



TEMPE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE HANDBOOK 2025 – 2026

ARTICLE I: NAME

- i. The name of this organization shall be “TEMPE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE,” hence known as the “TAC.”

ARTICLE II: MEMBER SCHOOLS

SECTION I: Present Membership

- i. The present members of the Tempe Athletic Conference shall consist of the following schools: Connolly Middle School, Fees College Preparatory Middle School, Mosley Middle School, Shamley School (grades 6-8), McKemy Academy of International Studies (MAIS) and Ward Traditional Academy (grades 6-8).

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE

The purpose of the athletic program of the Tempe Athletic Conference is to provide an educationally sound and safe program that emphasizes participation, cooperation, good sportsmanship and teamwork for middle school boys and girls. It is also to help prepare students for participation in high school athletics.

The objectives of this program are to develop:

- i. Physical skills necessary in the sport or activity;
- ii. Awareness of progressive skill requirements needed to continue to grow in the specific sport or activity;
- iii. Sense of loyalty, team play, cooperation, and sportsmanship, which will have “carry over” value in later life;
- iv. Respect for the efforts, abilities, and the rights of others;
- v. Awareness of leadership responsibilities in school, community, and life contacts, as well as on the athletic field; and
- vi. Consistency and fairness within each sport. Middle school years are developmental years, physically, mentally and athletically.

ARTICLE IV: TAC COORDINATING COMMITTEE

SECTION I: Membership-Voting

- i. The TAC Coordinating Committee shall consist of the member schools and district administrators or their appointed representatives. A majority approval of the total TAC Coordinating Committee is needed to amend the handbook (Article XIV).

SECTION II: Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the TAC Coordinating Committee shall be to:

- i. Determine general standards and policies for the conference;
- ii. Establish eligibility requirements for membership in the conference;
- iii. Attend and participate in all TAC Coordinating Committee meetings;

- iv. Attend, supervise (and/or provide for supervision) for all games in which their school is participating;
- v. Ensure that all TAC coaches attend the TAC coaches' meetings held at a designated site, at the start of each season. If they are unable to attend, the Site Athletic Director will meet with the Coach to review all policies, procedures and expectations; and
- vi. The following TD3 Human Resources criteria will be used to hire qualified coaches
 - a. Arizona Teacher or Certified Certificate
 - b. DPS Fingerprint Clearance Card
 - c. Knowledge of sport preferred
 - d. Preferred coaching candidates should be certified TD#3 staff members.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

SECTION I: Committee Members

- i. The committee members are appointed Athletic Directors from the participating schools.
- ii. The schools are those listed in Article II Section 1.
- iii. Each participating school gets one vote

SECTION II: Time/Place

- i. The TAC Coordinating Committee shall meet quarterly, July through May, with dates, times, and locations of the meetings determined based on the "TD3 Planning Guide." Minutes of all Athletic Director (AD) meetings shall be taken and distributed to all TAC Coordinating Committee members at each school, within one week of the meeting.

SECTION III: Special Meetings

- i. Any TAC Coordinating Committee member may request a special meeting by notifying the District Athletic Coordinator of his/her request in writing.

SECTION IV: Quorum

- i. For purposes of transacting business at the regular meeting, a quorum shall consist of one-half of the total membership.

SECTION V: Order of Business

- i. The District Athletic Coordinator will send a written request to all TAC Coordinating Committee members requesting agenda items at least 72 hours (three working days) prior to an AD meeting. It shall include approval of previous meeting minutes and the issues/concerns to be discussed.
- ii. The TAC Coordinating Committee shall work collaboratively and a majority vote will determine decisions. In a split decision, the District Athletic Coordinator will be the deciding vote.



ARTICLE VI: RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL

SECTION I: Principal/Assistant Principal/TOSA/Designated Staff Member

- i. The Principal/Assistant Principal/TOSA/Designated Staff Member of each member school has the responsibility for the overall supervision and operation of the athletic program in his/her school and is to ensure that the Tempe Athletic Conference's philosophy and policies are followed. The Principal/Assistant Principal/TOSA/Designated Staff Member (outside of the acting coach). is responsible for providing adequate supervision at all athletic events whether visiting or hosting.

SECTION II: Coaches

- i. Coaches will be highly qualified for the coaching position. All coaches are required to have a valid fingerprint clearance card. In addition, TD3 prefers to hire TD3 staff for athletic positions.
- ii. Coaches will be interviewed on an as-needed basis.
- iii. All coaches are required to attend the pre-season coaches meeting to review schedules, rules and policies of the TAC. If the Coach cannot attend this meeting, they are required to meet with the Site Athletic Director to review these items. The Site Athletic Director will provide documented attendance of this meeting to the District Athletic Coordinator prior to the start of the season.
- iv. Coaches will submit a team roster to the District Athletic Coordinator within 48 hours (two working days) prior to the first game.
- v. Coaches will be provided the Crisis Line - 480-730-7369 information and directions on how to use the Crisis Line in case of an emergency. The Site Athletic Director's phone numbers will be provided at each coach's meeting.
- vi. Coaches/Certified staff members, shall not leave the school until all team members have been picked up by a parent/guardian. Coaches will adhere to the TAC student pick-up/check-out procedure for away games.
- vii. At least one coach or certified staff member shall accompany their team on the bus to and from away games.
- viii. Coaches will demonstrate good sportsmanship, be a positive role model and follow directions from the Principal/Assistant Principal/TOSA/Designated Staff Member supervising TAC games. The TAC Coordinating Committee will ensure that **coaches will be cognizant of not "running up" the score.**
- ix. All coaches shall be directly responsible for the conduct of their athletic teams at all athletic events, practices, and while traveling to and from such athletic activities.
- x. During cross country meets, participating schools' coaches must assign staff members or adult volunteers a position throughout the course to monitor student health and safety.

ARTICLE VII: ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES

SECTION I: Attendance Requirements

- i. All athletes must be enrolled (in-person or remote) students at the school in which they represent (Charter and private school students are not eligible to participate in the TAC). If a school does not offer a particular sport, **the District Athletic Coordinator will identify a school at which they may tryout. Prior to tryouts the student/parent will receive a participation packet and handbook.** The home school Athletic Director will complete a Sport Transfer Form (Attachment A) which outlines the student/parent responsibilities.

SECTION II: Homeschooled Children

- i. According to district policies and guidelines, Tempe home-schooled students will be eligible to participate in the conference as follows;
 - a. 15-802.01. Homeschooled children; eligibility to participate in interscholastic activities
 - b. Notwithstanding any other law, a child who resides within the attendance area of a public school and who is homeschooled shall be allowed to try out for interscholastic activities on behalf of the public school in the same manner as a pupil who is enrolled in that public school. Registration, age eligibility requirements, fees, insurance, transportation, physical condition, qualifications, responsibilities, event schedules, standards of behavior and performance policies for homeschooled students shall be consistent with those policies established for students enrolled in that public school. The individual providing the primary instruction of a child who is homeschooled shall submit written verification that provides;
 - c. Whether the student is receiving a passing grade in each course or subject being taught;
 - d. Whether the student is maintaining satisfactory progress towards advancement or promotion;
 - e. A child who is homeschooled and who was previously enrolled in a public, private or charter school shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities for the remainder of the school year during which the child was enrolled in a school;
 - f. A school district shall not contract with any private entity that supervises interscholastic activities if the private entity prohibits the participation of homeschooled children in interscholastic activities at public, private or charter schools.

SECTION III: Age Requirement

- i. Any student who has turned 16 by the first day of any academic school year will not be eligible to participate in the TAC.

SECTION IV: Transgender Policy

- i. The Tempe Athletic Conference (TAC) Transgender Policy is in direct alignment with the Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Association (AIA) Transgender Policy and Procedure 41.9.
 - a. 41.9 Transgender Policy: Gender Identity Participation - All students should have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics that is consistent with their gender identity, irrespective of the sex listed on a student's eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics or in a gender that does not match the sex at birth, via the following procedures below. Once the student has been granted eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics consistent with the athlete's gender identity, the eligibility is granted for the duration of the student's participation and does not need to be renewed every sport season or school year. All discussion and documentation will be kept confidential, and the proceedings will be sealed unless the student and family make a specific request.

- b. **41.9.1 NOTICE TO THE SCHOOL:** The parent or legal guardian shall contact the School Administrator or Athletic Director indicating that the student has a consistent gender identity different than the sex listed on the student's school registration records, and that the student desires to participate in activities in a manner consistent with the student's gender identity.
- c. The School Administrator or Athletic Director will then contact the District's Athletic Coordinator and the District's Executive Director of Student Support to officially document the request. The District's Athletic Coordinator will reach out to the family to listen to the request and grant final approval.

SECTION V: Eligibility Policy

- i. Tempe School District No. 3 will ensure that adopted eligibility requirements comply with the state board of education's no-pass, no-play rules. Students must be passing with a grade of C or better in every class including electives and interventions. At Ward Traditional Academy they will use a 70% or better to determine passing.
- ii. The Principal/Assistant Principal/TOSA/Designated Staff Member and coach will ensure that Each athlete meets the adopted eligibility policy.
- iii. Student athletes **will** be permitted to participate concurrently in TAC and ACAC (All City Athletic Conference) sports with Site Athletic Director and coach approval. Concurrent participation will only be considered for two different sports. Participation in the TAC will supersede participation in ACAC sports.
- iv. Players trying out and being cut from any TAC team shall have the first opportunity to fill a vacant ACAC team position.
- v. If the student is not present during the entire duration of tryouts, they are not eligible to participate on a team for that sport. Certain circumstances may result in a student being able to miss a tryout day and still be able to participate on the team. Final determination for eligibility is a site based Athletic Director/Coaches decision.

SECTION VI: Grade Checks

- i. Each school will complete weekly grade checks to determine participation eligibility. Grade checks run from Thursday to Thursday and they determine eligibility for the following weeks' games. Students must have a C or better in every class including electives and interventions. At Ward Traditional Academy they will use a 70% or better to determine passing. These weekly reports will be kept on file at the school site until the end of the sport season.
- ii. Every participating TAC school will provide an opportunity either before school, during school, or after school for student athletes to receive additional academic help.

SECTION VII: Physicals/Insurance

- i. A student shall not be allowed to practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until there is on file with the principal or his/her designee a record of a preparticipation physical examination (PPE) performed by a doctor of medicine (M.D.), an osteopathic physician (D.O.), a naturopathic physician (N.D., N.M.D.), a certified registered nurse practitioner (N.P.) licensed to practice, a certified physician's assistant (PA-C) registered by the Joint Board Of Medical Examiners and the Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery, or a certified chiropractic sports physician (CCSP). The physical examination for the following school year shall be given **on or after April 1; the physical will only be valid for one calendar year**. The physical examination card on file shall be signed by one of the

- aforementioned medical providers and shall state that, in the opinion of the examining provider, the provider did not find any medical reason to disqualify the student from practice or competition in athletic contests. The Principal/Assistant Principal/TOSA/Designated Staff Member, if deemed advisable, may require a student to be reexamined.
- ii. All student athletes are required to provide current school year proof of insurance coverage in order to participate in TAC athletics.
 - iii. When participating in physical activities and sports there is a possibility that a head injury and/or concussion may occur. A concussion is a brain injury that may have symptoms that show up right away while others may show up hours or days later. In rare cases, these injuries may cause brain damage and even death. It is the student/athlete's responsibility to report prior medical conditions as well as future conditions if they should occur. All reports must be made to coaches and/or school staff members.

SECTION VII: Player Ejections

- i. The TAC will follow Arizona Interscholastic Association guidelines for ejected players and coaches.
(Article 16.3 – AIA Constitution) as seen below. It is the responsibility of the coach and site Athletic Director to enforce the ejection guidelines at their school. The TAC has zero tolerance for unsportsmanlike behavior. Students are subject to school disciplinary policies.
 - a. 16.3 SPORTSMANSHIP RULE
 - b. 16.3.1 Ejection from a Contest - If an AIA 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. NOTE: When a coach or player is ejected from a contest, his/her member school should complete Form 16.3 and submit it to the AIA.
 - c. 16.3.1.1 Penalties for Ejection - A coach or player ejected from a contest for any reason shall be subject to the following without appeal:
 - d. 16.3.1.1.1 First Ejection - Ineligible for the next contest at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim at any level.
 - e. 16.3.1.1.1.1 Any person ejected from a contest shall not participate the remainder of that day.
 - f. 16.3.1.1.2 Second Ejection - Ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim at any level.
 - g. 16.3.1.1.2.1 Any person ejected from a contest shall not participate the remainder of that day. (Section 16.3 cont'd. on the next page) AIA Bylaws; Article 16. Penalties and Appeals 2018-2019 48
 - h. 16.3.1.1.3 Third Ejection - A similar infraction of Article 16, Section 16.3, Paragraph
 - i. 16.3.1 of the AIA Bylaws by the same player during the same season will result in cessation of the season for the player concerned.
 - j. 16.3.1.1.4 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.
 - k. 16.3.1.1.5 When a player or coach is ejected from a contest that has a bearing on participation in a state championship tournament, a responsible administrative officer of that school may appeal that ejection to the State Commissioner of Officials (Commissioner).

VIII Sportsmanship, Fan Decorum, Code of Conduct, Student Spectator Policy

- a. Student athletes are required to demonstrate positive behavior in and out of athletic competition. Sitebased athletic directors have the ability to suspend a student athlete from athletic competition at any time if the student is misbehaving or breaking school rules. In addition, consequences from an athletic event can be handed out on the school's end in direct alignment with the [TD#3 Family/ Student Discipline Handbook](#).
- b. TD#3 also has strict [fan decorum, code of conduct, and student spectator policies](#) set into place. The district's athletic coordinator works in direct alignment with school/ district administration and the local police department to ensure the safety and well being of all stakeholders.

ARTICLE VIII: RELATED POLICIES

SECTION I: Scheduling

- i. The TAC Coordinating Committee members or the District Athletic Coordinator will complete the conference schedule. Adjustments after the start of the school year will be done by the District Athletic Coordinator and reviewed by all Site Athletic Directors. They are subject to change based on the School Districts needs and funding available. Schools are not allowed to participate in events outside of the TAC schedule without permission from the Superintendent. The TAC schedule will receive final approval by the Chief Director of Student Success and Achievement.

SECTION II: Emergency Procedures/First Aid

- i. Each school shall have emergency procedures in place. Site Athletic Directors will review the site procedures for an emergency with all coaches prior to the season. All coaches are required to have a first aid kit, which includes a [Student Emergency Contact - Athletic Participation Form](#) for athletes with them at all times. In addition, AED defibrillators are available in all gyms.

SECTION III: Safety of Participants

- i. Concerns may be voiced to the Principal/Assistant Principal/TOSA/Designated Staff Member or Game Official regarding situations that are detrimental to the safety of participants but NOT on the judgment calls of officials or rule interpretation. If the situation is determined by the Site Athletic Director or Game Official to be unsafe, the game should not be played.

SECTION IV: Game Times/Postponement/Cancellation

- i. Every effort should be made to notify the opponent's Site Athletic Director and District Athletic Coordinator if a school's team will be late due to transportation issues or unforeseen events. If a school finds it impossible to attend a scheduled event, it must notify **the District Athletic Coordinator as soon as possible**. Host schools will contact the District Athletic Coordinator in the event of inclement weather and/or unsafe playing conditions that are occurring at their site as soon as possible. Due to transportation needs, the decision to postpone, reschedule or cancel an event will be made prior to 12:00 pm on the day of the event.

SECTION V: Playing Time

- i. A student's effort, attendance, participation at practice, teamwork, attitude, behavior, ability, as well as the number of students on the team, are some factors that are considered by the coach when determining playing time. Every effort shall be made to maximize each participant's playing time. Please note, during playoffs playing time will not be equal. In addition, 6th graders on A teams may receive less playing time than 8th graders.
- ii. The goal is to strive for consistency and fairness within each sport. Varsity teams are considered more competitive teams, thus these teams will often play players with a greater ability. The site Athletic Director will ensure that **coaches will be cognizant of not "running up" the score.** If the site AD is ever concerned about the "running up of the score," they will approach the score table/umpires/officials and request a "special time out" to speak to both coaches involved in the athletic event. In addition, coaches need to be cognizant of playing both boys and girls equally in any co-ed league.

SECTION VI: Practices

- i. Mandatory practices shall not be held on early release Friday's, weekends or holidays. This includes fall, winter and spring breaks.

ARTICLE IX: OFFICIATING

SECTION I: Officials

- i. The District Athletic Coordinator will designate a contract with a company that will provide officials for all sports. If the official(s) are not in attendance, the site Athletic Director or Coach will contact the District Athletic Coordinator for direction.

SECTION II: Payment of Officials

- i. All signed invoices for payment of officials should be sent to the Athletic Department within five (5) working days.

SECTION III: Conduct/Performance of Officials

- i. An official is expected to perform in accordance with recognized standards and manuals developed for officiating. Included therein is knowledge and interpretation of the rules, mechanics, personal appearance and physical conditioning. The District Athletic Coordinator will provide the Officiating Company with a copy of the TAC Handbook at the beginning of each school year for review.

ARTICLE X: GAME RULES

SECTION I: Game Rules

- i. The rules for middle school sports shall be the same rules as those governing the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) unless otherwise designated in the bylaws.
- ii. Each school in the TAC has the option of running an A team and/or a B team. 6th, 7th, and 8th graders can participate on either A or B team. However, when possible, 8th graders are encouraged to try out for the A team.

- iii. A team's who are facing forfeiting a game can utilize players for that game from the B team. Site Athletic Directors must obtain parent approval.

ARTICLE XI: SEASON OF SPORTS

SECTION I: Quarter One Sports

Coed Flag Football	-	6th, 7th, & 8th grades
Girls Volleyball	-	6th, 7th, & 8th grades

SECTION II: Quarter Two Sports

Boys Basketball	-	6th, 7th, & 8th grades
Girls Softball	-	6th, 7th, & 8th grades
Spiritline	-	6th, 7th, & 8th grades

SECTION III: Quarter Three Sports

Boys Baseball	-	6th, 7th, & 8th grades
Girls Basketball	-	6th, 7th, & 8th grades
Coed Cross Country	-	6th, 7th, & 8th grades

SECTION IV: Quarter Four Sports

Coed Soccer	-	6th, 7th, & 8th grades
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SECTION V: Tournaments (AD Meeting Tie Breaker)

- i. TAC schools are eligible for the TAC sponsored tournaments. Win/Loss records and points will be kept by the District Athletic Coordinator for all participating teams. When there are 3 teams participating, teams will be ranked by wins and losses. Tournament play will begin with the following pairing: 2 vs 1; the 3rd place team will not participate in the tournament. When there are 4 teams participating, teams will be ranked by wins and losses; tournament play will begin with the following pairings: 4 vs 1 and 3 vs 2. When there are 5 or 6 teams participating, teams will be ranked by wins and losses; tournament play will begin with the following pairings: 4 vs 1 and 3 vs 2. The 5th and 6th place teams will not participate in the tournament. **Exception – Cross Country – all teams will participate.** Finals will be played at a designated location determined by the District Athletic Coordinator. Regardless of how many games are played during the regular season at each school site, the following tie breakers will determine the seeding for the tournament. Head to head results will be the first tie breaker. After that, it will be determined by the highest winning percentage in all regular season games played. If there is still a tie, it will come down to total defensive points allowed, and finally most offensive points scored.
- ii. A JV athlete may not be moved to the varsity team for tournament play **unless** the team would otherwise have to forfeit without the JV player being moved. The JV athlete cannot play or have played in any other game on that day.
- iii. Recognition will be given for tournament championships. Team trophies will be awarded for the tournament champions.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

SECTION I: Amendments

- i. All proposed amendments or changes to the conference constitution should be submitted to the Site Athletic Director to be acted upon by the TAC Coordinating Committee. A majority vote of the TAC Coordinating Committee is needed to amend the TAC handbook.

BYLAWS: DESCRIPTION OF SPORTS

BYLAW 1: Co-Ed Flag Football

Participating Teams:

- A. Connolly Middle School (Varsity & J.V. Team)
- B. Fees College Prep Middle School (Varsity and J.V. Team)
- C. Mosley Middle School (Varsity and J.V. Team)
- D. Shamley School (J.V. Team)
- E. Combination Team of McKemy Academy of International Studies & Ward Traditional Academy (Varsity Team)

Schedule:

- A. The district's athletic coordinator will create and implement the leagues game schedule.
- B. Practices or games are scheduled to take place Monday through Thursday excluding holidays.

Coaches:

- A. Coaches will be TD#3 certified staff members.

Officiating:

- A. Tri-star Sports Officials have been contracted to provide officials for all games.
- B. Flag football games must have one official; two officials are preferred.

Team Rosters:

- A. A maximum of 20 players will be permitted per team. Coaches and site based athletic directors are responsible for team/roster selections.
- B. Boys and Girls are permitted to try out for the team.
- C. A minimum of 10 players should be eligible and suited up to play for game day. All eligible "suited up" players must be played during the game.
- D. The suggested ratio of boys & girls for playing time during a game is 5 boys and 2 girls whenever possible.
- E. 6 offensive (quarterback, 5 receivers, and the quarterback tee represents the 7th offensive player) and 7 defensive players will play in a game at a time.

Equipment:

- A. Team Jerseys, flags, and mouth guards will be supplied. Flags must be worn outside of the team jersey. Flags may not be tied or altered in any way.
- B. Coaches and site supervisors will be provided a **timing device** (stopwatch).
- C. The age appropriate [intermediate/youth size 7](#) football will be provided.
- D. Jewelry, hats, winter beanies, etc. are not permitted.
- E. Quarterback Tee
- F. Students may wear rubber cleats or tennis shoes.
 - a. Please note exposed metal cleats are not permitted.

Field Dimensions:

- A. The field will be 40 yards long by 40 yards wide. There will be one end zone that is 10 yards long by 10 yards wide.
 - a. Field dimensions may alter slightly depending on conditions and available space.

Game Clock:

- A. The game will consist of two twenty (20) minute halves with a running clock. Halftime will be five (5) minutes in duration. The clock will stop upon injury at the officials discretion.
- B. Each team is allowed two thirty (30) second timeouts. One timeout per half.
- C. Stopwatches will be used to keep track of time.
- D. It will be at the officials discretion to choose to stop the clock during the last 2 minutes of game play.

Downs/Scoring:

- A. TD#3 is adopting very similar flag football league rules to the rules created by Scottsdale Unified School District.
- B. The offensive team will have four downs to gain a first down. First down markers will be located at the 20 yard line. From or within the 20 yard line, teams will have four downs to score a touchdown.
- C. Touchdowns count as six points.
 - a. Teams may elect to go for an extra point (a passing play from the 5 yard line or a two point conversion (a passing play from the 10 yard line).
 - b. Kickoffs and kicking extra points are not permitted.
- D. **Please note, this is a non-contact game.**

Substitutions:

- A. Coaches may substitute players at any time during a dead ball.
- B. It is strongly recommended that coaches let the players know ahead of time who they are subbing in for.
- C. Players must sub into the game within 30 seconds or it will be considered an illegal substitution which will result in a loss of down pendant.

Injured Player:

- A. If a player is injured and can not move off the field of play under their own accord, The official has the ability to stop the clock and wait for the injured player to receive the appropriate first aid care.
- B. If the official notices that a player is bleeding excessively. That player must be removed from the game until the blood has stopped, the wound is covered up, and the excessively bloody uniform has been changed.

Game Day Procedures/Game Play:

- A. Similarly to soccer, team captains will meet with the officials at the center of the field prior to the game to review rules and to have a coin toss to determine which team gets the ball first. The visiting team is responsible for calling the coin toss. The winner of the toss gets to determine if they want their team to start on offense during the first or second half. If a coin is not available captains should play rock, paper, scissors, to determine who starts on offense first.
- B. All offensive positions will start at the 40 yard line regardless of where the defense stops the offense.
- C. As mentioned above the defense is required to have 7 players on the field at a time. The offense is required to have 6 players on the field at the time plus the quarterback tee. 2 offensive players are required to be on the line of scrimmage at the start of each play.
- D. TD#3 is directly adopting the rule created by the Scottsdale Unified School District in regards to the start of each play. Play will begin when the quarterback takes the ball from the quarterback tee. The quarterback will have four seconds to deliver the ball to a receiver before the play is whistled dead. An offensive player can catch the ball without a flag. However, they will be declared down right where they catch the ball.
- E. Offensive players are not allowed to hurdle a defensive player.
- F. Quarterback sneaks, direct handoffs, and running play are not permitted.
- G. Defensive players are not allowed to rush the quarterback.
- H. Please note this is a non-contact game.**
- I. All starting quarterback passes must be in front of the line of scrimmage prior to the 4 second play clock expiring. However, receivers may pitch or lateral the football to a teammate as long as it is within the 4 second time limit.
- J. Play ends when a flag is pulled or when the official blows the whistle to stop play.

Overtime:

- A. Each team will get one play from the 10 yard line to score a touchdown, The first team to score a touchdown without the other team rebutting will be declared the winner. Please note, during the regular season the game can and will end in a tie after one overtime possession. During the tournament, overtime will become sudden death. The first team to score without the other team rebutting will be declared the winner.

Penalties/ Important information:

- A. There are no fumbles. The official will call the ball dead when it touches the ground.
- B. If a defensive player intercepts the ball and does not return the ball for a touchdown, the offensive team will automatically start with the ball on the 40 yard line.
- C. Players are not allowed to hand check or flag guard.
- D. Blocking is not permitted at any time. If a player is blocking or holding an opponent, that play will be called dead and the play will be counted as a loss of down penalty. The ball will return to the original line of scrimmage.
- E. Physical contact is not allowed at any time. An official may eject a player at any time for egregious or unnecessary physical contact.
- F. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Any unsportsmanlike conduct penalties carry a 15 yard or half the distance to the goal and automatic first down penalty. Players may be warned for the first offense. However, a player or coach will be ejected for a second offense. Coaches may ask for a rule clarification. However, they are not allowed to argue or yell at an official at any time.

- G. Only one offensive player may be in motion at a time. An illegal motion penalty is when a player is moving toward the line of scrimmage before the ball is snapped. Only one player can go in motion at a time. The penalty will result in a loss of down and the ball will be retired to the original line of scrimmage. Players may not cross the line of scrimmage prior to the ball being snapped.
- H. An offensive or defensive pass interference penalty will result in a 15 yard or half the distance to goal penalty.
- I. Defensive players are not allowed to rush. If the defensive player crossed the line of scrimmage prior to the ball being passed. The offensive team will have the option of replaying the down or accepting the result of the down.
- J. A delay of game penalty will result in a loss of down.

BYLAW 2: Girls Volleyball

The rules for volleyball shall be the current edition of the National Federation of High School Rules with the following exceptions:

1. Scoring will be by the rally point system. The first two games shall be played to twenty-five (25) points. If after the conclusion of the first two games a winner is not declared a decisive third game shall be played to fifteen points (15). A team must win by a minimum of two points in all games. The first team to win two games will be declared the winner.
2. Each team will be given two (2) time-outs per game with no rollovers or continuation. The duration of each timeout should not exceed sixty (60) seconds.
3. A leather volleyball is to be used for all games.

BYLAW 3: Boys Basketball

The rules shall be the current edition of the National Federation of High School Rules with the following exceptions:

1. A regulation men's size leather ball will be used.
2. The game will consist of 2 twenty (20) minute halves with a running clock. Halftime intermission will be ten (10) minutes in duration. The clock will stop the last three (3) minutes of the game if the point differential is less than ten (10) points. This applies to regular season and tournament play.
3. Each team is allowed four (4) 60-second timeouts per game.
4. Full court press can be used at any time in an A- formerly known as varsity game unless a team is up by 15 or more points than they are not allowed to press. In a B- Formerly known as JV game full court press can only be used in the 2nd half of the game unless a team is up by 15 or more points than they are not allowed to press. If a team is down by 15 or more points in the first half they are also allowed to press. Coaches need to be consecutive to not run up the score on any team at any point in time.
5. Players are allowed five (5) fouls per game.
6. Basketball games must have at least one official; two officials are preferred.
7. A third warning for backcourt pressure will result in a technical foul, stopped clock, and possession of the ball.
8. If any overtime periods are needed for basketball, they will start after a three (3) minute intermission. A three (3) minute overtime period will follow with the clock stopping on the official whistle. Each team will be allotted an additional sixty (60) second time out. Teams may full court press during overtime. If additional overtime periods are needed, follow the same process as stated above.
9. Student athletes may not wear jewelry; this includes earrings, necklaces, and rings.
10. All players are required to wear a numbered uniform. Uniforms have to be tucked in.

BYLAW 4: Spirit-line**Safety should be the primary focus when designing routines**

Performance/routine guidelines:

1. Any tumbling performances should have spotters.
2. When possible, a safety mat should be used.
3. Squad tumbling in which more than one-half of the squad performs a tumbling skill at the same time is not permitted.
4. For safety, these athletes will remain as far away from game play as possible. They will not interfere with official or athletes' play. Depending on the site, this may include cheering from the bleachers or off to the side of the gym.
5. Teams will perform at all home games. Transportation capacity and approval from the opposing teams athletic director will determine if teams are allowed to perform at away games.
6. Schools will share halftime. Each school will be allowed to perform a short, age and school appropriate routine, approximately four (4) minutes long in duration while on the court.
7. Student athletes may not wear jewelry; this includes earrings, necklaces, and rings.

BYLAW 5: Girls Softball

The rules for girl's softball shall be the current edition of the National Federation of High School Rules with the following exceptions:

1. Players may wear either rubber cleats or metal spikes as long as player safety is emphasized by the coaches. Rubber cleats are strongly preferred.
2. All players are required to wear a hat and numbered uniform.
3. Pitchers are required to wear the face shield.
4. It is the responsibility of the head coach to make sure all players are legally and properly equipped. This includes checking bats, helmets, and catcher's gear prior to every contest. Although umpires may inspect equipment, they are no longer required to do so. Catching gear, batting helmets, and face masks will be provided by the TAC.
5. Each game shall be six (6) innings for both JV & Varsity teams.
6. A 12 - inch leather ball will be used for games, and the home team will furnish three (3) balls for each game.
7. One qualified umpire is required. Two qualified umpires are recommended for regular season and tournament play.
8. By mutual consent of both coaches, a team may bat all of their eligible players and defensively substitute freely, with the exception of the pitcher. The National Federation of High School Rules will apply to the substituting of the pitcher.
9. It is recommended for the bases to be sixty (60) feet apart, with the pitcher's rubber forty-three (43) feet from home plate.
10. Players are not allowed to slide head first unless they are returning to a base.
11. A team leading by fifteen (15) runs after three innings is declared the winner. This includes tournament play. The current inning will be completed.
12. The coaches of each team shall make-out two lineup cards for each game: one for the opposing coach and the other for the umpire. These lineup cards shall be exchanged before the beginning of the game.
13. No new inning should begin AFTER seventy five (75) minutes from the beginning of the game. The current inning will be completed before the game is called. In the first inning, when the visiting team bats, they are permitted to score a maximum of seven (7) runs before three (3) outs occur. When the home team bats in the bottom of the inning, they may continue to bat until they tie the current score plus an additional seven (7) runs or 3 (3) outs. No runners will count after the seventh run scores. Teams are limited to seven (7) runs per inning after reaching a tie score. In the bottom of the last inning, the home team only needs to score as many runs as needed to tie plus one (1) run to win.
14. A game that is called due to weather or unplayable conditions will count as an official game if three (3) innings are completed. Any game that does not make it past the 3rd inning will not count as an official game. The game will be made up or canceled depending on a decision from the District Athletic Coordinator.

15. During tournament play, a game may not end in a tie. Extra inning(s) shall be played until the tie is broken. Each team will begin the extra inning(s) with a runner on second base. The runner shall be the last out from the previous inning.
16. Adult coaches may occupy both base-coaching boxes. If a student athlete is occupying the coaching box, they must wear a batting helmet with ear protection.
17. It is highly recommended that pitchers and corner infielders wear protective face masks while playing the field.
18. Eight (8) players are needed to start and finish a game.
19. Student athletes may not wear jewelry; this includes earrings, necklaces, and rings.

BYLAW 6: Boys Baseball

The rules for boy's baseball shall be the current edition of the National Federation of High School Rules with the following exceptions:

1. Players may wear either rubber cleats or metal spikes as long as player safety is emphasized by the coaches. Rubber cleats are strongly preferred.
2. It is the responsibility of the head coach to make sure all players are legally and properly equipped. This includes checking bats, helmets, and catcher's gear prior to every contest. Catching gear, batting helmets, and face masks will be provided by the TAC. Catchers have to wear a safety cup.
3. The home team will provide three (3) leather baseballs for games.
4. In alignment with legislation and policy from the AIA, pitchers may pitch a maximum of ninety five (95) pitches per game. With one (1) day of rest a pitcher can pitch a max. of thirty five (35) pitches, with two (2) days of rest a max. of fifty (50) pitches, with three (3) days of rest a max. of sixty five (65) pitches, with four (4) days of rest a max. of ninety five (95) pitches per game.
5. It is recommended that JV & Varsity pitching distance shall be fifty-four (54) feet with base path distance of eighty (80) feet.
6. Players that start a game can be substituted for one time and be permitted to return to the game (this includes the pitcher), and bat in their original position.
7. Coaches may use a free substitute runner for the catcher.
8. A team leading by ten (10) runs after four (4) innings or twenty (20) runs at any time, is declared the winner. This includes tournament play.
9. Adult coaches may occupy both base-coaching boxes. If a student athlete is occupying the coaching box, they must wear a batting helmet with ear protection.
10. One qualified umpire is required. Two qualified umpires are recommended for regular season and tournament play.
11. A team may use a designated hitter.
12. The game shall be six (6) innings. A game will be complete only if four (4) complete innings are played, if the home team is behind, or the 15-run rule is in effect. Games shall not be stopped in the middle of an inning (unless safety is a concern).
13. The coaches of each team shall make-out two lineup cards for each game: one for the opposing coach and the other for the umpire. These lineup cards shall be exchanged before the beginning of the game.
14. No new inning should begin AFTER seventy five (75 minutes) has passed since the beginning of the game. The current inning will be completed before the game is called. A regular season game can end in a tie. In the first inning, when the visiting team bats, they are permitted to score a maximum of seven (7) runs before three (3) outs occur. When the home team bats in the bottom of the inning, they may continue to bat until they tie the current score plus an additional seven (7) runs or (3) outs occur. No runners will count after the seventh run scores. Teams are limited to seven (7) runs per inning after reaching a tie score. In the bottom of the last inning, the home team only needs to score as many runs as needed to tie plus one (1) run to win.
15. A game that is called due to weather or unplayable conditions will count as an official game if three (3) innings are completed. Any game that does not make it past the 3rd inning will not count as an official game. The game will be made up or canceled depending on a decision from the District Athletic Coordinator.

16. During tournament play, a game may not end in a tie. Extra inning(s) shall be played until the tie is broken. Each team will begin the extra inning(s) with a runner on second base. The runner shall be the last out from the previous inning.
17. Eight (8) players are needed to start and finish a game.

BYLAW 7: Girls Basketball

The rules shall be the current edition of the National Federation of High School Rules with the following exceptions:

1. A regulation women's (28 1/2") size leather ball will be used.
2. The game will consist of two twenty (20) minute halves with a running clock. Halftime will be ten (10) minutes in duration. The clock will stop the last two (2) minutes of the game if the point differential is less than ten (10) points. This applies to regular season and tournament play.
3. Each team is allowed four (4) 60 second timeouts per game.
4. In a A league, formerly known as varsity games, full court press can be used at any time, unless a team is up by 15 or more points, then they are not allowed to press. In a B. league, formerly known as J.V., teams can only full court press in the second half. If a team is up by 15 or more points they are not allowed to press at any time. If a team is down by 15 or more points in the first half they are allowed to press. This applies to regular season and tournament play.
5. Legal numbers 0-50 will be used.
6. Basketball games must have at least one official; two officials are preferred.
7. A third warning for backcourt pressure will result in a technical foul, clock stopping and possession of the ball being awarded to the team shooting the technical.
8. If any overtime periods are needed for basketball, they will start after a three (3) minute intermission. A three (3) minute overtime period will follow with the clock stopping. Each team will be allotted an additional 60-second (full) time out. Teams may full court press during overtime. If additional overtime periods are needed, follow the same process as stated above.
9. Student athletes may not wear jewelry; this includes earrings, necklaces, and rings.

BYLAW 8: Boys & Girls Cross Country

The rules for cross-country shall be the current edition of the National Federation of High School Rules for cross-country with the following exceptions:

1. The course will be 1.5 miles (+/-) for both boys and girls.
2. Coaches and non-participants shall not run alongside their athletes during a meet. Athletes and parents may stand along the course to support runners.
3. The first five (5) runners from each team will be scored. In case of a tie, the sixth runner will be the tiebreaker. All runners will be provided a label with their name and school listed on it. The athlete will wear this label during the race. After the athlete crosses the finish line, they will remove the label and place it on the back of the scorecards. The scorecard will then be returned to the scorekeeper. The District Athletic Coordinator will provide the labels to the schools prior to the first meet.
4. During tournament play, a designated team will provide a timekeeper, cones to line the course, scorecards, and someone to collect the scorecards. This will be a rotating schedule.
5. The strict uniform rule does not need to be followed, as long as team members can be identified as being a member of their team.
6. Student athletes may not wear jewelry; this includes earrings, necklaces, and rings.

BYLAW 9: Co-Ed Soccer

The rules for soccer shall be the current edition of the National Federation of High School Rules for Soccer with the following exceptions:

1. Four – 15 minute running quarters with a five (5) minute water break after the first and third quarter. A ten (10) minute break will occur at halftime.
2. Each team will be permitted one (1) timeout per half. The time-out will last-no more than three (3) minutes.
3. The referee will stop the timer when a player is injured
4. Two officials are suggested in regular season play and three for tournament play.
5. Eleven (11) players are permitted on the field at one time. You may continue to play a game shorthanded with a minimum of seven (7) players. If the minimum seven (7) players for the game are not met, the game will be forfeited. If possible, the preferred ratio is 8 boys and 3 girls.
6. If an athlete receives a RED card in a game, he/she will not be eligible for the next game (whether it is a regular season or tournament game). The student is also subject to school discipline based on their actions and the Tempe Elementary Student Handbook.
7. If the game ends in a tie, a shootout will take place. Each coach will select five (5) kickers from their team to participate in the shoot-out. A coin will be tossed to determine who goes first. The host team will call the toss. A single elimination rock paper scissors match between team captains will be utilized to determine who goes first, if a coin is not available. The team with the most goals from the shoot-out will be declared the winner. If the score is tied at the end of the shoot-out, it will go into sudden death. The coach will select one additional kicker as necessary. The next team to score without a rebuttal during the same sequence of kickers will be declared the winner. The team who won the coin toss or the rock paper scissors match will have the first attempt.
8. A game that is called due to weather, at halftime or beyond, by the referees and the Principal/Assistant Principal/TOSA/Designated Staff Member will be considered a completed game. Therefore, it will count in the standings. If the game is called at any time before halftime it will be made up or canceled.
9. The strict uniform rule does not need to be followed, as long as team members can be identified as being a member of their team. It is recommended that the goalie wear a different color uniform from the team uniform.
10. All athletes must wear shin guards.
11. Student athletes may not wear jewelry; this includes earrings, necklaces, and rings.

ARTICLE XIII: Appeals

An appeal process has been established for any individual or group who has an appeal of original jurisdiction and who is adversely impacted by a decision of the Tempe Athletic Conference (TAC). The appeal process will be followed through Step 4 or until the stakeholder is accommodated. The following steps must be followed to appeal a TAC decision:

Step 1- Conference with School Site Athletic Director

Step 2- Conference with District Athletic Coordinator

Step 3- Letter of Appeal submitted to TAC Coordinating Committee for review

- i. The stakeholder or group who has been adversely impacted must submit a letter of appeal to the TAC Coordinating Committee within ten (10) working days of meeting with the District Athletic Coordinator.
- ii. The letter of appeal must specify the following:
 1. The decision being disputed and information regarding the issue
 2. The adverse impact created by the decision
 3. The desired outcome
- iii. TAC Coordinating Committee will assure that the appeal qualifies for a hearing in front of the TAC Coordinating Committee. To qualify for a hearing, the TAC Coordinating Committee must find the above criteria have been met and the issue cannot be resolved to the stakeholders satisfaction.

Step 4- Ten-minute presentation to the TAC Coordinating Committee

- i. If granted a hearing, the stakeholder or group representative will have the opportunity to give a ten (10) minute oral presentation at the next regularly scheduled TAC Coordinating Committee meeting.
- ii. The TAC Coordinating Committee may make a decision to grant or deny the appeal at the same meeting, or take the matter under advisement for a decision at the next regular meeting, or schedule a special meeting to address the issue. A majority vote of members present at the oral presentation is required in order to overturn a previous decision of the TAC Coordinating Committee. The District Athletic Coordinator will inform the stakeholder or group of the TAC Coordinating Committee's decision. The decision of the TAC Coordinating Committee is final.

*Note: TAC Coordinating Committee decisions may only be appealed once, unless new insight or circumstances arise. There are no further appeals beyond Step 4. The TAC Coordinating Committee has the right to deny any appeal that has been previously addressed. Precedence from previous decisions will be reflected in the TAC Coordinating Committee's decisions

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SPORT TRANSFER FORM

STUDENT: _____

HOME SCHOOL: _____

GRADE: _____

HAS COMPLETED PHYSICAL & PARTICIPATION PACKET: YES NO
A COPY OF THE PARTICIPATION PACKET MUST BE ATTACHED.

CURRENT GRADES:

SUBJECT	GRADE

THE PARENT WILL ACCEPT ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSPORTATION.

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

YES THIS STUDENT HAS PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN:

_____ AT _____
(SPORT) (SCHOOL)

SITE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____