

2009-10 TSSAA Handbook

RADIO AND TELEVISION STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

I. State Tournaments, Meets or Play-Off Series Coverage

- A. Permission to telecast, live or delayed, any part of the state tournaments in basketball, soccer, volleyball or wrestling or any part of the football playoff series must be approved by the TSSAA Board of Control. (This does not apply to news coverage.)
- B. Video Streaming is considered a live-broadcast and falls under the same regulations as live telecasts.
- C. State Championship Football games filmed for 24-hour delayed rebroadcast on TV will be charged a fee of \$500 each game.
- D. State Basketball Tournament games filmed for 24-hour delayed rebroadcast on TV will be charged a fee of \$300 each game.
- E. Football playoff games prior to the State Championship Football games and/or Basketball Tournament games prior to the State through the sectionals are under jurisdiction of the respective game and/or tournament directors.

If TSSAA has entered into an agreement to telecast live or by cable any game(s) or match(es) of a championship series, then all contracts for televising, cable rights or replays must be negotiated with the originating station/company.

Particular attention is called to the following policies for those who have an interest in broadcasting State Tournament basketball games and State Championship football games:

1. A radio station may broadcast state tournament basketball games and/or state championship football games, provided it is the primary station for that school. A primary station is defined as one that has broadcast 51% of the games of the school playing in the game.

If a station has not broadcast 51% of that school's games, but has broadcast 51% of games in that school's county, they would be allowed to broadcast provided there is not a primary station that meets the 51% rule for that school. If there is, only the primary station would be allowed to broadcast.

Any station in the state may pick up a feed from the TSSAA via the Tennessee High School Sports Network (THSSN).

Any subject not covered in this caveat may be brought to the attention of Matthew Gillespie for discussion.

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II. Invitational, District and Regional Coverage

- A. Permission to telecast, live or delayed, any part of an invitational, district or regional tournament in basketball, soccer, volleyball or wrestling must be approved by the tournament director or tournament committee. (This does not apply to news coverage.)
- B. If such permission is granted a fee must be charged to the television station or each station connected by a network. The tournament director shall negotiate the fee with the television station. A minimum fee of \$200.00 must be charged per basketball game or per wrestling session to the television station and \$200.00 to each television station on the network. (An exception may be allowed for school sponsored cable access, provided they do not replay on commercial cable or television.)
- C. All fees shall be considered as part of the gate receipts.

Anyone interested in regulations governing live or delayed radio broadcast, or cable television replay for state tournaments, playoffs or meets may contact TSSAA, P.O. Box 319, Hermitage, TN 37076.

STATE TOURNAMENTS (Media Credentials)

1. Working media credentials for all state tournaments, meets, and football play-off finals must be made in writing on company letterhead or on the TSSAA Media Credentials Form to TSSAA, P.O. Box 319, Hermitage, TN 37076. All requests must include the written signature of the person in whose name the credentials are to be issued.
2. The issuance of all media credentials for championship events is at the sole discretion of the TSSAA Director of Media and/or the Executive Director. Credentials for district, regional, and sectional tournaments and for football play-off games during the preliminary rounds must be made through tournament and game directors. Issuance of credentials for those events is at the discretion of tournament and game directors.
3. Credentials for championship events are to be issued on a space-available basis and are to be issued only to daily newspaper personnel who are covering events, television personnel who are directly involved in covering events for newscast productions, radio stations who are doing play-by-play broadcasts of events and qualify under the TSSAA radio and television guidelines, and non-daily newspapers whose primary circulation area includes schools participating in championship events. Credentials are limited to two per television station, daily newspapers and radio stations carrying live play-by-play broadcasts and one for non-daily newspapers. Requests for credentials beyond the categories listed above and requests beyond the specified number allowed per outlet must be accompanied by a letter written on company letterhead explaining the necessity for those additional credentials. Media outlets who provide stand-alone service via the Internet are not recognized as legitimate media outlets.

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4. Working credentials are issued for the sole purpose of providing facility access to an accredited individual who has a legitimate working function in connection with the event for which the credential is issued. Credentials are subject to being revoked at the discretion of the TSSAA Director of Media, the TSSAA Executive Director and/or any TSSAA Assistant Executive Director. Grounds for revocation of credentials, though not limited to, include misuse, abuse and/or transfer of a credential to anyone other than to the person to whom the credential is granted. Any media outlet whose credentials are revoked for any reason is subject to being denied credentials at future TSSAA events.
5. Credentials requested for the purposes of school yearbook or school newspapers must be submitted by the Athletic Director of that school. Credentials will be limited to one credential for a student and one credential for a school faculty member to serve in supervisory capacity over that student.
6. Credentials are non-transferable. Unauthorized use or sale of credentials subject the bearer to ejection from the facility during TSSAA events and the denial of credentials at future TSSAA events indefinitely.
7. Credential bearers and their employers assume all risks incurred to the performance by the bearers for their services and assume all risks incidental to TSSAA-related events whether occurring prior to, during or sequential to the actual playing of the contests.
8. Acceptance of a credential constitutes an agreement by the bearer and his or her organization to abide by the foregoing conditions.

By accepting a media credential to any state championship event, all photographers agree that their photographs will ONLY be used by the media outlet(s) for whom they are credentialed. No resale, whether for profit or not, of TSSAA championship event photography to third parties (including the public via direct sale, eBay, or other means) is permitted without permission of TSSAA and ActionPixTN.com. Should anyone be found selling TSSAA championship event photos without permission, they will forfeit future TSSAA event credentials.

9. The conducting of interviews on the field at football championship games or anywhere other than the media room at the State Basketball Tournament is grounds for ejection from the facility and indefinite denial of credentials requests for future TSSAA events.