



National Honor Society of Sports Medicine

Revised: May 10, 2008

The text below contains the National Constitution under which all National Honor Society of Sports Medicine (NHSSM) for secondary schools/high schools will dictate chapter operations.

Local chapters of NHSSM are given authority to vary from some sections of this document

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the National Honor Society of Sports Medicine (NHSSM) for secondary schools.

Section 2. The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship in the area of Sports Medicine and other fields directly related to Sports Medicine, to stimulate a desire to render service in the community, to promote leadership, and to assist in the development of character in the students of secondary schools. The organization is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE II: THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Section 1. The control of this organization shall be vested in the NHSSM National Council.

Section 2. The NHSSM National Council shall consist of **a minimum of 5 members** nominated and then elected by the presidents of local chapters (the officers shall be designated as *President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian*).

- a. The President of the National Council must be a Certified Athletic Trainer, in good standing with the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), and the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification (BOC).
- b. The NHSSM National Council **will be expanded to 11 members** when such a time is prudent. At such time, voting as described in Article II. Sec.2 will be followed for the new members of the board. The new members will be designated as Parliamentarian, Membership Chair, Public Relations Chair, Honors & Awards Chair, Member at Large 1, Member at Large 2 (Members at large will head special committees as deemed necessary by the president).

Section 3. Members shall be elected for a term of no more than three (3) years.

Section 4. Elections will only occur every three years. If a NHSSM Council member steps down or resigns, an individual will be appointed by the President of the NHSSM National Council for the remainder of that term.

- a. If the President steps down or resigns, the Vice President will be sworn in as President for the remainder of that term. At that point the new President will appoint a Vice President to fill the vacancy created.

Section 5. Members may be elected multiple times.

Section 6. A simple majority of members shall constitute a quorum of the NHSSM National Council.

Section 7. A NHSSM National Council majority vote by a quorum will be the decision making tool utilized to set/change policy and procedures for the organization.

ARTICLE III: STATE/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. Local chapters may choose to organize state associations.

Section 2. Any state or regional association of National Honor Society of Sports Medicine chapters shall conform to this Constitution and shall work to further the purpose of this organization.

Section 3. All state and/or regional associations shall be affiliated with the National Honor Society of Sports Medicine.

Section 4. The state and/or regional affiliate shall not serve as an appeal board for local chapter nonselection or dismissal cases.

Section 5. Bylaws of the state or regional associations must be approved by the Secretary of the National Honor Society of Sports Medicine National Council and must be consistent with this Constitution.

ARTICLE IV: LOCAL CHAPTERS

Section 1. Any secondary public school accredited or approved by state departments of education or by accrediting agencies is eligible to apply for a charter for a local chapter. Nonpublic secondary schools accredited or approved by state departments of education or by accrediting agencies approved by the National Council are also eligible to apply for a charter for a local chapter. Each school shall have its own chapter except in cases where a school's size precludes the formation of a full Faculty Council. In such cases, a chapter can be shared as long as all other constitutional requirements can be met.

Section 2. Each chapter shall pay a initial fee of \$75.00 which has been determined by the NHSSM National Council. This fee will also be considered your 1st year chapter dues.

Section 3. Each chapter shall pay annual chapter dues of \$50.00 which has been determined by the NHSSM and approved by the NHSSM National Council.

Section 4. The annual individual member dues paid to a chapter or state affiliate, if any, shall not exceed \$30.00 dollars inclusively. The exact amount shall be determined by the executive committee of the chapter and shall be subject to the approval of the chapter membership.

Section 5. Duly chartered local chapters shall conform to this Constitution as set forth by the National Council. Failure to do so may result in the loss of the charter.

ARTICLE V: THE PRINCIPAL/ADMINISTRATOR

Section 1. The principal/administrator, of each individual school (ROP/SLC/or Academy), shall reserve the right to approve all activities and decisions of the chapter.

Section 2. The principal/administrator, of each individual school (ROP/SLC/or Academy), shall annually appoint a member of the faculty as chapter advisor, who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 3. The principal/administrator, of each individual school (ROP/SLC/or Academy), shall receive appeals in cases of nonselection of candidates, and the disciplining or dismissal of members.

ARTICLE VI: THE CHAPTER ADVISOR

Section 1. The chapter advisor shall be the faculty member (i.e. the certified athletic trainer) teaching the academic course of each individual school (ROP/SLC/or Academy). The advisor shall be responsible for the direct, day-to-day supervision of the chapter and act as liaison between faculty, administration, students, and community.

a. If the Faculty member is not a certified athletic trainer, then a certified athletic trainer must be a member of the Advisory Council. The certified athletic trainer must endorse the individual school's Sports Medicine program.

b. An endorsing certified athletic trainer must be a member in good standing of the NATA.

Section 2. The chapter advisor shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions. The chapter advisor shall send the annual report to the national office.

Section 3. The chapter advisor shall regularly review each member for compliance with Society standards and obligations.

Section 4. The chapter advisor shall help the chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

Section 5. The chapter advisor shall be a member of the faculty, appointed annually by the principal/administrator, and may serve consecutive terms.

ARTICLE VII: CHAPTER ADVISORY COUNCIL

Section 1. The Advisory Council shall consist of three voting faculty members appointed annually by the principal/administrator **or as stated in article VI section 1.a. and 1.b.** The chapter advisor will be the head of the Advisory Council.

Section 2. The term of the two non advisor positions on the Advisory Council shall be one year. Members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

Section 3. The Advisory Council shall meet at least once a year to review the procedures of the chapter, select members, and to consider nonselection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

Section 4. The Advisory Council will develop and revise, when necessary, all chapter procedures for selection, discipline, and dismissal of members, all of which must remain in compliance with the national guidelines.

ARTICLE VIII: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in local chapters is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by an Advisory Council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2. Membership shall be known as active, honorary, and graduate. Active members shall become graduate members at graduation. Graduate members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. The Advisory Council shall reserve the right to award honorary membership to school officials, principals, teachers, NHSSM advisors, adults, students with disabilities, or foreign exchange students in recognition of achievement and/or outstanding service rendered to the school in keeping with the purposes of the National Honor Society of Sports Medicine. Honorary members shall have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5. Members who are seniors in good standing are eligible to be nominated by their chapters to compete in the National Honor Society Scholarship Program (**currently under development**).

Section 6. An NHSSM member who transfers to another school and brings a letter from the principal or chapter advisor to the new school advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.

Section 7. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.

Section 8. Student Members may petition their local chapter to become inactive if the student member chooses to study abroad, or if other extenuating circumstances arrive. This will be dealt with by the local chapter on a case-by-case basis.

ARTICLE IX: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. To be eligible for membership the candidate must be a member of those classes (*junior, senior*) designated as eligible in the chapter bylaws. (Sophomores [*tenth*] and Freshmen [*ninth graders*] are not eligible.) Candidates must have been in attendance at the school the equivalent of one semester. (*Note: Some candidates may be ineligible for induction because of the semester ruling. Many students, including students of military parents, are required to move with parents or guardians that have transferred in their work. The present school principal/administrator should seek a recommendation from the previous school principal/administrator pursuant to the candidate's selection. On the basis of the recommendation of the previous principal/administrator, the Faculty Council may waive the semester regulation.*)

Section 2. The national minimum standard for scholarship shall be a cumulative scholastic average of

at least 82 percent, B, or 3.2 (on a 4.0 scale) or the equivalent standard of excellence and a 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) in all sportsmedicine program classes. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character. *(Note: Local chapters may raise the cumulative GPA standard above the national minimum, or increase standards for the remaining selection criteria, apply them fairly and consistently, and include these standards in their locally published selection procedures.)*

Section 3. The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the Advisory Council.

Section 4. A description of the selection procedure shall be made widely available in a timely fashion to all students and parents of the school. The selection procedure shall be determined by the Advisory Council and shall be consistent with the rules and regulations of NHSSM.

Section 5. The National Council shall not review the judgment of the Advisory Council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

ARTICLE X: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL

Section 1. The Advisory Council in compliance with the rules and regulations of the National Honor Society of Sports Medicine shall determine the procedure for dismissal. A written description of the dismissal procedure shall be available to interested parties. *(Note: Advisory Councils can consider disciplinary actions that are less severe than dismissal if circumstances warrant.)*

Section 2. Members who fall below the standards that were the basis for their selection shall be promptly warned in writing by the chapter advisor and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency, except that in the case of flagrant violation of school rules or the law, a member does not have to be warned.

Section 3. The Advisory Council shall determine when an individual has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings.

Section 4. In all cases of pending dismissal, a member shall have a right to a hearing before the Advisory Council. *(Note: This hearing is required and is considered "due process" for all members.)*

Section 5. For purposes of dismissal, a majority vote of the Advisory Council is required.

Section 6. A member who has been dismissed may appeal the decision of the Advisory Council to the principal/administrator and thereafter under the same rules for disciplinary appeals.

Section 7. The NHSSM National Council and/or State Associations/Chapters shall hear no appeals in dismissal cases.

ARTICLE XI: CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the chapter, their duties, and the method of their election shall be determined by the members of the chapter, approved by the Faculty Advisor, the Advisory Council, and the principal, and described in the chapter bylaws.

Section 2. New officers shall be installed at a special ceremony.

ARTICLE XII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the officers of the chapter and the chapter advisor.

Section 2. The executive committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the chapter between its business meetings, make recommendations to the chapter, and determine and perform such other duties as are specified in the chapter bylaws. All actions and recommendations of the executive committee shall be subject to the review of the chapter membership.

Section 3. The executive committee shall have the responsibility for ensuring that chapter activities and procedures follow school policy and regulations. *(Note: This section is generally viewed to include chapter activities except those with regards to the selection, discipline, and dismissal of members which are the sole domain of the chapter's Advisory Council).*

ARTICLE XIII: MEETINGS

Section 1. Each chapter shall have regular meetings during the school year on days designated by the executive committee and in accordance with school policy and regulations.

Section 2. The regularity of the meetings (i.e., weekly, monthly, and bimonthly) shall be designated in the chapter bylaws.

Section 3. The chapter president or other designated student leader may call special meetings approved by the executive committee.

Section 4. Chapters shall conduct meetings according to *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* in all points not expressly provided for in this Constitution or the chapter bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. Each chapter shall determine one or more service projects for each year.

Section 2. All members shall regularly participate in these projects.

Section 3. These projects shall have the following characteristics: Fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and the faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible; be well planned, organized, and executed.

Section 4. Each member shall have the responsibility for choosing and participating in an individual service project that reflects his or her particular talents and interests. This is in addition to the chapter projects to which all members contribute.

Section 5. Each chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

ARTICLE XV: OFFICIAL INSIGNIA

Section 1. This organization shall have an official emblem selected by the NHSSM National Council. The emblem shall be uniform.

Section 2. The distribution of the emblem and the rules for its use shall be under the exclusive control of the NHSSM National Council.

Section 3. Each active, graduate, or honorary member in good standing with the chapter shall be entitled to wear this emblem.

Section 4. Any member who resigns or is dismissed shall return the emblem to the chapter advisor.

Section 5. All insignia must be procured from the national secretary of the National Honor Society of Sports Medicine.

Section 6. The motto of the National Honor Society of Sports Medicine shall be:

"Studemus ut sanemus"= "Study to heal"

Section 7. The official colors of the National Honor Society of Sports Medicine shall be:

Crimson Red and Gold.

Section 8. The Coat of arms shall be:



Section 9. Symbols of the seal:

- Star and Book: Knowledge is gained through education.
- Dove with olive branch: Peace through education, Peace through healing.
- Caduceus: Medical knowledge needed for NHSSM membership.
- Sword: Acknowledges both founding chapters.
- Branches of the wreath: Reminder of our foundation in athletics.

Section 10. A graduate member may purchase a replacement for a lost emblem by verifying membership to the national office.

ARTICLE XVI: DISSOLUTION

Section 1. In accordance with the IRS standards for all nonprofit organizations the National Council shall be empowered to dissolve the National Honor Society of Sports Medicine upon a 2/3 vote of the National Council.

Section 2. If the National Council must dissolve the NHSSM, all assets remaining after the payment of liabilities shall be distributed exclusively to exempt organizations or for exempt purposes under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

ARTICLE XVII: BYLAWS

Section 1. Each chapter shall write bylaws to amplify sections of this Constitution and to clarify operating procedures of the chapter. Bylaws do not need the approval of the National Council but must be consistent with this Constitution.

Section 2. The chapter bylaws shall contain information concerning the election and duties of officers, the schedule of meetings, member obligations, dues, and the like

ARTICLE XVIII: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the National Council or by mail by an affirmative vote of a quorum of the members of the National Council.

GUIDELINES for the NHSSM

Membership

The NHSSM has established rules for membership based on a student's outstanding performance in the school's Sports Medicine program, overall scholastic achievement, leadership, service, and character.

Students of Junior or Senior status may apply for membership following the first grading period of enrollment into their respective Sports Medicine program. They must meet the following requirements to be accepted and maintain being a "Member in Good Standing".

Scholarship: Students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 and a GPA of 3.5 in the Sports Medicine program meet the scholarship requirement.

Service: With a Sports Medicine emphasis, voluntary contributions made by the student to the school or community, done without compensation and performed with a courteous and enthusiastic attitude are expected each semester of membership to maintain "Member in Good Standing" status.

Leadership: Students are expected to be resourceful, good problem solvers, idea-contributors, and promoters of the field of Sports Medicine. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school and community activities.

Character: Students of good character shall respect the rights, welfare, and dignity of all. They shall promote and maintain high standards of behavior, upholding principles of morality and ethics.

Awards: Individual

Cords: Awarded to any graduating senior in good standing

Scholarship Pin: Awarded to the graduating senior member with the highest overall GPA

Leadership Pin: Awarded to officers of each local chapter

Service Pin: Awarded to the graduating senior member who has provided the greatest amount of service to the school or community within the field of Sports Medicine

Awards: Chapters

Chapter of the Year: is based on the following criteria

Points possible:

- 5 for completing all of the application form
- 5 for participation in Sports Medicine competitions
- 5 for participation in Sports Medicine conferences
- 2 for having a Sports Medicine program at school
- 2 for having a Sports Medicine page on the school's website
- 2 for each student work submitted to the NHSSM website
- 5 for each Activity of the Year participation
- 10 for each community service activity

Supporting evidence (2 points for each type of documentation with a maximum of TEN points allowed). This may include photos, news clipping, school newsletter, program, letter of thanks for service rendered by NHSSM.

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED _____

If more than five reach same total points, consider subjective data (evidence, appearance of application, etc.)

Activity of the Year:

The Activity of the Year contest recognizes up to 6 outstanding Chapter Activities—3 short term and 3 long term. The applications must be submitted by May 1 of each year. The rubrics being used at the present time are the following.

The points range from 5-1 (Superior—5 pts; Excellent—4 pts; Good—3 points; Fair—2 pts; Okay—1 pt.)

Three major areas are being considered—promotion of Sports Medicine, promotion of health and wellness, and service to community.

Superior (5 pts.)

Service to community to include global as well as local

Major use of Sports Medicine principles and practices

Demonstrates a great deal of appreciation for the field of Sports Medicine and its professionals

Excellent (4 pts.)

Service to community mainly local

Considerable use of Sports Medicine principles and practices

Demonstrates much appreciation for the field of Sports Medicine and its professionals

Good (3 pts.)

Service to community, mainly on campus only

Some use of Sports Medicine principles and practices

Shows some appreciation of for the field of Sports Medicine and its professionals

Fair (2 pts.)

Limited service to community

Little use of Sports Medicine principles and practices

Very little demonstration of appreciation for the field of Sports Medicine and its professionals

Minimal (1 pt.)

Service is limited to small and not very needy segment of the community

Use of Sports Medicine principles and practices is not required to perform activity

Appreciation for the field of Sports Medicine and its professionals is not demonstrated