seasons for that school year.
- Section V: When an issue arises that is not addressed herein, and IHSA rules do not adequately or directly address the needs of the league, member schools have the right to petition the league/commissioner to open the issue for discussion and a provisional vote may be taken. A proposal will then be presented for a final vote at the May meeting.

## ARTICLE III

### MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Section I: The member schools do agree and will be responsible for obtaining their school administrator or principal's sanction for participation and overseeing the schools participation in the Suburban Parochial League's programs.



- Section II: Member schools must have a basic educational program in physical education. An educational program being defined as a skill-oriented program geared to enhancing the individual child's physical, mental, social and moral development.
- Section III: Member schools must compete at the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> grade level in the interscholastic programs offered by the Suburban Parochial League. Interscholastic being defined as organized and professionally run activities between different educational institutions for skilled participants.
- Section IV: Member schools must participate in the Suburban Parochial Leagues instructional grade level. Instructional being defined as 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Basketball and Volleyball.
- Section V: Member schools that are accepted are placed on probation as independent without voting rights for 2 years, except in matters dealing with scheduling and fees. This section may be waived on the acceptance of all members. Then the said member will have all voting privileges at next annual meeting.

#### ARTICLE IV.

##### COACHING ETHICS AND CONDUCT

- Section I: Member schools agree to adhere to the highest standards of coaching ethics and agree to refute the "Win at all Costs" philosophy in order to keep the interscholastic programs educationally and morally sound.
- Section II: Member schools agree to adhere to the basic Christian philosophy and principles governing the conduct of coaches, administrators, and participants in order to foster good Christian fellowship between the member schools.
- Section III: Any coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will serve a one game suspension and will not be allowed to attend the next context, even as a spectator.
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> ejection in a single season will result in a two game suspension.  
A 3<sup>rd</sup> ejection in a single season will result in removal from the team.
- Section IV: Any player ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will serve a one game suspension. The player will be allowed to sit in the bench in street clothes.
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> ejection in a single season will result in a two game suspension.  
A 3<sup>rd</sup> ejection in a single season will result in removal from the team.

## ARTICLE V

### AWARDS

Section I: There will be 1st place plaques for each level. In case of a tie, co-champions will be recognized.

## ARTICLE VI

### TOURNAMENTS

Section I: There shall be a post season tournament played at the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade 'A' and 'B' levels for Volleyball and Basketball.

Section II: Tournament brackets for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grade A levels for basketball and volleyball will be organized such that the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> ranked team will play each other in a buy-in game. Winner of this game will play the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed team.

Section II: Tie Breaks: In the event of a tie for any place at the 'A' or 'B' level, the following procedures will be used to determine seeding:

- 1) Two-way tie--Head to head match-up
- 2) Three- or more-way tie--total won/lost record for games played among tied teams (Ex. For a 3-way tie, Team X 2-0; team Y 1-1 ; team Z 0-2)
- 3) If ties cannot be resolved by either #1 or #2, a coin flip will be used to determine seeding.