1. The name of this organization shall be the Metropolitan Nashville Middle School Athletic Association.

2. The purpose shall be to promote and control interscholastic athletic activities which are physically wholesome and socially sound for middle school boys and girls.

3. The officers of the Association shall be President and Vice-President and shall be principals and/or assistant principals of member schools and shall be from two different schools. The office of Secretary-Treasurer shall be filled by an administrator or coach from the same school as the President. All officers shall be elected in February or March. The term of office shall be for one year and no person shall hold the same office for two consecutive years.

4. An executive committee composed of the elected officers and two coaches appointed by the President shall direct the affairs of the Association.

5. For transacting business, one-half of the members shall constitute a quorum. In voting, each member school shall have one vote.

6. The President may call meetings when in his judgment such meetings are necessary. On the request, in writing, of two or more member schools, he shall call a meeting. Notice stating the time and purpose of the meeting shall be made to the member schools in writing not less than five days preceding the meeting.

7. All current rules need to be reviewed and considered for possible modification each year. The constitution may be amended by the following methods: (a) On, or before, the first of February of each year the member schools may file with the President any proposed changes they wish to have made in the Association Constitution and Bylaws. (b) The President shall notify all member schools in writing of new proposed changes. Said notice is to be sent not later than the five days prior to the first spring meeting. A two-thirds majority of membership shall be necessary for passage. (c) The amendment shall become effective upon passage.

8. Members of the Middle School Athletic Association who field a team in any sport must play in the designated conference under sponsorship of the said Association unless excused by the Association.

9. The Association will print each year and distribute to all member schools (principals, assistant principals, and coaches) accurate, updated Bylaws. The Bylaws should include all rules pertaining to athletics at this level. A cover letter should be sent to each school instructing them to destroy all previous rule books, inserts, etc.

**BYLAWS**

The Metropolitan Board of Education policies and Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association policies as amended pertaining to Middle School Athletics shall apply in governing the activities of the Association.

This Constitution and Bylaws shall be effective as of the date approved by two-thirds vote of the member schools, and by the Director of Schools, or his representative.

The Athletic Director of Metropolitan Schools shall serve as Commissioner of the Middle School Athletic Association. The Commissioner may initiate investigations, collect information, and render decisions based on the evidence and in accord with the regulations of the M.S.A.A. and the Board of Education. Such decisions shall be subject to review by the Executive Committee on appeal by the principal of the member school involved. All violations of the rules and regulations of the Middle School Athletic Association must be reported by the administration of the reporting school.

RULE 1. Membership in the Association shall be open to schools with grades six, seven and eight.

RULE 2. No student in a grade below the sixth can compete as a member of a team in the Middle School Division. A student is not considered as enrolled in the sixth grade until he has a complete sixth grade schedule.

RULE 3. No student shall be eligible to compete in the Middle School Division during any school year if the student becomes 15 years of age on or before August 1.

RULE 4. A student shall be eligible upon entering the sixth grade. The semester rule begins when a student enters the sixth grade. He/she will have a total of six consecutive semesters of eligibility. To remain eligible sixth, seventh and eighth grade students must pass five subjects the preceding semester or its equivalency. Student-athletes in basketball and wrestling who are ineligible during the first semester may become eligible the second semester if they meet the academic requirements at the end of the first semester. Schools offering only five subjects can count physical education as their sixth subject. For schools having alternate day classes, the combined numerical average of these classes will be used for athletic eligibility (i.e. every other day P.E. - 90, every other day Related Arts - 80 = 85 average). Semester averages (not nine weeks or yearly averages) will be used to determine eligibility.

RULE 5. Metro eligibility forms must be in the Athletic Director's office and approved prior to the first game or match in any sport. Failure to abide by this regulation will result in a forfeit being awarded to the opposing team.

RULE 6. The basketball season for any school team shall end when that team has been eliminated from the city tournament or when that team has won the city championship. Games in the city tournament shall not be counted in the 20 games allowed. A team may participate in only one tournament other than the Division and City tournament. (*District Policy*). Basketball teams will be allowed to participate in one Jamboree before the basketball season begins. Teams will be allowed to play no more than two 10-minute quarters or two running clock 20-minute quarters.

***BYLAWS***

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RULE 7. Middle School teams shall be permitted to play during any scholastic year a maximum of six (6) football games and 20 basketball games. Track competition shall be limited to eight meets during the track season. Volleyball teams shall be limited to ten dates. Soccer teams shall be limited to ten matches, with playoffs not included in those ten. The soccer playoffs shall be an eight-team bracket, allowing the top four teams from each division to participate.

RULE 8. **WRESTLING**

 Schools shall be limited to 12 dates excluding the league tournament. Schools will be allowed to enter invitational tournaments hosted by other schools or the officials' association as long as the middle school does not exceed the 12 dates limit allowed.

A. The weight classes are now: 82, 90, 98, 106, 114, 122, 130, 138, 148, 158, 175, 190, 215, HWT\*. The current practice of adding two pounds at Christmas and one pound on February 1 is to continue.

 \*Heavyweights must weigh no less than 190 and no more than 250.

B. Wrestling will be divided into four (4) sub-divisions – NW, SW, NE, SE.

C. In order to enter the Division Wrestling Tournament, a participant must certify one time in the weight class or weight classes below the one in which he enters the tournament. Certification must take place one of two ways:

 1) at scratch weight without any additional pounds before Christmas, or

 2) certification will include the two-pound allowance after Christmas.

 The wrestling coach must enter the exact weight on the certification sheet and have it signed by the official and the opposing coach. No wrestler may wrestle in a weight class lower than his certified weight. Certification sheets should be required at the seeding meeting.

D. City tournament rules and regulations must be voted on by individual schools at the fall meeting.

E. The director for the Division Wrestling Tournament and the City Wrestling Tournament will be from the Administrative Staff of the host school.

F. All wrestlers with braces must wear mouth protection during matches.

RULE 9. A school **must notify** the league president by the August meeting of each school year if it wishes to participate in any sport of the Middle School Division.

RULE 10. No athletic contest in football, basketball, or wrestling in which middle grade teams participate may be sponsored by a non-school group or organization.

RULE 11. Beginning with the 1983-84 school year, students found to be attending out-of-zone schools without official approval of the Director of Transfers and Records or higher authority shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletics. They will be ineligible at all schools for one calendar year from the date of transfer or transfer approval.

RULE 12. Any school found to be guilty of allowing an ineligible student to participate in interscholastic athletic events shall immediately forfeit any wins, records, or awards as a team for all athletic

 events in which the ineligible student participated. In addition, any individual win, record, or award shall be forfeited by the ineligible student.

***BYLAWS***

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RULE 13. Proceeds from all tournaments will be retained by the host school. If there is a deficit, a report of all tournament expenses and income will be given to the participating schools, and the deficit will be shared equally. Profits from the concessions are separate, and are to be retained by the host school.

RULE 14. Seasons for all sports shall end with the completion of the city meet, tournament, or game.

RULE 15. Recognizing that unsportsmanlike conduct by players and coaches cannot be accepted, the following actions will be taken when unsportsmanlike conduct occurs:

A. Players Ejected For Fighting or Obscene Gestures

 On the ejection of a student athlete, the school will be required to submit a report to the Athletic Director on the action of the player and any disciplinary action taken by the school. The minimum penalty will be the suspension of the student-athlete from participating in the next contest(s) for the specified number of contest(s) played during a week in the particular sport (i.e., football-one game, basketball-two games).

B. Coaches Ejected for Unsportsmanlike Conduct

 The school will be required to submit a written report of the incident to the Athletic Director. The coach will be removed from the bench for the specified number of contest(s) played during a week in the particular sport.

RULE 16. The following are Division Alignments:

EASTERN:

Northeast: Bailey; Jere Baxter; Brick Church; East Nashville; Goodlettsville, Gra-Mar; Haynes; Joelton; Kipp; Meigs; NACS; Stratford

Southeast: Margaret Allen; I. T. Creswell; Donelson; Dupont-Hadley; Dupont Tyler; Liberty; Isaac Litton; Madison; Neely’s Bend; Two Rivers

WESTERN:

Northwest: Bellevue; Cameron; John Early; Head; H. G. Hill; M. L. King Jr.; McKissack; J. T. Moore; Nashville Prep; Rose Park; West End

Southwest: Antioch; Apollo; Croft; Intrepid; J. F. Kennedy; Knowledge Academy; Lead Academy; Thurgood Marshall; McMurray; Henry Oliver; Wright

These are listed for your information only, however the Athletic Director has discretion to change them at any time during the year.

RULE 17. All schools shall use an intermediate size football (either leather or rubber) for games.

RULE 18. Middle School Soccer Tie Breaking Procedures:

 I.The following overtime tie breaking procedures shall be applied:

1. Two, five-minute overtime periods
2. One, five-man shoot out (players must have been on the field at the close of the overtime period)

3. A second five-man shoot out (five different players than in #2, also having been on the field at the close of the overtime period)

***BYLAWS***

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4. Sudden death shoot out, one on one until one player scores and the other does not (using different players than before).

 II. Two officials should be used in all matches. However, if only one official is present for a contest and a goal is scored, play CANNOT be continued until the official and the two coaches verify the score. A soccer match cannot start or continue if a school has less than eight (8) players on the field at any time. It becomes a forfeit.

III. Listed below are tie-breaking procedures that shall apply when there is a three-way tie at the end of the regular season in the final standings. If exactly two teams are tied during any of these tie breaking procedures, and the third team is distinguished from the other two, then that third team is assigned that rank, and the other two teams revert back to #1. If all three teams have three different totals during any of these tie-breaking procedures, they all receive that rank respectively.

1. Head to head competition

2. Goal differentials in head-to-head competition between the teams tied only

3. Goals given up in head to head competition between the teams tied (only if three-way tie for first in division)

4. Goals given up in every contest during the regular season

RULE 19. At the end of the city championship football game, a championship trophy and city runner-up trophy will be given.

RULE 20. Middle school principals voted to charge $3 for admission to football and basketball contests and $2 for all other sports except regular season track. During the regular season, there will be no charge for track meets. An administrator from each school and security must be present at all football and basketball contests. A pre-game meeting must take place at all football and basketball contests and must include the game administrator, security, game officials and both coaches. At all other athletic contests (other than football and basketball) an administrator or designee must be present.

RULE 21. The top (2) teams from each division would move on to the play-offs. This would create an 8-Team Playoff.

RULE 22. The Metro Middle School Football Championship Game will be on a rotating basis, year to year, East and West, for the home field. If one year both teams are from the same side, the opposite side would host the next year. Also, a rotation, North and South, would be set up for the instances in which both teams are from the same side. These would be separate rotations for each side and only come into play when this situation occurs.

RULE 23. Cheerleaders shall only cheer for the school in which they are enrolled. They shall not be allowed to cheer for an organization not sponsored by Metro Public Schools in addition to cheering for their school during the same season.

RULE 24. Once a student’s name is listed on the school eligibility report, if a student participates in an independent game in that sport before the season has closed or his/her name has been removed from the eligibility report at the request of the school principal, the student shall be ineligible.

 Any organized game in which players not registered with the MNPS Athletic Office participate – regardless of whether admission is charged – is considered as an independent game. Violation of this rule will render the student ineligible for 25% of the number of contests allowed in that sport by the sports calendar or for the remainder of the season in that

***BYLAWS***

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sport, whichever number is the least. Violation of this rule a second time in the same sport in the same season will render the student ineligible in that sport for the remainder of the season.

 A student’s name may be removed from the school’s eligibility list upon written request of the principal. After such a request has been filed with the MNPS Athletic Office, a student may then participate as an independent without penalty. If a principal requests the MNPS Athletic Office to remove a student’s name from the school’s eligibility list, such student may not again be certified during the season of that sport.

 **THIS RULE APPIES TO BASKETBALL AND FOOTBALL ONLY.**

 (Amended June, 2017)

RULE 25. All admission prices and assessment fees charged for Middle School Tournaments must have prior approval from the Director of Athletics.

RULE 26. Schools assessing fees from other schools for tournament entrance, etc. must list on school letterhead the reason for the fees, amount and dates along with the signature of the requesting principal.

RULE 27. All middle school athletic practices in all sports are limited to one and one-half (1 ½) hours. There are **NO** practices allowed on Saturday and Sunday. Practice is allowed when students are not in attendance at school with prior approval of the principal and with the exception of Saturdays and Sundays, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

RULE 28. Fifth (5th) graders cannot participate in any athletic practice or contest. This includes cheerleading, half-timers, dance teams, etc. Fifth graders may be managers at the principal’s discretion but cannot dress in the team uniform nor practice with the team.

RULE 29. The attached basketball bracket will be used at all Middle School Divisional Tournaments beginning in 2013-2014 school year and thereafter. Any variations because of addition or deletion of teams must be made by the MNPS Director of Athletics.

RULE 30. Middle school athletic events may be scheduled without preference to any religious group.

RULE 31. The day before the State TCAP Writing Assessment shall be a “***no play”*** day.

RULE 32. Middle school’s cooperative agreements shall be limited to only one (1) school per sport.

RULE 33. Beginning 2013-2014 Play-in games no longer exist in basketball. Only the top 8 teams from each division will advance to the Western and Eastern Divisional Tournament.

RULE 34. Any student who repeats sixth, seventh, or eighth grade shall not be eligible until they reach the next higher grade.

 Submitted by:

 Dr. Gary Hughes, President

 Principal, J. T. Moore Middle School

RS:kf