



Inaugural 2026–2027 Season · leonacademicleague.org

YOUTH PROTECTION AND STUDENT INFORMATION POLICY

Leon County Academic League, Inc. · Proposed for adoption August 2026

PROPOSED FOR BOARD ADOPTION under Article XVII of the Amended and Restated Bylaws. This policy is deliberately short. The League runs evening academic matches on school campuses and never takes custody of a student, and the controls here are sized to that.

WHAT THIS IS, AND WHAT IT IS NOT

1.1 The premise. The League never takes custody of a student. A student arrives with an adult from their own school, stays with that adult, and leaves with that adult. Matches run for about an hour in an open classroom holding eight students, a moderator, a scorekeeper, and whoever is watching. The evening ends with the student leaving in the car they arrived in. No part of it is overnight, off campus, or one-to-one.

1.2 What follows from that. The controls below are matched to that exposure. A quiz bowl match night is not a summer camp, a travel team, or a mentoring program, and a policy written for one of those would impose cost and paperwork on volunteers without making a single student safer. NAQT tournaments and the brain bowl events this county has run for years operate on the same footing.

1.3 Where the heavier standard does apply. Travel to the High School National Championship Tournament in Atlanta is a different activity. It is overnight, out of state, and away from the schools. Section 6 covers it separately, and the Board adopts a travel policy before any student travels.

1.4 Who this reaches. Adults the League itself recruits or assigns: directors, officers, Chief Judges, moderators, readers, and scorekeepers.

THE RULE THAT DOES THE WORK

2.1 Observable and interruptible. No adult is alone with a student who is not that adult's own child in a place where they cannot be seen or interrupted. That is the rule, and it is about the setting rather than a headcount. A match room holds eight competitors, a moderator, a scorekeeper, coaches, and whoever came to watch. It is observable and interruptible with one adult in it, and it needs nothing further.

2.2 Where the rule bites. An empty classroom, a storage room, a hallway after the last match, a parking lot, a car. A conversation that needs privacy happens in sight of other people, with the door open, or with the student's Coach present. Move it to where people are.

2.3 An adult on the floor. Each match block has at least one screened adult responsible for the rooms in use and reachable from any of them. **One screened adult can cover a wing of classrooms.** The League staffs the floor.

2.4 Student moderators and scorekeepers are students. A student reading questions or keeping score is a participant earning volunteer hours, not a supervising adult, and this policy asks nothing of them in that capacity. They supervise nobody, they carry no responsibility for anyone else's conduct, and a ruling that needs an adult goes to the Chief Judge under Part 7 of the Rules. An adult under Section 2.3 is responsible for the rooms they serve in.

2.5 Why this and not more. In a setting with no unobserved contact, this is the control that changes outcomes. Screening layered on top of it buys very little and costs volunteers time and money.

SCREENING, KEPT PROPORTIONATE

3.1 The host venue's policy governs its own building. A League event is held on a school campus, and that school already has a visitor and volunteer policy and a legal duty behind it. **Whoever owns the building sets the access rules, and the League follows them.** At Maclay that is Maclay's policy. At a Leon County Schools campus that is the district's volunteer program, which clears supervised volunteers at Level 1 and fingerprints only those working unsupervised. The League runs no parallel regime.

3.2 Schools screen their own people. A Coach or chaperone attends as personnel of their Member School, screened by that school to the standard it applies to a field-trip chaperone. The League asks a school to name those adults in writing before they travel, and to say promptly when one is no

longer authorized. The League neither duplicates that screening nor takes responsibility for it.

3.3 Clearance already held is accepted. A current Leon County Schools volunteer clearance, or a current clearance held through employment at or volunteer service for any Member School, satisfies this policy on proof that it is current. Leon County Schools charges \$61.00 for fingerprinting and treats it as good for five years. **Nobody pays that twice on the League's account.**

3.4 Adults the League recruits who hold no clearance. A name-based check against the Florida and national sexual offender and predator registries, which is free and takes minutes, before first service. That person serves under Section 2.1 like everyone else.

3.5 Fingerprint screening, and where it is needed. Level 2 fingerprint screening under s. 435.04 is required only of a person in a role that puts them alone with a student or in charge of students away from their own school's adult. **If the League is running its evenings correctly, no such role exists.** Where one arises, the screening comes first.

3.6 Student volunteers. A student serving as a reader or scorekeeper is a student, not a screened adult, and works in a room with an adult present. Nothing in this Section applies to them.

3.7 Disqualification. A person who appears on a sexual predator or offender registry, or who is disqualified under s. 435.04(2), does not serve. Only s. 435.07 provides for exemption, and it is not the Board's to grant. A person disqualified is told so in writing.

CONDUCT

4.1 Custody of a squad. A squad is in the care of its Member School through its Coach or an adult the school has pre-authorized. The League supervises the venue and the conduct of matches. A school keeps an authorized adult present from arrival to departure.

4.2 Transportation. Arranged by the school and the family. The League arranges none, and no person serving the League transports a student other than their own child.

4.3 Communication. A person serving the League communicates with a student through that student's Coach or school. Where a channel is used for competition business it is a group channel with the Coach on it. **One-to-one private messaging between a League volunteer and a student is prohibited.**

4.4 Restrooms and changing areas. An adult serving the League stays out of any area in use by students for those purposes, except in an emergency and then with a second adult.

REPORTING

5.1 The duty is personal. Section 39.201, Florida Statutes, requires any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected to report it to the Florida Abuse Hotline, **1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)**. The duty falls on whoever holds the suspicion.

5.2 The call comes first. Ahead of any internal review, consultation, or permission. Afterwards the person tells the President, who tells the student's school, unless either would interfere with an investigation. Section 39.205 makes a knowing and wilful failure to report a criminal offence, and no policy or instruction of the League narrows that.

5.3 No retaliation. The League takes no adverse action against anyone for reporting in good faith or for cooperating with an investigation.

5.4 Incidents. Any injury, altercation, or conduct concern is written up the same night by the Chief Judge and sent to the President and the schools involved. Incident reports are confidential and outside the member inspection right in Bylaws Section 18.3.

5.5 Suspension pending inquiry. The President may suspend a person from League service immediately where an allegation is made. A suspension is not a finding. The Board reviews it at its next meeting.

TRAVEL

6.1 The League organizes no travel. An HSNCT qualifying spot is held by the Member School under Rule 4.4. The school enters the tournament, the school arranges the trip, and the students travel as that school's party under that school's travel rules with that school's adults. **The League needs no travel policy, because the League takes no student anywhere.**

6.2 A travel grant changes nothing. Where sponsor funds underwrite part of a school's trip, the money moves and custody does not. The school remains responsible for its students throughout.

6.3 If that ever changes. Were the League to organize travel itself, book rooms, or send its own chaperones, it would adopt a travel policy first, covering room assignments, ratios, Level 2 screening of every travelling adult, parental consent, and medical information. Nothing in the current

season contemplates that.

STUDENT INFORMATION

7.1 What the League holds. Three items per player under the Rules of Competition: the name as it should appear on an award, the expected year of graduation, and the tier. The League holds no date of birth, student identification number, grade, transcript, address, or contact detail for any student.

7.2 What it does with them. Runs the competition, publishes results and standings, makes awards. No disclosure to anyone else without the school's consent or where law requires.

7.3 Opting out. A Member School may tell the League that a student's name is not to be published or that a student is not to be photographed, and the League will honour it. Consent is held by the school.

7.4 Photography and press. The League photographs and records its own events and publishes the images: match coverage on leonacademicleague.org, press releases, season recaps, and sponsor recognition. Two limits apply. An image is captioned with no more than the name the League already holds under Section 7.1, and an image of a student whose school has opted out under Section 7.3 is not published. Schools collect media consent from their own families under their own policies and flag opt-outs to the League by the roster deadline, or at any time after. A school or parent may ask the League to take a published image down, and the League will.

ADMINISTRATION

8.1 Acknowledgment. One page, signed once by each person Section 1.4 reaches, and again after any material revision.

8.2 Briefing. The reader call under Rule 8.0 includes a two-minute reminder of Sections 2.1, 2.2, 4.2, and 5.2, given to adults and student volunteers alike. That is the training this policy requires.

8.3 Contact. The President, or the Vice President where the concern involves the President, or any other director where it involves both.

8.4 Enforcement. Breach of Section 2.1, 4.2, 4.3, or 5.2 by an adult is grounds for immediate removal from League service.

8.5 Review. The Board reviews this policy each year before the season opens.

WHAT THE LAW REQUIRES, AND WHAT IT DOES NOT

Section 39.201, Florida Statutes, makes every person a mandatory reporter, and Section 5 above carries that in full. Section 943.0438 requires an independent sanctioning authority running a youth **athletic** team to fingerprint its coaches, and chapter 2026-114, Laws of Florida, raised that to Level 2 effective July 1, 2026. The League runs academic competition and that section does not reach it. The League has not adopted it wholesale, because doing so would fingerprint volunteers who are never alone with a student, in a setting with no one-to-one contact, at \$61 a head. What the League has taken from it is Section 3.7, the disqualification standard, which costs nothing and matters.

The Board should revisit this if the League ever takes custody of students, organizes its own travel, or operates away from school campuses.

ADOPTION

Adopted by the Board of Directors of Leon County Academic League, Inc. on August 20, 2026.

Director	Signature
Stephen Kreyenbuhl, President	
Timothy Fitzpatrick, Vice President	
Chris Dudley, Secretary/Treasurer	