Guidelines for Club Sports Not Sanctioned by the TSSAA or the WCBOE
Effective 11/12/07

Williamson County Schools encourages students to participate in as many activities as they choose. However, guidelines must be established for participating in sports which are not currently sanctioned by the TSSAA and/or the Williamson County Board of Education. The guidelines below will be used for the following club sports: competition cheerleading, lacrosse, rugby, hockey, and any other club or activity not sponsored by the school.

1. Principals/Athletic Directors at each school will work with the club sports to determine availability of the facilities for use. The decision to use the facilities and/or fields after sanctioned sports should depend largely on the condition of the facility or field. Providing the best possible field or facility for our TSSAA and/or WCBOE sanctioned sports will remain the number one priority. Also, if we allow one team to use the field/facility, we need to allow the other team equal access. For example; if the boys’ lacrosse team is allowed to use the field, the girls’ lacrosse team should be given equal opportunity to use the field. At several of our high schools we have coaches of outdoor sports who take great pride in their fields and are reluctant to allow others to use the field(s). The Principals and Athletic Directors should make the final decisions whether a field is available for use taking into consideration the statements above.

   *Board Policy 3.216* may apply: “All school athletic facilities [including football fields] shall be made available to organized community groups whenever possible.”

2. Efforts should be made to treat these activities as any other clubs in our schools. These club sports can receive recognition in newsletters, announcements, etc.

3. Any nongovernmental organization whose primary purpose is to support a school club or athletic activity related to a school is governed by the new fundraiser law, 2007 Public Chapter 326. The Williamson County Board of Education has policies incorporating the requirements of this law, *Board Policies 4.503 and 6.701*. Some examples of the new law’s requirements include:
   - They must be an Internal Revenue Code §501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or be governed by such an organization; clubs being governed by the school PTO can meet this requirement.
   - They must obtain approval from the Director of Schools or her designee for all fundraisers
   - They must submit financial reports and records to the schools at least annually and upon request.

   If the club sports restrict all of their income to participation fees and do no fundraising, including charging at the gate, selling concessions, etc.,
they do not have to follow the new fundraising law (get permission to fundraise for each fundraising activity)

4. Participants of these club sports shall not receive athletic letters from the schools. The club sports may recognize these participants in other ways as they choose. The schools may allow the club sports a place to hold an end of the season gathering.

5. School administrators may not dictate who is eligible to participate nor have any control over the coaches and/or rules of these club sports.

6. Monies collected by the club sport or activity will not be deposited in the school student activity account(s). The 501(c)(3) organization will deposit money in an account and provide records as per its bylaws and application to the IRS.

7. These non-school sponsored activities can utilize the name of the school for purposes of identifying which school they attend—this does not in and of itself make them fall under school sponsorship.

The purpose of these guidelines is to establish consistency throughout Williamson County Schools. It is the responsibility of the administrators to ensure the above guidelines are adhered to when club sports are involved.