

2. A student who has played regularly on the varsity Team and/or obtained a performance-related athletic "letter" from the student's school in a particular sport for the preceding season presumptively gives the student's Team a competitive advantage if the student were to be permitted to participate in that sport again.

3. The District Committee may reject the request for a waiver if such waiver would prevent another student, who is of traditional school age, from an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics.

4. Due to the increased risk of injury to opponents in collision sports such as football, boys' lacrosse, and wrestling; contact sports such as basketball, field hockey, girls' lacrosse, and soccer; and to baseball and softball hitters when facing a pitcher over the age of 19, particular scrutiny should be applied by the District Committee to requests for waiver in these sports.

5. Any waiver granted may be given only for a particular sport and for a particular season. While a student may receive up to three waivers in a particular school year (for a fall, winter, and spring sport), no student may receive a waiver for any season or sport in any subsequent school year.

## ARTICLE II

### AMATEUR STATUS AND AWARDS

#### Section 1. Amateur Status Required.

To be eligible to participate in an Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, and/or Contest, a student must be an amateur in the sport involved. An amateur student is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the educational, physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived thereof and does not receive monetary or similar or equivalent compensation or remuneration for such participation.

Where the official rules for a sport provided for under ARTICLE XVIII of these By-Laws establish requirements for amateur status, such requirements shall govern to the extent inconsistent with this ARTICLE II.

#### Section 2. Loss of Amateur Status.

A student loses amateur status in an interscholastic sport whenever:

**A.** The student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), receives or agrees to receive, compensation, other Consideration, or an award not permitted under Section 3 hereof, for or related to the student's athletic ability, participation, performance, services, or training in a sport; or

**B.** The student receives Consideration for becoming a member of an athletic organization or school.

**C.** The student plays on, or enters into a contract to play on, a professional team or as an individual professional athlete in that sport; or enters into a contract to represent a corporation, organization or similar entity in competition or by appearing in public on behalf of such entity; or

**D.** The student signs a contract whereby the student agrees to compete in any athletic competition for Consideration. It is not a violation for a high school student to attend, and participate in a professional try-out camp, provided that (1) no compensation or expenses are paid to the student; (2) the try-out lasts no longer than forty-eight hours; and (3) if in the sport of baseball, the student's participation is otherwise in conformity with the National Federation Major-Minor League Agreement.

**E.** The student sells or pawns the student's athletic achievement awards.

#### Section 3. Permissible Awards.

**A. Member Schools:** A student may accept, from the student's school, or a school-affiliated booster club, items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification, upon

completion of a season of participation on a Team and/or for earning the official school letter or award.

**B. Sponsors of Athletic Events:** A student may accept, from the sponsor or sponsors of an athletic event or group of athletic events, items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification, if the student participated in the athletic event and/or earned an award for an athletic event or events. The fair market value of items provided to any such student may not exceed \$750. Such sponsor or sponsors may also pay the expenses for a student to participate in educational programs, tours, and field trips provided by the sponsor or sponsors in connection with the athletic event or events.

**C. Media and Other Public Recognition:** A student may accept, from a non-profit service organization approved by the Principal of the student's school, or the news media, items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification in recognition of the student's athletic ability or performance, and present the same at a time appropriate to such recognition. The fair market value of items provided to any such student may not exceed \$750.

**D. Banquets:** Students may also attend, without charge of admission, athletic banquets sponsored by the institutions listed above in this Section 3.

**E. Participation expenses:** A student may accept, from a school, and/or the sponsor of an athletic event or group of athletic events, the reasonable and necessary expenses for transportation, lodging, and/or meals incurred by the student and/or the student's Team for participation in an athletic event or events. A school affiliated booster club may pay the reasonable and necessary expenses for their school students to attend a camp or clinic.

**F. Participation Fees:** Schools charging fees for students to participate in interscholastic athletics may reduce or waive such fees under the following circumstances: (1) the Principal may approve a reduction or waiver of the fee for an individual student who demonstrates financial need; (2) the Principal may accept a donation of all or part of the fee from a school-affiliated booster club for an individual student who demonstrates financial need; and/or (3) the Principal may accept donations from any party which are to be applied pro rata to all students participating in interscholastic athletics or to all students on a particular Team. Under no circumstance can any reduction or waiver be tied into the athletic ability of such students.

**G. Donations to Schools:** Nothing in this Section should be deemed to prohibit a person or entity from providing to a school any Consideration, provided that such Consideration is not made with the assurance or understanding that all or some of such Consideration is to be then conveyed by the school to any individual student-athletes.

**H. College Recruiting:** A student may accept from an institution of higher education which the student visits in connection with the student's prospective or possible attendance there as a college student, reasonable expenses necessitated by such visit, and free admission to home athletic events of such institution which occur during such visit.

**I. Operation Gold and National Governing Body (NGB) Participation:** Consistent with NFHS policy, a student may accept monies under this program, which provides monetary rewards to athletes who place in the Olympic Games and/or World Championships in designated sports. Additionally, a student and/or the student's parents may accept the reasonable and necessary expenses for transportation, lodging, and/or meals incurred by the student and/or the student's parents for

participation on National Teams or tryouts sponsored by the NGB and NCAA Youth Development Camps.

**Section 4. How Amateur Status Can Be Regained.**

A student who has lost amateur status may be reinstated by the suspending body after a period of one year from the date of suspension, providing that the student refrains from all activity prohibited by Section 2 hereof during that year.

A student who has lost amateur status pursuant to Section 2A and/or B hereof may be reinstated by the suspending body effective upon the student's return to the provider of the Consideration the item or items which caused such loss of amateur status.

**INTERPRETATIONS**

**May 22, 1953, as amended July 28, 2005.**

A student-manager of an amateur baseball team, who receives Consideration, is not considered a player unless the student actually participates in a game played by that amateur baseball Team.

**May 12, 2001.**

The loss of eligibility in a sport under ARTICLE II does not affect those students who have previously exhausted their eligibility in that sport at the time the loss of eligibility provided in ARTICLE II would otherwise occur. This relates almost exclusively to seniors.

**ARTICLE III  
ATTENDANCE**

**Section 1. Where Enrolled for Attendance.**

To be eligible to participate in an Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, or Contest, a student must be regularly enrolled in a secondary school and in full-time attendance, or be home-schooled.

Except as otherwise provided in this ARTICLE, a student is eligible only at the school at which the student is enrolled.

**Section 2. Number of Days of Enrollment Necessary to Count as a Semester.**

Fifteen days or more of enrollment in a semester in any secondary school counts as one semester of attendance. Enrollment at summer school does not count as a semester or part of a semester.

**INTERPRETATION**

**Section 2. October 25, 1952, as amended May 25, 2000.**

Enrollment at any school, accredited or not, counts as enrollment.

**Section 3. How Absence Affects Eligibility.**

A student who has been absent from school during a semester for a total of twenty (20) or more school days, is ineligible to participate in an Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, or Contest until the student has been in attendance for a total of forty-five (45) school days following the student's twentieth (20th) day of absence.

The following absences may be waived by the District Committee:

**A.** days when the student was required to serve as the primary caregiver to a member of the student's immediate family or a near relative or a death in that student's immediate family or of a near relative, both as defined in Section 1154 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended;

**B.** days when the student was absent due to the student's compliance with a court subpoena;

**C.** days when the student was confined by quarantine;

**D.** days when the student attended a religious activity/function which the church requires its members to attend;

**E.** days when the student has an excused absence of five (5) or more school days due to the same confining illness or injury.

If the establishment of any requirement necessary for the District Committee to exercise its discretion to grant a waiver of five (5) or more excused absences results from illegal conduct on the part of the student, other than absences during which the student, without there having been a criminal conviction or an adjudication of delinquency, is admitted to a substance abuse treatment facility, the District Committee may not grant the waiver. Attendance at summer school does not count toward the forty-five (45) school days required.

Absence from school for an entire semester, or for several semesters, disqualifies a student for the same period as stated in this Section.

**INTERPRETATIONS**

**Section 3. April 14, 1984.**

Pregnancy shall be treated as an illness if a physician certifies, in writing, that the student was unable to attend school as a result of pregnancy.

**Section 3. March 20, 1970.**

When computing total days absent during a semester, days absent during a period of suspension count as part of the twenty day absence total in a given semester.

**Section 3. January 22, 2014.**

Students serving an in-school suspension are not counted as days of absence.

**Section 4. Combination of Students Enrolled in Grades 7-8-9.**

Students enrolled in grades 7-8-9, within the same public school district, may be combined to form one or more Teams within the public school district.

**Section 5. Alternative School Students, Magnet School Students, and Technology School Students.**

Alternative School students, Magnet School students, and Technology School students are eligible at only one school for all interscholastic athletics. A student attending an Alternative School, a Magnet School, or a Technology School on a full-time basis is eligible only at said school if said school offers one or more interscholastic athletic programs. A part-time Alternative School student attending a full-time Alternative School, a part-time Magnet School student attending a full-time Magnet School, and a part-time Technology School student attending a full-time Technology School is eligible only at the school which the student would otherwise attend by virtue of the student's residence. All students attending Alternative Schools, Magnet Schools, or Technology Schools, which do not offer any interscholastic athletic programs, are eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the schools that the students would otherwise attend by virtue of their residences.

**Section 6. Charter School and Cyber Charter School Students.**

Students enrolled in a Charter School or Cyber Charter School are eligible only at said school in those interscholastic sports sponsored by that school. Students enrolled in a Charter School or Cyber Charter School that does not offer a particular interscholastic sport are eligible to participate in that sport at the school which they would otherwise attend, in the public school district of their residences, provided that the students meet all other eligibility requirements, including, but not limited to, school verified evidence of full-time attendance.

**INTERPRETATION**

**Section 6. March 23, 2007**

Where a student is enrolled at a Charter School, and where the public school district in which the student resides has no senior high school, the school at which the student is in full time attendance shall be considered the public school district of residence of the student.