Annual Sports Participation Survey:

Following is the press release on the annual High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). The press release is also attached as a Word document.

High School Sports Participation Increases Again; Boys, Girls and Overall Participation Reach All-time Highs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (September 4, 2008) - For the 19th consecutive year, the number of student participants in high school athletics increased in 2007-08, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

Based on figures from the 50 state high school athletic/activity associations, plus the District of Columbia, that are members of the NFHS, participation for the 2007-08 school year set an all-time high of 7,429,381, according to the 2007-08 High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the NFHS. In addition, boys and girls participation figures reached all-time highs, with 3,057,266 girls and 4,372,115 boys participating in 2007-08. The girls figure surpassed the total of 3,021,807 set last year, while the boys figure eclipsed the former record of 4,367,442 set in 1977-78.

Through the survey, it was also determined that 54.8 percent of students

enrolled in high schools participate in athletics.

"This is certainly another great report on the interest of high school sports in our nation's schools," said NFHS Executive Director Robert F. Kanaby. "The fact that we experienced all-time records for both girls and boys reflects the fact that the high school sports participation experience is more viable than ever and is of great interest to our nation's young people. In addition, the results support the NFHS 2008-2011 Strategic Plan, in which the organization committed to providing stronger leadership and support for high school athletics and fine arts activities."

Two years ago, the NFHS began a new brand identity emphasis using a communications tag line of "Take Part. Get Set for Life.(tm)" In addition to its chief task of writing playing rules for high school sports, the NFHS is striving to gain awareness and support from state and local governments, media, corporate partners, and especially students and their parents.

Competitive spirit squads gained the most female participants in 2007-08 with 16,130, followed by soccer with 8,913 and cross country with 6,973.

Lacrosse gained the most participants among boys sports in 2007-08 with 11,336, followed by soccer with 5,562, swimming and diving with 5,158 and cross country with 5,042.

In terms of combined participation, the emerging sports of bowling and lacrosse continued their rise in popularity with significant percentage increases. Overall participation in bowling increased 17 percent, while lacrosse participation was up 14 percent.

Basketball remained the most popular sport for girls with 449,450

participants, followed by outdoor track and field (447,520), volleyball (397,968), fast pitch softball (371,293), soccer (346,545), cross country (190,349), tennis (172,455), swimming and diving (147,197), competitive spirit squads (111,307) and golf (69,243).

In boys sports, 11-player football once again topped the list with 1,108,286 participants, followed by basketball (552,935), outdoor track and field (548,821), baseball (478,029), soccer (383,561), wrestling (259,688), cross country (221,109), golf (159,958), tennis (156,285) and swimming and diving (111,896).

Texas held its title as having the most sports participants with 779,049, followed by California (735,497), New York (380,870), Ohio (346,571), Illinois (336,646), Michigan (315,734), Pennsylvania (286,992), New Jersey (256,837), Minnesota (230,068) and Florida (227,157).

The participation survey has been compiled since 1971 by the NFHS through numbers it receives from its member associations. The complete 2007-08 Participation Survey is available on the NFHS Web site <www.nfhs.org>.

TEN MOST POPULAR BOYS PROGRAMS

Schools

Participants

1. Basketball 17,861 1. Football - 11-player 1,108,286

2. Track and Field - Outdoor 15,835 2. Basketball

552,935

3. Baseball 15,720 3.

Track and Field - Outdoor 548,821

4. Football - 11-player 13,987 4.

Baseball 478,029

5. Golf 13,647 5.

Soccer 383,561

6. Cross Country 13,485 6.

Wrestling 259,688

7. Soccer 11,122

7. Cross Country 221,109

8. Wrestling 10,090 8. Golf

159,958

9. Tennis 9,576 9.

Tennis 156,285

10. Swimming and Diving 6,428 10.

Swimming and Diving 111,896

TEN MOST POPULAR GIRLS PROGRAMS

Schools

Participants

1. Basketball 17,564 1. Basketball

449,450

2. Track and Field - Outdoor 15,772 2. Track and

Field - Outdoor 447,520

3. Volleyball 15,009 3. Volleyball

397,968

4. Softball - Fast Pitch 14,846 4.

Softball - Fast Pitch 371,293

5. Cross Country 13,294 5.

Soccer 346,545

6. Soccer 10,543 6.

Cross Country 190,349

7. Tennis 9,694 7.

Tennis 172,455

8. Golf 9,447 8.

Swimming and Diving 147,197

9. Swimming and Diving 6,766 9. Competitive

Spirit Squads 111,307

10. Competitive Spirit Squads 4,510 10. Golf

69,243

About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and fine arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and fine arts

activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level.

Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 18,500 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7 million in high school sports.

As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; produces publications for high school coaches, officials and athletic directors; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, spirit coaches, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org.

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