

**2016-17 TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR**  
**CROSS COUNTRY (BOYS' AND GIRLS')**

- **Pre-Season Practice Rule** does not apply.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 4.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 7. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 11 dates.
- In the **Off-Season** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

**IMPORTANT CROSS COUNTRY DATES**

First Practice Date .....	July 25, 2016
First Contest Date .....	Aug. 15, 2016
Deadline to File Eligibility & Schedules.....	Aug. 15, 2016
DII AA Deadline to Submit State Meet Entries.....	Oct. 28, 2016
DI & DII A Regions (Must Be Completed By).....	Oct. 29, 2016
DI & DII State Meets .....	Nov. 5, 2016
Dead Period.....	June 25 – July 8, 2017

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

**Practice** - Coach and player(s) together with instruction, teaching, coaching, etc. Try-outs are considered practice.

**Open Facilities – Permitted year round (Monday through Friday) except during the Dead Period. Schools may use their facilities for students in their building prior to or after the school day. Coaches may serve in a supervisory capacity only. There is no instruction, no teaching, no coaching, etc. Coaches may not participate or play in any manner. It is a free play type atmosphere. Sport specific skills cannot be taught. ATTENDANCE CANNOT BE MANDATORY.**

**Weight Training/Conditioning** – Permitted at all times except during the **Dead Period**. Must be generic type program that would be beneficial to all students and not sport specific. Exception: In baseball and girls' softball, players may throw to condition arms. Sport specific skills cannot be taught. **Only students who are enrolled and in regular attendance at the school may participate during the school year. ATTENDANCE CANNOT BE MANDATORY.**

**Practice During the School Day** – All athletic practice during the regular hours of any school day shall conform to the same rules, regulations, and season as corresponding athletic practice outside the school day.

**Multiple Contests** – In cross country, individuals accompanied by a coach may enter varsity competition at a different site on the same date and time, and this will count as two days on the school's schedule.

**Pre-Season Practice Rule** – Begins the first day of school until the first official day of practice in that particular sport.

**Scrimmage Rule** – A school cannot practice with or scrimmage another school until both schools have practiced a minimum of three days. A school may have a maximum of four scrimmages or two scrimmage dates or one scrimmage date and two scrimmages. No tournament format of any type may be used. Scrimmages should look more like practice than games. Once a school has played their first game, there can be no more scrimmages.

**Off-Season** – Begins with the school's elimination from postseason tournament play in a particular sport and concludes with the end of the school year.

**Summer** – The period of time from the end of the school year until the Monday of the week of August 1 (opening day of practice).

**Dead Period Rule** – No coaching, observing, or contact between coach and players in sport involved. There is no practice, no open facilities, and no weight training/conditioning. The Dead Period, which is to be observed by all schools, is NFHS Week 52 and NFHS Week 1 – 14 days.