A bill to be entitled

An act relating to extracurricular activities; amending s. 1001.43, F.S.; authorizing district school boards to adopt policies for the use of certain funds to provide funding to specified persons relating to extracurricular activities; prohibiting such funds from being used as severance pay or compensation; amending s. 1006.15, F.S.; providing and revising definitions; revising eligibility requirements for a student to participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity; providing construction; deleting obsolete provisions; requiring that insurance provided by district school boards for participants in extracurricular activities cover any eligible student; deleting requirements for the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) to facilitate a program for private school students to participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic sport; requiring the athletic director or other appropriate administrator to maintain student records for all eligible students participating in interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activities at a member school; revising requirements for a student to apply to participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular

activity at certain schools; authorizing a public school to assess an activity fee for certain students; providing a limitation on a specified fee assessed by a public school; requiring parents to provide transportation to and from the school for their students; providing indemnity for a school and district school board under specified circumstances; prohibiting a student from participating in interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activities at two different schools within the same school year unless the student meets specified criteria; requiring the governing organization to provide a certain determination of eligibility within a specified timeframe; requiring the governing organization to adopt specified bylaws; authorizing the governing organization to adopt additional bylaws; deleting provisions providing requirements for certain student transfers; amending s. 1002.31, F.S.; deleting obsolete language; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference and provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 1006.195, F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending s. 1006.20, F.S.; requiring the FHSAA to adopt, maintain, and enforce specified manuals or handbooks; requiring the FHSAA to ensure

that athletes may request certain exemptions or accommodations; requiring the FHSAA to provide accommodations under certain circumstances; authorizing a student who is denied certain eligibility to appeal a decision made by the governing organization; requiring the governing organization to adopt bylaws to establish a timeline for an appeals process; providing a limitation on such timelines; authorizing the executive director of the FHSAA to rule on specified appeals; amending s. 1012.01, F.S.; including extracurricular athletic administrators in the broad classification of K-12 administrative personnel; authorizing district school superintendents to negotiate specified compensation; providing requirements for such compensation; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (i) is added to subsection (2) of section 1001.43, Florida Statutes, to read:

1001.43 Supplemental powers and duties of district school board.—The district school board may exercise the following supplemental powers and duties as authorized by this code or State Board of Education rule.

(2) FISCAL MANAGEMENT.—The district school board may adopt policies providing for fiscal management of the school district with respect to school purchasing, facilities, nonstate revenue sources, budgeting, fundraising, and other activities relating to the fiscal management of district resources, including, but not limited to, the policies governing:

(i) Use of voluntary donations and revenues generated by authorized booster clubs or associations to provide funds to athletic coaches, activity directors, or activity sponsors of an extracurricular activity supported by the booster club or association. Any policy authorizing payment by booster clubs or associations may not control the provision of funds except that such funds may not be used for severance pay or for compensation as defined in s. 1012.22 and must comply with all applicable laws.

Section 2. Section 1006.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.15 Student standards for participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular student activities; regulation.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Craig Dickinson Act."

(2) DETERMINATION.—Interscholastic extracurricular student activities are an important complement to the academic curriculum. Participation in a comprehensive extracurricular and

academic program contributes to student development of the social and intellectual skills necessary to become a well-rounded adult. As used in this section, the term "extracurricular" means any school-authorized or education-related activity occurring during or outside the regular instructional school day. In the determination of whether a school offers an activity or a sport, the activity or sport must meet the designation requirements of s. 1006.205(3)(a).

(3) ~~(a)~~ DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section and s. 1006.20, the term:

(a) "Eligible student" means a home education student, charter school student, private school student, Florida Virtual School student, alternative school student, or traditional public school student who wishes to participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity.

(b) "Eligible to participate":

1. Includes, but is not limited to, a student participating in any of the following:

a. Tryouts.~~,~~

b. Off-season conditioning.~~,~~

c. Summer workouts.~~,~~

d. Preseason conditioning.~~,~~

e. In-season practice.~~,~~

f. ~~or~~ Contests.

2. ~~The term~~ Does not mean that a student must be placed on

any specific team for interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activities.

(c) "Extracurricular" means any school-authorized or education-related activity occurring during or outside the regular instructional school day.

(d) "Governing organization" means any organization that governs the interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity of a school, including, but not limited to, the Florida High School Athletic Association.

(4) ELIGIBILITY.—

(a) To be eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular student activities, a student must:

1. Maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the previous semester or a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 1002.3105(5) or s. 1003.4282.

2. Execute and fulfill the requirements of an academic performance contract between the student, the district school board, the appropriate governing association, and the student's parents, if the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0, or its equivalent, on a 4.0 scale in the courses required by s. 1002.3105(5) or s. 1003.4282. At a minimum, the contract must require that the student attend summer school, or its graded equivalent, between grades 9 and 10 or grades 10 and

11, as necessary.

3. Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 1002.3105(5) or s. 1003.4282 during his or her junior or senior year.

4. Maintain satisfactory conduct, including adherence to appropriate dress and other codes of student conduct policies described in s. 1006.07(2). If a student is convicted of, or is found to have committed, a felony or a delinquent act that would have been a felony if committed by an adult, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, the student's participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is contingent upon established and published district school board policy.

(b) Any student who is exempt from attending a full school day based on rules adopted by the district school board for double session schools or programs, experimental schools, or schools operating under emergency conditions must maintain the grade point average required by this section and pass each class for which he or she is enrolled.

(c) A home education student must meet the requirements of the home education program pursuant to s. 1002.41.

1. During the period of participation at a school, the home education student must demonstrate educational progress as required in paragraph (b) in all subjects taken in the home education program by a method of evaluation agreed upon by the

parent and the school principal, which evaluation may include review of the student's work by a certified teacher chosen by the parent; grades earned through correspondence; grades earned in courses taken at a Florida College System institution, state university, or district career center; standardized test scores above the 35th percentile; or any other method designated in s. 1002.41.

2. The home education student must meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance as required of other students in extracurricular activities.

3. A student who transfers from a home education program to a public school before or during the first grading period of the school year is academically eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities during the first grading period, provided the student has a successful evaluation from the previous school year pursuant to subparagraph 1.

(d) ~~(c)1.~~ A ~~An individual home education~~ student is eligible to participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity at the school in which he or she is enrolled.

(e) An eligible student may participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity at a school other than the school in which the student is enrolled if:

1. The school in which the student is enrolled does not

offer the same interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity or the student is in a home education program; and

2. The school at which the student will participate in the interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity is located in the school district in which the student resides.

(f) If no public or charter schools in the district in which the student resides offer the interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity, and an agreement cannot be reached with a private school in the district in which the student resides, the student may participate at a public, charter, or private school that is appropriate for the student's grade level located outside of his or her school district. The school at which the student participates pursuant to this paragraph must be in a school district adjacent to the school district in which the student resides.

(g) If a student has exhausted all options outlined above for participation in an interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity, the student may petition the executive director of the applicable governing organization to explore options for participation at a school not otherwise authorized by this section.

(h) For purposes of this subsection, any participation by an eligible student at a private school other than the school in which the student is enrolled must be pursuant to an agreement

between the private school and the student. ~~at the public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies or which the student could choose to attend pursuant to s. 1002.31, or may develop an agreement to participate at a private school, in the interscholastic extracurricular activities of that school, provided the following conditions are met:~~

~~a. The home education student must meet the requirements of the home education program pursuant to s. 1002.41.~~

~~b. During the period of participation at a school, the home education student must demonstrate educational progress as required in paragraph (b) in all subjects taken in the home education program by a method of evaluation agreed upon by the parent and the school principal which may include: review of the student's work by a certified teacher chosen by the parent; grades earned through correspondence; grades earned in courses taken at a Florida College System institution, university, or trade school; standardized test scores above the 35th percentile; or any other method designated in s. 1002.41.~~

~~c. The home education student must meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he or she participates.~~

~~d. The home education student must meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance as required of other students in extracurricular activities.~~

~~e. The student must register with the school his or her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities as a representative of the school before participation. A home education student must be able to participate in curricular activities if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.~~

~~f. A student who transfers from a home education program to a public school before or during the first grading period of the school year is academically eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities during the first grading period provided the student has a successful evaluation from the previous school year, pursuant to sub-subparagraph b.~~

~~g. Any public school or private school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is ineligible to participate in such activities as a home education student until the student has successfully completed one grading period in home education pursuant to sub-subparagraph b. to become eligible to participate as a home education student.~~

~~2. An individual home education student is eligible to participate on an interscholastic athletic team at any public school in the school district in which the student resides, provided the student meets the conditions specified in sub-subparagraphs 1.a.-g.~~

~~(d) An individual charter school student pursuant to s.~~

~~1002.33 is eligible to participate at the public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies or which the student could attend, or may develop an agreement to participate at a private school, in any interscholastic extracurricular activity of that school, unless such activity is provided by the student's charter school, if the following conditions are met:~~

~~1. The charter school student must meet the requirements of the charter school education program as determined by the charter school governing board.~~

~~2. During the period of participation at a school, the charter school student must demonstrate educational progress as required in paragraph (b).~~

~~3. The charter school student must meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he or she participates.~~

~~4. The charter school student must meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance that are required of other students in extracurricular activities.~~

~~5. The charter school student must register with the school his or her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities as a representative of the school before participation. A charter school student must be able to participate in curricular activities if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.~~

~~6. A student who transfers from a charter school program to a traditional public school before or during the first grading period of the school year is academically eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities during the first grading period if the student has a successful evaluation from the previous school year pursuant to subparagraph 2.~~

~~7. Any public school or private school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is ineligible to participate in such activities as a charter school student until the student has successfully completed one grading period in a charter school pursuant to subparagraph 2. to become eligible to participate as a charter school student.~~

~~(c) A student of the Florida Virtual School full-time program may participate in any interscholastic extracurricular activity at the public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies or which the student could choose to attend pursuant to s. 1002.31, or may develop an agreement to participate at a private school, if the student:~~

~~1. During the period of participation in the interscholastic extracurricular activity, meets the requirements in paragraph (a).~~

~~2. Meets any additional requirements as determined by the~~

~~board of trustees of the Florida Virtual School.~~

~~3. Meets the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he or she participates.~~

~~4. Meets the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance that are required of other students in extracurricular activities.~~

~~5. Registers his or her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities with the school before participation. A Florida Virtual school student must be able to participate in curricular activities if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.~~

~~(f) A student who transfers from the Florida Virtual School full-time program to a traditional public school before or during the first grading period of the school year is academically eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities during the first grading period if the student has a successful evaluation from the previous school year pursuant to paragraph (a).~~

~~(g) A public school or private school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is ineligible to participate in such activities as a Florida Virtual School student until the student successfully completes one grading period in the Florida Virtual School pursuant to paragraph (a).~~

~~(h) A student in a full-time virtual instruction program~~

~~under s. 1002.45, including the full-time Florida Virtual School program, a full-time school district virtual instruction program, or a full-time virtual charter school, is eligible to participate on an interscholastic athletic team at any public school in the school district in which the student resides, or may develop an agreement to participate at a private school, provided the student:~~

~~1. During the period of participation in the interscholastic extracurricular activity, meets the requirements in paragraph (a);~~

~~2. Meets any additional requirements as determined by the board of trustees of the Florida Virtual School, the district school board, or the governing board of the virtual charter school, as applicable;~~

~~3. Meets the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he or she participates;~~

~~4. Meets the same standards of athletic team acceptance, behavior, and performance which are required of other students in extracurricular activities; and~~

~~5. Registers his or her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities with the school before participation.~~

~~(i) An individual traditional public school student who is otherwise eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities may either participate in any such~~

~~activity at any public school in the school district in which the student resides or develop an agreement to participate in such activity at a private school, unless the activity is provided by the student's traditional public school. Such student must:~~

~~1. Meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance that are required of other students in extracurricular activities at the school at which the student wishes to participate.~~

~~2. Before participation, register with the school his or her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities as a representative of the school. The student must be able to participate in curricular activities if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.~~

~~(j)1. A school district or charter school may not delay eligibility or otherwise prevent a student participating in controlled open enrollment, or a choice program, from being immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities.~~

~~2. A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in that same sport at another school during that school year, unless the student meets one of the following criteria:~~

~~a. Dependent children of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders.~~

~~b. Children who have been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone.~~

~~c. Children who move due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent.~~

~~d. Authorized for good cause in district or charter school policy.~~

(5)~~(4)~~ BEGINNING APPLICABILITY.—The student standards for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities must be applied beginning with the student's first semester of the 9th grade. Each student must meet such other requirements for participation as may be established by the district school board; however, a district school board may not establish requirements for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities which make participation in such activities less accessible to home education students than to other students. ~~Except as set forth in paragraph (3)(c), evaluation processes or requirements that are placed on home education student participants may not go beyond those that apply under s. 1002.41 to home education students generally.~~

(6)~~(5)~~ GOVERNING ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES.—All governing organizations ~~Any organization or entity that regulates or governs interscholastic extracurricular activities of public schools~~:

(a) Shall permit home education associations to join as

member schools.

(b) May ~~Shall~~ not discriminate against any eligible student based on an educational choice of public, private, or home education.

(7) ~~(6)~~ PROHIBITED MEMBERSHIPS.—Public schools are prohibited from membership in any governing organization that ~~or entity which regulates or governs interscholastic extracurricular activities and~~ discriminates against eligible students in public, private, or home education.

(8) ~~(7)~~ INSURANCE.—Any insurance provided by district school boards for participants in extracurricular activities must ~~shall~~ cover any eligible ~~the participating home education~~ student. ~~If there is an additional premium for such coverage, the participating home education student shall pay the premium.~~

~~(8)(a) The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) shall, in cooperation with each district school board and its member private schools, facilitate a program in which a middle school or high school student who attends a private school is eligible to participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic sport at a member public high school, a member public middle school, a member 6-12 public school, or a member private school, as appropriate for the private school student's grade level, if:~~

~~1. The private school in which the student is enrolled is not a member of the FHSAA or the private school in which the~~

~~student is enrolled is a member of the FHSAA and does not offer the sport in which the student wishes to participate.~~

~~2. The private school student meets the guidelines for the conduct of the program established by the FHSAA's board of directors and the district school board or member private school. At a minimum, such guidelines must provide a deadline for each sport by which the private school student's parents must register with the member school in writing their intent for their child to participate at that school in the sport.~~

~~(b) The parents of a private school student participating in a member school sport under this subsection are responsible for transporting their child to and from the member school at which the student participates. The private school the student attends, the member school at which the student participates in a sport, the district school board, and the FHSAA are exempt from civil liability arising from any injury that occurs to the student during such transportation.~~

~~(c) For each academic year, a private school student may only participate at the member school in which the student is first registered under subparagraph (a)2. or makes himself or herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in a practice.~~

(9) SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(a)~~(d)~~ The athletic director or other appropriate administrator of each ~~participating FHSAA member~~ school shall

maintain the ~~student~~ records necessary for eligibility, compliance, and participation for all eligible students participating in interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activities at the school ~~in the program~~.

(b) ~~(c)~~ Any ~~private~~ school that has a student who is seeking ~~wishes~~ to participate in interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activities at another school ~~this program~~ must make all ~~student~~ records related to that student, including, but not limited to, academic, financial, disciplinary, and attendance records, available upon request of the governing organization ~~FHSAA~~.

(c) Each public school may assess an activity fee to a student who is not enrolled but is eligible to participate pursuant to this section, provided that such fee does not exceed the greater of the following:

1. the fee students enrolled at the school pay to participate in the activity; or

2. a reasonable fee based on the costs to the school not to exceed $400 per activity.

Activity fees developed pursuant to subparagraph 2. must be approved by the district school board or charter school governing board, as appropriate, and each public school must annually publish a complete list of such fees, by activity, on its website at the beginning of the school year.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c), a home education student, pursuant to s. 1002.41, or a public school student participating at a public school at which they are not enrolled, may only be assessed the fee paid by students enrolled at the school to participate in the activity.

(e) The parents of the student participating in the interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity must provide for the transportation of the student to and from the school at which the student participates. The school in which the student is enrolled, the school at which the student participates in the extracurricular activity, and the district school board are exempt from civil liability arising from any injury that occurs to the student during such transportation.

(10) STUDENT TRANSFERS.—

(a) A student may not participate in sports at two different schools during the same school year, unless the student:

1. Is a dependent child of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders;

2. Has been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone;

3. Has moved due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent; or

4. Has been granted approval by the applicable governing

organization's executive director.

(b) The governing organization must provide a determination of eligibility to the requesting student within 14 days after such a request is made.

(c) The governing organization shall adopt bylaws establishing criteria for determining eligibility of students pursuant to this section and an appeals procedure equivalent to the appeals procedure set forth in s. 1006.20(7).

(11) APPLICABILITY.—Any organization that conducts a school-related or school support-related function or activity is subject to the requirements of this section.

(12) BYLAWS.—The governing organization may adopt additional bylaws to implement this section.

~~(f) A student must apply to participate in this program through the FHSAA program application process.~~

~~(9)(a) A student who transfers to a school during the school year may seek to immediately join an existing team if the roster for the specific interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity has not reached the activity's identified maximum size and if the coach for the activity determines that the student has the requisite skill and ability to participate. The FHSAA and school district or charter school may not declare such a student ineligible because the student did not have the opportunity to comply with qualifying requirements.~~

~~(b) A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in that same sport at another school during that school year, unless the student meets one of the following criteria:~~

~~1. Dependent children of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders.~~

~~2. Children who have been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone.~~

~~3. Children who move due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent.~~

~~4. Authorized for good cause in district or charter school policy.~~

~~(10) A student who participates in an interscholastic or intrascholastic activity at a public school and who transfers from that school during the school year must be allowed to continue to participate in the activity at that school for the remainder of the school year if:~~

~~(a) During the period of participation in the activity, the student continues to meet the requirements specified in paragraph (3)(a).~~

~~(b) The student continues to meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance which are required of other students participating in the activity, except for enrollment requirements at the school at which the student~~

~~participates.~~

~~(c) The parents of the student participating in the activity provide for the transportation of the student to and from the school at which the student participates. The school the student attends, the school at which the student participates in the activity, and the district school board are exempt from civil liability arising from any injury that occurs to the student during such transportation.~~

Section 3. Subsection (6) of section 1002.31, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.31 Controlled open enrollment; public school parental choice.—

(6)~~(a)~~ A school district or charter school may not delay eligibility or otherwise prevent a student participating in controlled open enrollment or a choice program from being immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities, except as provided under s. 1006.15.

~~(b) A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in that same sport at another school during that school year, unless the student meets one of the following criteria:~~

~~1. Dependent children of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders.~~

~~2. Children who have been relocated due to a foster care~~

~~placement in a different school zone.~~

~~3. Children who move due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent.~~

~~4. Authorized for good cause in district or charter school policy.~~

Section 4. Subsection (11) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.—

(11) PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.—A charter school student is eligible to participate in an interscholastic extracurricular activity ~~at the public school to which the student would be otherwise assigned to attend, or may develop an agreement to participate at a private school,~~ pursuant to s. 1006.15 ~~s. 1006.15(3)(d)~~.

Section 5. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of section 1006.195, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1006.195 District school board, charter school authority and responsibility to establish student eligibility regarding participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities.—Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in ss. 1006.15, 1006.18, and 1006.20, regarding student eligibility to participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities:

(1)(a) A district school board shall ~~must~~ establish,

through its code of student conduct, student eligibility standards and related student disciplinary actions regarding student participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities. The code of student conduct must provide that:

1. A student not currently suspended from interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activities, or suspended or expelled from school, pursuant to a district school board's suspension or expulsion powers provided in law, including ss. 1006.07, 1006.08, and 1006.09, is eligible to participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities.

2. A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in that same sport at another school during that school year, unless the student meets the criteria in s. 1006.15(10)(a) ~~s. 1006.15(3)(j)~~.

3. A student's eligibility to participate in any interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity may not be affected by any alleged recruiting violation until final disposition of the allegation pursuant to s. 1006.20(2)(b).

(b) Students who participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities for, but are not enrolled in, a public school pursuant to s. 1006.15(4) ~~s. 1006.15(3)(c)-(e) and (8),~~ are subject to the district school board's code of student conduct for the limited purpose of establishing and maintaining the student's eligibility to

participate at the school.

Section 6. Paragraph (e) of subsection (7) of section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (o) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

(2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS, POLICIES, OR GUIDELINES.—

(o) The FHSAA shall adopt, maintain, and enforce sport-specific manuals or handbooks that govern interscholastic competition. The manuals or handbooks may include, but are not limited to, timing, scoring, equipment, officiating, and athlete safety. The FHSAA must ensure that athletes may request exemptions or accommodations from real-time scoring requirements not later than 72 hours before a sanctioned event. If a request is made within the prescribed time, the FHSAA must provide access to accommodations for such participants.

(7) APPEALS.—

(e) A student athlete or member school that receives an unfavorable ruling from a committee on appeals or the executive director shall be entitled to appeal that decision to the board of directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting or called meeting. The FHSAA's bylaws must establish a timeline for appeals relating to eligibility which may not exceed 20 days after the date of receipt of the appeal. The board of directors shall have the authority to uphold, reverse, or amend the decision of the committee on appeals or the executive director.

In all such cases, the decision of the board of directors shall be final.

Section 7. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (3) of section 1012.01, Florida Statutes, to read:

1012.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL.—"Administrative personnel" includes K-12 personnel who perform management activities such as developing broad policies for the school district and executing those policies through the direction of personnel at all levels within the district. Administrative personnel are generally high-level, responsible personnel who have been assigned the responsibilities of systemwide or schoolwide functions, such as district school superintendents, assistant superintendents, deputy superintendents, school principals, assistant principals, career center directors, and others who perform management activities. Broad classifications of K-12 administrative personnel are as follows:

(d) Extracurricular activities administrator.—Included in this classification is any athletic director or coach or any activity director or sponsor specified by the district school superintendent at the request of the individual. The district school superintendent may negotiate individual compensation in excess of compensation otherwise awardable pursuant to s. 1012.22. Such compensation may not exceed the compensation of

the highest paid administrator in the district.

Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.