



Recent FAANS Appointments to State Committees

The restructuring of the FHSAA Sectional Appeals Committees was as a result of the Executive Director of the FHSAA and several members of the FAANS Executive Committee meeting in June 2007 to discuss ways in which the FHSAA and FAANS could better cooperate for the benefit of student athletes in Florida.

As a result of those discussions the Board of the FHSAA and the Delegate Assembly at the recommendation of the Executive Director, Dr. John Stewart, approved the restructuring of the Sectional Appeals Committees in the four sections of Florida. The Sectional Appeals Committees hear cases brought by families in behalf of their children in that Section. These are usually hardship cases for which appeals are made to set aside a particular rule determining eligibility.

The Board and Delegate Assembly also approved the establishing of a state-wide Infractions Appeals Committee to hear appeals cases brought by individual schools when judgments of infractions of rules are brought against the school.

FAANS was requested to offer nominations for the above newly formed positions.

FHSAA Infractions Appeals Committee

Names from four FAANS member organizations were received in response to the appeal from the FAANS Executive Committee for names by the deadline of November 4, 2007. Four names were nominated to the FHSAA Board. Two were appointed by the FHSAA Board as regular members, two as alternates.

Regular Member: Brother Angelo Palmieri, Superintendent of Secondary Schools, Miami (FCC)

Alternate: Luanne Schendel, Head of School, Orangewood Christian School, Maitland (CSF)

Regular Member: Mr. Bill Jablon, Head of School, Maclay School, Tallahassee (FCIS)

Alternate: Dr. Richard Fielding, Head of School, North Florida Christian School, Tallahassee (FACCS)

Moderator of the Infractions Appeals Committee will be Dudley Goodlette, attorney, former House member, and chair of the special FHSAA task force that dealt with student transfers and student recruiting.

FHSAA Sectional Appeals Committees

The four sectional appeals committees meet monthly August through April to consider requests filed by member schools seeking undue hardship eligibility waivers for student-athletes or appealing decisions made by the FHSAA staff in its enforcement of Association rules. The proposal to expand the composition of the committees was adopted by a vote of 49-1, and included the following provisions:

- The existing three member school seats on each committee – two held by public school representatives and **one by a private school representative** – will not be affected.

- The two seats on each committee currently held by district school superintendents and district school board members will be consolidated into one seat to be alternately shared by the two constituent groups and appointed by their respective associations

• **A new seat will be created on each committee for a second member from the private school sector**, who may be either a regional- or school-based administrator or a member of a private school governing board within the section. The person will be appointed by the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools.

• A new seat will be created on each committee for an at-large member from an under-represented gender and/or racial minority. The person will be appointed by the FHSAA Board of Directors from among district-, regional- or school-based administrators in the section. If 60 percent or more of the schools within the section are public, a public school administrator must be appointed. **If less than 60 percent of the schools within the section are public, a private school administrator must be appointed.**

- A new seat will be created on each committee to be filled by an attorney living in the section who is appointed by the FHSAA Board of Directors. The attorney, who will serve as chairperson.

The following persons are the FAANS appointments to the Sectional Appeals Committees for 2008-2009. Each is a member of one of the larger accrediting associations in FAANS.

Section One: FACCS

Mr. Dan Worley
Principal, Trinity Christian Academy,
Jacksonville

Section Two: ACSI

Mr. Greg Frescoln
Administrator, First Academy
Leesburg

Section Three: FCIS

Captain Robert Fine
Headmaster, Admiral Farragut Academy,
St. Petersburg

Section Four: FCC

Mr. Christopher McKeon
Dean of Students & Athletic Director
Christopher Columbus High School
Miami

VPK Coalition Advisory Committee

At the March 2008 meeting of FAANS in discussion with Debbie Russo (DCF) and Brinttany Burgen (AWI) it was agreed that a committee should be formed to give greater clarity to issues related to and the interpretation of the various rules governing VPK. It was felt that the various coalitions were interpreting and enforcing rules differently in each of the major VPK districts. Debby Russo asked for two FAANS representatives to sit on such a committee. The formation of the committee at this date has still not been achieved.

The FAANS President received recommendations from member organizations and forwarded two names to Debby Russo.

Sheila Cornea, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Florida League of Christian Schools

Charaline Luna, Ed.D.
Association of Independent Schools of
Florida

The Friedman Foundation Ranks the States

The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice released in April 2008 its comprehensive evaluation of the fifty states and their relationship to the nonpublic schools in their states.

The study, *Fifty Educational Markets: A Playbook of State Laws and Regulations Governing Private Schools*, ranked the states based upon an evaluation of the laws and regulations within each state.

Florida and New Jersey received the highest ranking among the fifty states.

In its report, the Foundation makes the following evaluative comment:

“Florida was a high-scoring state, earning a grade of A [+2]. . . . State law makes it clear that neither the state nor any school district is authorized to oversee or exercise control over the curricula or academic programs of private schools. In short, Florida not only seeks to protect access to the education marketplace for potential private schools, but makes sure that, once established, schools have the ability to operate free from government intrusion.”

By comparison, the Foundation remarks: “No state scored lower than North Dakota, with a score of -11. North Dakota makes it extremely difficult for private schools to open their doors. All private schools must be approved and accredited by the state. In addition, all private schools must hire certified teachers . . . Must require students to achieve at least the same number of credit hours in each subject as students in public schools, and must follow state guidelines regarding class sizes and teacher-student ratios. . . All private school students must be assessed using a standardized test. . . Must maintain certain defined library facilities and a given number of guidance counselors. . .”

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