CHSAA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT
April 22, 2026

TOURNAMENT AND PLAYOFF FINANCE

Paul Cain, Mesa County School District **CR 8**
Chair

I. MAJOR CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR'S REPORT:

A. None.

II. RATIONALE:

A. None.

III. FINANCIAL IMPACT:

A. None.

IV. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

A. The committee meeting was held on February 11, 2026.
B. The committee advises sport committees to consider the financial impacts of playoff structures. It is becoming increasingly expensive to support large playoff structures involving large amounts of travel, especially due to shrinking school budgets.
C. The committee discussed the following:
    i. Committee members shared feedback from the membership on the current T&PF system and classification fee, and overall it is positive.
    ii. The Classification Fee will increase at some point in the future since ticket prices have gone up and quarterfinal soccer will be hosted at member schools next year, but this will be considered alongside membership fees and other costs of the membership with school budgets.
    iii. There is still a need for this committee to discuss ongoing T&PF matters, including the current T&PF Form for Head-to-Head games. If playoff structures ever change, this could impact T&PF.

V. SPORT POLICY/PROCEDURE:

A. The classification fee is as follows:
    i. Each member school will pay the following fee due October 1st (to coincide with membership dues) based on their boys basketball classification. If a school does not participate in boys' basketball, then another sport will be selected to determine the fee.
    1A: $600
    2A: $800
    3A: $1,000
    4A: $1,400
    5A: $1,900
    6A: 2,600
    The funds from the fee replaced CHSAA's playoff revenue share that was eliminated by removing the T&PF reporting.

ii. In a head-to-head game, if the host makes $1,000 or more in net income from that game (revenue minus expenses), then 25% of the net income gets paid to the visiting team.
    1. For all head-to-head games, the simple T&PF form must be completed and sent to the visiting team. If there is a positive net income of $1,000+ from the game, then the host must pay the amount reported on the T&PF form to the visiting school. The form must be shared with the visiting school AD regardless if they made over $1,000 in net income.
    2. CHSAA will share a form to complete, but the form will not be administered by CHSAA and schools will be required to submit payments to each other on their own.
    3. If there is no gate charged, then the form does not have to be completed, but the AD must communicate to the visiting school AD that no gate was charged and no revenue made.
    4. For multi-team tournaments, regionals, etc., the hosts keep all proceeds (since data shows that those events require more expenses paid for by the host).

iii. No visiting team travel reimbursements will be paid.

iv. CHSAA will set the maximum ticket prices for the playoffs that must be followed by the schools. If a host distributes free tickets, this needs to be made equitable to the visiting team. For example, if a host school lets students in for free to a game, then the visiting team students should be allowed in free as well.

TOURNAMENT AND PLAYOFF FINANCE HANDBOOK

T&PF Policy Statement:

Tournament and Playoff Finance (T&PF) exists to maximize funding opportunities through gate revenues during CHSAA postseason contests. One-third of the CHSAA operating budget is reliant on this income. The T&PF Committee provides oversight on developing a financial system for postseason play that recognizes the limitations on school budgets and on CHSAA. When a proposal is made from a league, committee, BOD, CHSAA, etc. that impacts the postseason, there needs to be informed communication between the person/group making the proposal and the CHSAA commissioner who oversees that sport/activity, especially when there is a financial impact. This communication should be documented, and the financial impact data will then be included as part of the proposal in any written reports or communication.

The T&PF Committee strongly encourages all CHSAA sports committees to set geographic proximity as a primary consideration when determining post season playoff formats. In this era of diminishing resources, it is imperative that schools and seeding committees conserve financial resources in the athletic arenas. While this committee has no authority over league and regular season play, the committee believes that it should do its part in conserving resources by constructing postseason playoff systems that keep travel and missed school time to a minimum.

With the aforementioned criteria in mind, the committee believes that it is in the best interest of high school sports to ensure the continuing support of our communities, school boards, and CHSAA. The surest way to accomplish this rests with sports committees in their planning for postseason play.

T&PF Policies and Procedures:

I. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

As a host of a CHSAA postseason game or tournament, it is important to understand your responsibilities. Below is an overview of these responsibilities.

A. What you are hosting:
   a. Head-to-head Game: hosting one game against one other team.
   b. Multi-Team / Tournament: hosting multiple games, a quadrant of games or a district/regional tournament over one or multiple days.

B. Ticket Prices/Gate Admissions:
   a. The host is encouraged to charge a gate.
   b. Tickets prices vary from sport-to-sport and from round-to-round. Postseason ticket prices are set by CHSAA and approved by the Board of Directors.

C. Officials:
   a. Normally, CHSAA will assign officials for all postseason play.
   b. Amounts for officials pay can be found in Arbiter.
   c. The host is responsible for paying officials for all rounds.

II. ADMISSIONS:

A. Maximum prices have been established for all playoff games, including the State final events, by the CHSAA Board of Directors (all classes of schools and at all levels of playoffs).
B. Ticket prices will be sent to you in advance of the event.
C. All changes to prices need prior approval by the sport commissioner.
D. The age at which senior citizen rates apply is 60. The age for students is 6-18 years old.
E. Exceptions to the required admission prices (in case of extenuating circumstances) may be appealed to the CHSAA Commissioner and/or the Board of Directors. Note, past experience has shown public relations are enhanced if people are paying the same price for the same type of game at each location.

III. OFFICIALS' EXPENSES:

A. Officials will be assigned by the official's association or the CHSAA for all postseason play. These assignments can be found in Arbiter.
B. Mileage – 60¢ per mile (for 2025-2026) – Mileage for metro areas (Denver, Colorado Springs) will be $10.00 per day. Travel mileage for all play-offs will be calculated by Arbiter using zip code to zip code.

a. Only one driver will be paid for each contest. This will be paid to the official on the crew who travels the furthest. Issues with multiple drivers must be solved between the officials and the assignor prior to the game.
b. In lieu of per diem, a rider fee of $10 is paid to officials, non-drivers only, who are riding on trips of 75 miles or more one-way. Prior to semi-finals, official's mileage is capped at 250 miles one way and 500 miles round trip.
c. A hotel allowance of $60 is paid to any official traveling over 50 miles one way (100 miles round trip) only while officiating a multi-day tournament. More than 200 miles of travel one way will get a hotel for a single day contest.

IV. POLICIES:

A. Support Group Admission - Admission procedures at district, regional, and state championship events will be determined by the Commissioner and/or Board of Directors. Admissions of these support groups are to be consistent from sport to sport and/or activity. Bands and/or Spirit groups will only be admitted in uniform and with a director or sponsor.
B. Co-op Schools (Trophies)--If a cooperative school wins a trophy at the final state championship level, the CHSAA will provide a duplicate trophy for the second school. CHSAA will assume the cost.
C. The Commissioner may call a special meeting of this committee, which shall have the power to adjust items of this report in response to severe economic changes.
D. When postseason format changes are proposed by a sport or activity committee, then those committees need to show previous years' sport specific financial expense/revenue line items and the estimated future financial impact to the CHSAA.

----------(conclusion of the T&PF Handbook)----------

V. COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Paul Cain, Mesa County School District, Chairperson; **Kevin Bendjy**, Denver Public Schools; **Chantelle Jordan**, Pagosa Springs High School; **Dr. Trent Kerr,** Wiggins School District; **Chase McBride**, St. Vrain School District; **Chrissy Steigerwald**, Thomas MacLaren School; **Nic Troupe**, Pinnacle Charter School; **Carol Vezzani,** Calhan High School; **Chad Walker,** Roosevelt High School; **Jason Wilkins,** Cherry Creek High School.