

National Federation of State  
High School Associations



# **State by State Look at Amateur Award Rules for Student-Athletes**

John Black, General Counsel, NFHS

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## Disclaimer

This document is for discussion purposes only. We believe it is accurate as of January 4, 2014. However, every entry is subject to change. No one should rely on this information for accuracy with respect to the awards rule that may be in effect in any given state. Rather, interested persons should make direct inquiry to the applicable state high school association, or go to its website.



# Alabama

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**SECTION 8. AMATEUR RULE.** Only amateurs are eligible. An amateur is one who does not use his/her knowledge of athletics or athletic skill for gain. Amateur standing shall be further determined by the following standards:

- A. A student is ineligible if he/she has received money as a prize, or has sold a prize received in a contest, or has bet on a contest in which he/she is a participant.
- B. Professionalism is defined as accepting remuneration, directly or indirectly, for playing on athletic teams and in sports activities or for playing under an assumed name.
- C. A student who accepts material or financial inducement from any source is ineligible.
- D. No student shall receive more than actual expenses involved in travel to and from a contest and necessary meals and lodging in the meantime.
- E. A student shall not at any time receive any portion of a livelihood for participation in athletics, other than actual expenses for any specific game.
  - 1. A student cannot accept payment for loss of time or wages while participating in athletics as part of expenses.
  - 2. Reasonable meals, lodging and transportation may be accepted if such are accepted in service rather than money or some material form.
  - 3. Students playing on a non-home team which requires boarding away from home by the week, etc., will be looked upon as violating the professional rule if board is not paid by his family.
  - 4. A team which plans to divide among its members any surplus either during or at close of season shall be considered a professional team.
- F. No award of any kind having a monetary value of more than 50 dollars – other than medals, trophies, plaques or AHSAA championship rings – shall be made to students. Violation of this rule on the part of school officials shall subject the school to suspension for one year. Acceptance of awards exceeding these limitations shall disqualify a student. Cash awards or merchandise for athletic performances or participation may not be given.
- G. A student who has lost his/her amateur standing may be reinstated after the lapse of one high school season for the sport in which he/she has become professional provided he/she has not persisted in breaking the amateur rule.



# Alaska

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## ARTICLE 8 AMATEURISM

### Section 1 - Amateur Athletes

- A. A student-athlete who represents a member school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasure benefits derived therefrom. This rule may be waived for students participating as members of official United States Olympic Teams.
- B. A student-athlete forfeits amateur status and eligibility in a sport sanctioned by the Association by:
1. Entering into a competition for which the student-athlete is either paid to participate or is competing to win monetary compensation (allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses may be accepted); or
  2. receiving any award, merchandise or prize whose aggregate value exceeds \$250 for a specific event or tournament, unless such award has been approved by the school's principal for an event or tournament sanctioned by the school or Association (this section does not apply to awards given by the Association); or
  3. capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value in exchange for endorsements, participation in commercials, advertisements or the like (scholarships paid directly to institutions of higher learning are specifically exempted); or
  4. signing a professional playing contract in that sport.
- C. Accepting a nominal, standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground or camp activities shall not jeopardize amateur status. An "organized youth sports program" includes both school and nonschool programs. The Association permits reasonable compensation for giving private lessons.

# Arizona

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## ARTICLE 13 AWARDS

### 13.1 AWARDS, MEDALS AND TROPHIES

13.1.1 The AIA shall be responsible for the purchase and standardization of all post-season tournament awards.

13.1.2 A school on probation or suspension in a particular sport shall not receive any trophy or recognition for achievement in that sport.

13.1.3 Schools may accept gifts (including money) from business establishments in accordance with their governing board policy. (Example: scoreboards with advertising)

13.1.4 A student competing as an individual may receive merchandise awards, medals, plaques or trophies, or an award of any kind, which has a retail purchase value of less than ~~\$200.00~~ **\$1000.00**, exclusive of engraving. The entry fee shall be paid by the participant. (See Article 15, Section 15.11)

13.1.5 Team or individual revolving trophies may exceed the limit of \$200.00 retail purchase value, providing the award has AIA Executive Board approval.

13.1.6 Individual team members may not receive a reward, money, merchandise or gifts for being selected as the outstanding player of a particular game when athletic performance is the only basis for selection.

13.1.7 A school team may accept invitations from individuals, business or civic organizations honoring the team.

### 15.11 AMATEUR RULE

15.11.1 Each student, in order to represent his/her school in any AIA sanctioned contest, shall be and shall remain an amateur.

**15.11.2 An amateur athlete is one who has never used and is not using his/her knowledge of athletics or athletic skill in an athletic contest for financial gain.**

**DETERMINATION: The AIA Executive Board determined that an amateur may receive merchandise awards that do not exceed the limit as set forth in Article 13, Section 13.1.**

15.11.3 A person who has lost his/her amateur standing in any AIA sanctioned sport loses his/her amateur standing in all sports in interscholastic competition for a maximum of one full calendar year from the date of discovery of the infraction or until reinstated by the AIA Executive Board.

15.11.4 Amateur athletes shall retain their amateur standing even though they participate during the summer vacation in schools or clinics sponsored by professionals. (See Article 14, Section 14.9)

~~15.11.4 An amateur athlete is one who engages in sport for the physical, mental or social benefits derived there from and to whom the sport is nothing more than an avocation.~~

~~15.11.5 An amateur athlete is one who has never used and is not using his/her knowledge of athletics or athletic skill in an athletic contest for financial gain.~~

~~DETERMINATION: The AIA Executive Board determined that an amateur may receive merchandise awards that do not exceed the limit as set forth in Article 13, Section 13.1.~~

15.11.5 Individual students may receive monetary rewards for participation in luck-of-the-draw or lottery-type programs. This type of competition must be limited to individual type competition and not put one contestant against another. There is no limit on the amount of monetary award for this type of competition. (Examples: Shooting baskets at half-time at professional basketball games; shooting hockey pucks at goals during intermissions at hockey events.)

15.11.6 Amateur athletes shall participate and always have participated under their own name.

15.11.7 An amateur athlete shall not compete for money or other monetary compensation.

15.11.7.1 Amateur athletes may receive actual expenses for participating in out-of-town games, providing the distance traveled exceeds 250 miles from their home and the activity causes the athlete to purchase overnight lodging. This amount shall not exceed the state of Arizona per diem.

15.11.7.2 Amateur athletes may receive a fee for officiating non-interscholastic high school and nonintercollegiate sports without jeopardizing their amateur standing.

15.11.7.3 Amateur athletes shall retain their amateur standing even though they receive compensation from private clubs for instructing students not enrolled in high school.

15.11.7.4 Amateur athletes shall retain their amateur standing even though they receive compensation from state, county, city, parks or recreation departments.

15.11.7.5 Amateur athletes may enter a tournament with or against professionals without jeopardizing their amateur standing providing they do not receive, or anyone receives for them, any monetary awards, gift certificates or merchandise awards which exceed the limits as set forth in Article 13, Section 13.1.

15.11.8 Except for a Letter of Intent to attend a college or university, amateur athletes shall not enter into any agreement with any corporation, association, partnership or individual for their services as an athlete until they have terminated their attendance in high school. This includes professional clubs and/or teams for training and competition.

15.11.9 An amateur athlete, or any member of his/her family, shall not receive remuneration, either directly or indirectly; such remuneration being given to influence the student or the family to reside in a given high school district for purposes of establishing the student's eligibility on a team and/or participation with a club and/or team in the form of a scholarship and/or room and board. of said school. (See also Article 15, Section 15.12)

15.11.10 A student may participate and receive monetary awards in non-interscholastic and/or non AIA sanctioned activities/contests (such as rodeo, boxing, bowling, judo) and be classified as an amateur under AIA rules. (See Article 11, Section 11.1, Paragraph 11.1.32)



# Arkansas

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## Rule 9. AMATEUR

A. The amateur rule for eligibility in interscholastic athletics requires the student to engage in a sport solely for the pleasure and physical, mental, or social benefit derived from participation in sports and to whom sport is nothing more than an avocation.

B. The junior high or senior high student who violates the amateur rule in any of the AAA-sponsored sports may lose eligibility in that sport for up to one full year (365 days).

C. **Violations.** A student may not:

1. Compete under an assumed name.
2. Accept monetary awards or compensation. This includes: cash, gift certificates, expenses for a trip, or any other of this type award.
3. Accept gifts or awards exceeding \$100.00 in value unless the gifts or awards are given under the auspices of the school; however, the student may receive awards in golf, tennis, bowling, and road races as permitted in the amateur rules of the USGA, the USTA, USATF and USBC.
4. Receive remuneration for coaching, instructing, or preparing any person for competition; except he may receive from an organization offering instruction in sport skills to youth monetary compensation on an hourly basis or as a salary for teaching basic skills.
5. Appear in a competition before or during a professional event except as approved by the Arkansas Activities Association.

D. A student may not compete with or against a professional except when participating in:

1. Pro-Am golf meets; or
2. Semi-professional baseball games, when such participation is within the definition of amateurism.

E. A student who has participated interscholastically may not permit his name, picture, or person to be used to advertise, recommend, or promote a firm, service, or product.

**NOTE 1:** An athlete may be named a player of the week or game and be presented a certificate or plaque provided there is no advertising connected with the picture or announcement.

**NOTE 2:** A team picture may appear on a calendar or poster. This indicates support for the school.

**NOTE 3:** Since it is impossible to cover all instances of possible violations to the amateur rule, it is suggested that the Executive Director be consulted in any questionable case.

# California

## 212. AMATEUR STATUS

### A. CIF Sponsored Competition

A student is governed by CIF amateur rules when the student participates in CIF competition. A student who violates CIF amateur or award rules shall be ineligible for CIF competition in that sport until appeal and reinstatement as an amateur by the CIF Federated Council. A student may apply to the CIF Federated Council for reinstatement when the student can again qualify as an amateur in that sport.

### B. Reinstatement of Amateur Status

A student will become ineligible for CIF competition in a given sport if the student is determined to be a professional by the national sports governing body (NSGB) for the sport in question. A student may apply for reinstatement of his/her amateur status through the Section in which the student competes. Any request for reinstatement must include a statement from the NSGB for the sport in question that the student's amateur status has been reinstated by the appropriate NSGB.

### C. Violations in CIF-Sponsored Competition

A student shall become ineligible for CIF competition in the respective sport and shall be penalized according to A. and B. above for the following violations related to CIF competition: (See CAUTION below)

(1) Receiving, from any and all sources, athletic awards totaling more than \$250.00 in value for:

a. Accomplishments in any regular season CIF high school competition event;

**NOTE:** Typical examples of "regular season CIF high school competition event" include, but are not limited to, any league or non-league dual contest and invitational tournament held prior to any season culminating League, Section, Region and/or State Playoff competition.

b. A recognition award program, such as "Player of the Week" / "Month," for any regular season CIF high school competition.

(2) Receiving, from any and all sources, athletic awards totaling more than \$500.00 in value for any post-regular season CIF high school competition or recognition program;

**NOTE:** For purposes of this bylaw only, League, Section, Region and State Playoff competition is considered to be one continuous event.

**NOTE:** The dollar value of an award, exclusive of engraving, shall be determined by the following criteria:

a. The retail price paid by the last purchaser in the acquisition of the award;

b. When the host school or League purchases the award, the retail price paid by the host school or league;

c. When the award is donated by another entity, the retail price paid by or cost to that entity.

(3) Wearing a school team uniform or any identifying school insignia while appearing in any advertisement, promotional activity or endorsement for any commercial product or service;

(4) Lending his/her name and team affiliation for purposes of commercial endorsement. Any appearances by students for nonprofit organizations must be approved by the Board of Trustees concerned. This provision is not intended to restrict the right of any students to participate in a commercial endorsement provided there is no school team or school affiliation;

(5) Accepting payment for loss of time or wages while participating in CIF competition;

(6) Receiving payment for coaching a team in CIF competition.

## ARTICLE 80

### AWARDS FOR CIF COMPETITION

#### 800. PARTICIPATION AWARD RULES

A high school student is governed by CIF rules when the student participates in CIF competition. When the student participates in other than CIF competition in a CIF-approved sport, at any time during the calendar year, the student is governed by the awards rules of the amateur governing body for that sport. If the student violates the amateur standing rule of the amateur governing body for that CIF-approved sport, the student is ineligible for CIF competition, except whenever the amateur governing body rule for that sport is more stringent than the CIF rule, the CIF rule shall prevail.

#### 801. COACHES AWARD LIMITATIONS

Tournaments will not be sanctioned if there is an award over \$100.00 in value to coaches.

#### 802. STUDENT AWARD LIMITATIONS



A. A high school student may not receive, from any and all sources, athletic awards for athletic achievement in a given sport totaling more than \$250.00 in value for:

(1) Accomplishments in any regular season CIF high school competition event;

**NOTE:** Typical examples of a "regular season CIF high school competition event" include, but are not limited to, any non-league dual contest, league dual contest and/or individual tournaments held prior to any season culminating League, Section, Region and/or State Playoff competition.

(2) A recognition award program, such as Player of the Week/Month, for any regular season CIF high school competition.

B. A high school student may not receive, from any and all sources, athletic awards for athletic achievement in a given sport totaling more than \$500.00 in value for any postseason CIF high school competition or recognition program.

**NOTE:** For purposes of this bylaw only, "postseason CIF high school competition" includes League, Section, Regional and State Playoff competition, and such competition is considered to be one continuous event.

C. The dollar value of an award shall be determined by the following criteria:

(1) The retail price paid by the last purchaser of the award;

(2) If the host school or League purchases the award, the retail price paid by the host school or League;

(3) If the award is donated by another entity, the actual retail price or cost to the entity exclusive of engraving.

D. Such award cannot be cash, a gift certificate or merchandise alone. It may be merchandise, badge, medal, plaque, ribbon, picture, certificate or trophy, if it is suitably engraved or designated as an award.

E. In the event a student accepts athletic awards in excess of the respective \$250.00 and/or \$500.00 value(s) stated above, and he/she or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver does not pay the excess amount(s), the student is ineligible for further CIF high school competition and shall be penalized according to Bylaw 212.

### **803. CONTRIBUTIONS**

A. No entity including, but not limited to, booster clubs, individual or corporate donors, school districts, and leagues, may contribute anything in order to make it possible to give an award exceeding the \$250.00 or \$500.00 value.

B. Awards exceeding the \$250.00 and \$500.00 values may not be held and given to the student after the student graduates.

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### **805. ANY GIFT, OR TOTAL OF GIFTS, SPONSORSHIPS OR CONTRIBUTIONS, VALUED AT \$500.00 OR MORE, TO AN ATHLETIC PROGRAM, TEAM OR COACH**

- A. Information on any gift, or total of gifts, sponsorships or contributions of \$500.00 or more yearly to an athletic program, team or coach which is meant to support that program, team or coach must be reported to the governing body or administrative officer responsible for policy development related to athletics.
- B. If requested, a record of gifts, contributions or sponsorships must be made available to the Section to which the school belongs and to the State CIF. Such a record should include the date and amount as well as a copy of any existing contractual obligations related to the gift, contribution or sponsorship, and a clear record of the disbursement of the funds.
- C. The acceptance and disbursement of any gifts, contributions or sponsorships must also be in accord with school administrative and district policy and as stipulated under the conditions of membership as outlined in Article 2-22.
- D. In the case of private schools or public charter schools specifically exempt from such regulations, the Section or State may require the implementation of reasonable administrative review practices and procedures, concerning the receipt and disbursement of gifts, contributions or sponsorships. (See also Bylaw 311 - Donated Equipment)



# Colorado

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## ARTICLE 20 - AMATEUR STANDING

### 2000. AMATEUR STATUS

2000.1 The amateur rule applies to those athletic activities which are recognized by the CHSAA as part of the interscholastic program. A member of a high school basketball team, for example, may accept cash awards in sports not sanctioned by the CHSAA (e.g. bowling or rodeo). Students should be aware that although accepting cash in non-sanctioned sports does not endanger their high school eligibility, it could endanger their status with other amateur groups or governing bodies.

2000.11 An amateur sportsman is one who engages in sport solely for the pleasure and the physical, mental and social benefits he/she derives therefrom.

2000.12 A student must be an amateur to be eligible to represent his/her high school.

2000.13 An athlete has forfeited his/her right to compete as an amateur and has thereby become ineligible for a period of time to be determined by the Commissioner, by any of the following actions:

- (a) Having knowingly participated in competition with professionals either as a member of a team, some of whom are professionals, or against a team composed all or in part of professionals. (Note: As per NCAA and National Federation guidelines, a professional is defined as an individual who is under a professional contract at that point in time.)
- (b) Having competed for money in any athletic activity.
  - 1. It is permissible for a player to accept necessary meals, lodging, and transportation if such are accepted in service rather than in money or any other material form.
  - 2. Competing for a cash prize is interpreted as competing either as an individual or as a member of a team for cash award. It matters not whether the amount awarded as a cash prize is sufficient to cover expenses. Students who compete as members of teams in sports sanctioned by the CHSAA where cash or other prizes of intrinsic value are offered or awarded are ineligible for further high school competition.
  - 3. Students may not accept merchandise prizes given because of their athletic ability. To do so is a violation of this amateur rule.
- (c) Having competed under an assumed name in any athletic activity.
- (d) Having accepted an award in non-school athletic activities which he/she has converted into cash by sale or by pawning.
- (e) Having signed a professional athletic contract.

### 2010. AWARDS

2010.1 Individuals participating in any interscholastic athletic/activity sponsored and/or approved by the Association shall not accept cash or merchandise awards. Awards must be symbolic in nature with no functional or intrinsic value such as, but not limited to, letters, plaques, trophies, medals, ribbons, certificates and letter adornments and shall not exceed \$50.00 in value exclusive of engraving.

Note: "Cash" includes such things as, but not limited to, remuneration in any form such as cash, money orders, gift certificates, scholarships (cash/check payment to school of choice is approved, but not to student recipient), free or reduced price meals.

"Merchandise" awards include such things as, but not limited to, jackets, sweaters, blazers, windbreakers, jogging suits, blankets, rings, etc.

EXCEPTION: Individual, statewide awards that have been formally recognized by the CHSAA's Board of Directors are exempt from this by-law. "Individual, statewide award" is defined as any award that recognizes excellence in athletics, scholarship or citizenship and whose potential recipient is any student within the membership of the CHSAA.

2010.11 If unapproved awards are offered and accepted by the participants, such participants shall jeopardize their eligibility to represent their school in any interscholastic activity, and further, such acceptance shall jeopardize standing of the school in the Association and may result in the suspension of the school.

2010.2 It is the policy of the Board of Directors to approve the awarding of small, inexpensive emblems to be attached to the regular school letter, in lieu of awarding additional letters.

2010.3 Fund raising by booster clubs and other outside groups to be used to purchase for high school participants personal awards in excess of \$50 (exclusive of engraving) shall be regarded as a violation of this rule.

2010.4 Fund raising by the high school participants themselves to purchase personal items (letter jackets, championship rings, etc.) in excess of \$50 is permissible.

# Connecticut

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## **4.6.A. AMATEUR ATHLETIC GUIDELINES**

An amateur athlete is one who participates in athletics solely for the physical, mental, social and educational benefits derived from such participation. The amateur athlete treats all athletic activities in which he/she participates as an a vocational endeavor. One who takes or has taken pay, or has accepted the promise of pay, in any form, for participation in athletics or has directly or indirectly used his/her athletic skill for pay in any form shall not be considered an amateur and will be in violation of Rule II.G. of the CIAC Code of Eligibility.

The following are the basic interpretations of the principles involved in the amateur code which may lead to the loss of an athlete's eligibility.

- A. Participation in any athletic activity under an assumed name.
- B. The awards should be symbolic in nature, i.e. letters, sweaters, jackets, pins, trophies, other similar type awards, and rings or watches which are properly inscribed. Cash awards including U.S. Savings Bonds are prohibited.
- C. Participation on an amateur sports team in which the student-athlete receives, directly or indirectly, any salary, incentive payment, gratuity or expense allowance other than actual and necessary travel allowances, and room/board expenses for practice and games. Third party scholarships are permitted. These are scholarships which are paid directly to the university or college.
- D. Sign a contract or verbally commit with an agent or a professional sports organization.
- E. A student-athlete may participate as an individual, or as a member of a team against professional athletes, or as a member of a team on which there are some professionals who are not currently under contract with a professional team and are not receiving payment for their participation; but he/she may not participate on a professional team.

## **4.0 ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION**

- F. Accepting a nominal, standard fee or salary for instructing, supervision or officiating in an organized sports program or recreation, playground or camp activities shall not jeopardize amateur status. "Organized programs" include both school and non-school programs. Compensation for giving private lessons is permissible if circumstances parallel the above statement.
- G. If a student-athlete's appearance on radio, television or print/electronic media is related in any way to his/her athletic ability or prestige, the athlete may not under any circumstance receive remuneration for his/her appearance. Under such circumstance, however, an athlete may appear on a sponsored radio or television program or have his/her name appear in newsprint ads or in player of the week, month, year advertisement promoting products provided he/she does not endorse or implicitly endorse any commercial product.

**Reinstatement of Amateur Eligibility** – Rule III.C. of the CIAC Code of Eligibility states, "Violation of Rule II.F. shall mean that the pupil is suspended from all interscholastic athletics until he or she shall have been reinstated by the Board of Control of the CIAC."



# Delaware

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## **2.5 Eligibility, Amateur Status**

2.5.1 A student may not participate in an interscholastic sport unless he/she is considered an amateur in that sport. A student forfeits his/her amateur status if he/she does any of the following:

2.5.1.1 Knowingly plays on or against a professional team which is defined as a team having one or more members who have received or are receiving directly or indirectly monetary consideration for their athletic services.

2.5.1.2 Signs a professional contract, accepts reimbursement for expenses to attend a professional tryout, or receives financial assistance in any form from a professional sports organization.

2.5.1.3 Enters a competition under an assumed name. The surname and given name used by any player in his/her first game of interscholastic competition shall be used during the remainder of the student's interscholastic career. Any change in spelling or use of another name shall be regarded as an attempt to evade this rule unless the change has been properly certified by the player to the principal or headmaster of the school.

2.5.1.4 Receives remuneration of any kind or accepts reimbursement for expenses in excess of the actual and necessary costs of transportation, meals, and lodging for participating in a team or individual competition or an instructional camp or clinic. Reimbursement for the aforementioned expenses is permitted only if all of the participants receive the same benefit.

2.5.1.5 Receives cash or a cash equivalent (savings bond, certificate of deposit, etc.), merchandise (except as permitted by 9.1.4) or a merchandise discount, (except for discount arranged by school for part of team uniform), a reduction or waiver of fees, a gift certificate, or other valuable consideration as a result of his/her participation in an organized competition or instructional camp or clinic. Accepting an event program or a complimentary item(s) (t shirt, hat, equipment bag, etc.) that is inscribed with a reference to the event, has an aggregate retail value of no more than \$150.00, and is provided to all of the participants, shall not jeopardize his/her amateur status.

2.5.1.6 Sells or pawns awards received.

2.5.1.7 Uses his/her athletic status to promote or endorse a commercial product or service on the internet; in a newsprint, radio, television advertisement or any other form of media; or personal appearance.

2.5.2 Accepting compensation for teaching lessons, coaching, or officiating shall not jeopardize his/her amateur status.

2.5.3 A student who forfeits his/her amateur status under the provisions of this rule is ineligible to participate at the interscholastic level in the sport in which the violation occurred. He/she may be reinstated after a period of up to the number of days in the school year provided that during the suspension, he/she complies with all of the provisions of this rule. The suspension shall date from the time of the last offense.



# District of Columbia

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## **C. Amateurism**

A student-athlete shall maintain their amateur standing while participating in interscholastic athletics. A student-athlete may not accept, directly or indirectly, a remuneration, gift, or donation based on his or her participation and/or athletic ability in a sport other than approved school awards.



# Florida

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## 9.9 AMATEURISM


**9.9.1 General Principles.** A student may not participate in an athletic activity of this Association unless he/ she is an amateur. An amateur is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived from the activity.

**9.9.2 Forfeiture of Amateur Status.** A student-athlete forfeits amateur status in a particular sport for one year by:

- (a) Competing for money or other monetary compensations;
- (b) Receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the FHSAA;
- (c) Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of a monetary nature;
- (d) Signing a professional playing contract in any sport or hiring an agent to manage his/her athletic career;
- (e) Competing under an assumed name.

**9.9.3 Permissible Awards, Gifts, or Other Compensation.** A student-athlete will not forfeit his/her amateur status for accepting:

- (a) Symbolic awards such as school letters, medals, trophies, ribbons, plaques, pins, keys, or ribbons of small monetary value purchased from an established awards company;
- (b) Rings, sweaters, jackets, or award blankets provided that they are presented by the school which they represent and do not exceed the value of the purchase price from an established awards company;
- (c) Remuneration of "essential expenses" for any game in which he/she participates as a player; limited to meals, lodging, and transportation;
- (d) A college scholarship offer.



**9.9.3.1 Amateur Sports Guidelines.** The FHSAA uses the guidelines of the national governing body of a particular sport, when applicable, to determine the types and amounts of benefits an amateur may receive.

**9.9.4 Violations.** Violation of the amateur rule in one sport does not make a student ineligible in all other sports.





# Georgia

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## 1.90 - AMATEUR STATUS/AWARDS

1.91 A student who represents a school in interscholastic athletic competition shall be an **amateur** in that activity.

- (a) An **amateur athlete** is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived therefrom.
- (b) Accepting nominal, standard fees or salary for instructing, supervising, or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground or camp activity, shall not jeopardize an athlete's amateur status.
- (c) Reasonable compensation derived from private lessons in a sport is permissible.

1.92 An athlete **forfeits amateur status** in a sport by:

- (a) competing for money or other monetary compensations except for reasonable allowances for travel, and lodging. NOTE: Accepting expense allowances authorized by the United States Olympic Committee for Olympic Development Programs is acceptable for GHSA students.
- (b) receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the GHSA.
- (c) capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts with monetary value except college scholarships.
- (d) signing a professional playing contract in any sport, or hiring an agent to manage his/her athletic career.

1.93 Only **awards** approved by the GHSA may be accepted by a high school student-athlete as a result of participation in school or non-school competition in a sport recognized by the GHSA.

1.94 **Symbolic awards** (i.e. non-cash) presented for winning or placing in GHSA competitions are limited to \$250 per year, per student in the aggregate, paid by the local school. These are the only GHSA-approved awards for interscholastic competition. Beyond this, a student may receive one (1) school sweater or jacket presented by the school during his high school career.

1.95 Athletes competing in golf or tennis events are limited to awards as specified in the United States Golf Association Rules of Golf, and the United States Tennis Association Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, which includes (but not limited to) the following:

- (a) No cash awards may be accepted.
- (b) Merchandise awards in tennis may be accepted up to a retail value of \$250.00.
- (c) Merchandise awards in golf may be accepted up to a retail value of \$750.00.

# Hawaii

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## Section 2

I. A student must be an amateur to be eligible to participate in a given sport. A student has forfeited his/her right to compete as an amateur in a given sport and has thereby become ineligible for further high school competition in the same sport by any of the following actions:

1. Having knowingly participated as a member of a team which included professional athletes in organized athletic competition, or against a team composed all or in part of professionals.
2. Having competed for money in any organized athletic activity.
3. Having competed under an assumed name in any organized athletic activity.
4. Having accepted an award in non-school athletic activities which he or she has converted into cash by sale or by pawning.
5. Having signed a professional athletic contract.

The student will remain eligible to participate in any other sport where the student retains his or her amateur status.

## Section 5

### F. Awards

1. A member school or individual player may not accept an award directly from an outside person or organization without the approval of their league and the HHSAA. Any member school or individual player found guilty of accepting monetary awards shall be ineligible from further competition until reinstated by the HHSAA. Member schools and individual players may accept awards of minimal intrinsic value for participation in HHSAA sanctioned school or non-school competition.
2. Member schools or individual players may not accept cash awards for any interscholastic competition sponsored and/or approved by the HHSAA.

# Idaho

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## **8-4 AMATEUR STATUS**

**8-4-1** A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived therefrom.

An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

- a. Competing for money or other monetary compensation (allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses may be accepted);
- b. Receiving any award or prize of monetary value that exceeds the guidelines approved by the IHSAA (Scholarships to institutions of higher learning are specifically exempt);
- c. Signing a professional contract in that sport.

**8-4-2** Amateur status will not be jeopardized by accepting a nominal, standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program (school or non-school) or recreation, playground or camp activities.

**8-4-3** A student may receive the benefits of participation in carnival type / luck-of-the-draw / lottery style activity that is open to the general public. This type of competition must be limited to individual type competition and not put one contestant against another.

**8-4-4** A high school student who loses amateur status may apply to the Association for reinstatement in the interscholastic program.

## **8-5 AWARDS**

**8-5-1** A student may not receive cash of any amount or an award, playing equipment or prize which exceeds the retail value amount of \$300, including, but not limited to, attendance at an instructional camp or all-star game.

**8-5-2** A student is governed by IHSAA rules when he or she participates in IHSAA competitions. If a student competes outside the IHSAA sports season, awards are governed by the amateur governing body of that sport. If no regulations exist for that sport, 8-5-1 is in effect.



# Illinois

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## **3.080. AMATEURISM**

**3.081** For winning or placing in actual athletic competition, a student in a member school may accept a medal, cup, trophy or plaque, from the sponsoring agent regardless of cost.

**3.082** Schools may provide an individual or teams that win an IHSA state championship, a ring/memento not to exceed \$200 in fair market value. Businesses, booster clubs or other organizations desiring to make contributions toward the purchase of a championship ring/memento must make those contributions to the school.

**3.083** A student in a member school may accept any other award for participation in an athletic contest, or for athletic honors or recognition, which does not exceed \$75 in fair market value, in the following sports: badminton, baseball, basketball, bowling, cross country, football, golf, gymnastics, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, wrestling, and any other sport in which the student's school provides interscholastic competition. In addition, a student in a member school may receive and retain items of wearing apparel which are worn for non-school athletic competition as part of a team uniform provided for and worn by the student during competition.

**3.084** A student in a member school may accept a school letter for an interscholastic sport, regardless of cost.

**3.085** Violation of the provisions of By-laws 3.081, 3.082, 3.083 or 3.084 shall cause ineligibility in the sport in which the violation occurred. An official ruling must be secured from the Executive Director before any student who violates these rules may be reinstated to eligibility.

# Indiana

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## **RULE 5 – AMATEURISM**

### **5-1 Amateurism – Sport-Specific**

To be eligible to participate as a representative of a member school in a sport recognized by the Association, a student must be an amateur in that sport.

### **5-2 Definition of Amateurism**

An amateur is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasure benefits derived from the activity. To be an amateur in a sport, a student cannot have:

- a. Accepted remuneration, or a benefit other than of a symbolic nature, directly or indirectly, for athletic participation in that sport.
- b. Capitalized on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of a monetary nature.
- c. Signed a professional contract, directly or indirectly, in that sport.
- d. Participated in athletic activities, tryouts, auditions, practices and games held or sponsored by professional athletic organizations, clubs, or their representatives during the contest season.
- e. Failed to return player equipment or uniforms issued by a school or non-school team when the season for that sport concluded, or when the student's continued participation on such team concluded.

### **5-3 Benefits Which Do Not Violate Amateurism**

A student does not lose amateur status by any of the following:

- a. Accepting an award approved by the Association, or which meets the criteria for the award, as described in Rule 6.
- b. Giving or receiving paid instructions, provided the fees paid are for the instruction and are commensurate with the services provided.
- c. Accepting reasonable meals, lodging and transportation. NOTE: See Rule 6-4 regarding college trips.
- d. Receiving a scholarship award to attend an institution of higher education after high school.

### **5-4 Student Violation of Amateurism; Reinstatement**

A student who has violated the amateur rule in a sport is ineligible in that sport, beginning the date the student violates the rule.

- a. A student may apply in writing to the Commissioner, or designee, for reinstatement, may have his or her amateur status reinstated and be declared eligible under the amateur rule, provided
  - (1.) the student remained enrolled in school since the rule violation,
  - (2.) the student has returned or reimbursed the remuneration or benefit,
  - (3.) the student has not since violated the amateur rule,
  - (4.) a period of 365 days, or such other period as is deemed appropriate, has passed since the date the student violated the rule, and
  - (5.) the student's principal can certify to the accuracy of the foregoing criteria.
- b. In considering reinstatement, the Commissioner, or designee, may consider whether the violation was intentional or not, whether the student knowingly participated in the rule violation, the size and character of the remuneration or benefit, and any other factor materially bearing upon the rule violation.

### **5-5 Assumed Name Prohibition**

A student may not play under an assumed name.

### **5-6 Member School Violation of Amateurism**

A member school violates the amateur rule if the party giving, or involved with giving, the remuneration or benefit is, directly or indirectly, a member of the school's student body, a member of the school's staff or a booster or fan of the school's athletic program and/or other extracurricular activities. A violation of the amateur rule by a member school will result in the penalties described in Rule 17-7.1.

## **RULE 6 – AWARDS, PRIZES, GIFTS**

### **6-1 Acceptable Sports Awards – Generally**

It is a violation of the awards rule for a student, directly or indirectly to accept merchandise, or to accept the use of merchandise, or to purchase merchandise for an amount which is not commensurate with the value of the merchandise, as an award for participation in a sport recognized by the Association. It is also a violation of the award rule for the member school to give an award which fails to comply with the spirit of the award rule. The giving and receiving of awards shall be kept within reasonable bounds, shall have symbolic value only and shall only be accepted with the consent and under the supervision of the member school principal.

Note: The word “symbolic” shall be understood to refer to a symbol, an emblem or a token. A diamond ring, an automobile or a similar award does not fall under the term “symbolic” even if the award is duly inscribed. An inscription cannot validate such awards.

### **6-2 Acceptable School Sports Awards**

A member school may give, and a student may accept, annually, in each sport recognized by the Association, the following:

- a. One sweater, jersey, jacket, blanket or similar article in recognition of a student’s participation in each sport.
- b. A trophy or similar article of symbolic value in addition to the one award permitted above, provided the cost of the award shall not exceed the cost of the one award permitted under Item a.

### **6-3 Acceptable Non-School Sports Awards**

A student may accept the following, relative to sports recognized by the Association, provided they are made within the bounds of Rule 6-2:

- a. An award from an athletic conference which is given to the winning or successful schools and winning or successful participants.
- b. An award from an athletic conference which is given to a winning or successful participant.
- c. An award from a local organization, such as a service club, patriotic organization, civic group, and dad’s or mother’s club, provided the award is approved by the member school’s principal.
- d. A symbolic tribute to a member school’s athletes, the naming of a player of the game or week, or similar honor, from a commercial business, provided the student does not accept merchandise, meals, cash, etc. for such honor

### **6-4 Acceptable College Awards**

Students, with respect to participation in a sport recognized by the Association, may not accept, directly or indirectly, awards, medals, recognitions, gifts or honors from colleges, universities or higher institutions of learning, or their alumni. A student, however, may accept transportation and expenses paid by colleges and universities for recruiting purposes during the senior year, if conducted within the limitations of college athletic codes and if approved by the member school’s principal. Likewise a student may accept a scholarship award to attend an institution of higher education after graduation.

### **6-5 Tournament Series Awards**

All awards for teams and students participating in Association tournament series’ shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

- a. These official awards shall be the only awards presented at the tournament site.
- b. No member school shall accept a state finals championship or runner-up award in an IHSAA recognized sport unless the award is approved by the IHSAA and the member school principal.
- c. Additional state championship or runner-up medals, as needed, may be ordered by the principal through the Commissioner.
- d. A member school may purchase, at its own expense, the official IHSAA state finals championship or runner-up ring. NOTE: The application for approval to order must be submitted by the principal, to the Commissioner on the application form provided by the IHSAA. A school check to cover the expense of the ring must accompany the order.
- e. Only the official IHSAA state final championship or runner-up ring may include the IHSAA trademark, the designation “IHSAA”, or the name “Indiana High School Athletic Association”.

### **6-6 Penalties for Violation of Awards Rule**

A violation of the awards rule by a student or member school will result in the penalties described in Rule 17-7.1.



# Iowa

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## **36.14(3) Awards.**

a. *Awards from a secondary school or registered organization.* A student will be permitted to receive from the student's school, another secondary school, a registered organization, or the host of an event sanctioned by a registered organization, for participation in an interscholastic athletic program, an award whose value cannot exceed \$50.

b. *Awards for participation in school programs from an individual or organization other than a secondary school or registered organization.* No student shall receive any award from an individual or outside organization, for high school participation while enrolled in high school, except that nothing in this subrule shall preclude the giving of a complimentary dinner by local individuals, organizations, or groups, with approval of the superintendent, to members of the local high school athletic squad. No student shall accept any trip or excursion of any kind by any individual, organization, or group outside the student's own school or the governing organization, with the exception of bona fide recruiting trips that meet NCAA requirements. Nothing in this subrule shall preclude or prevent the awarding and the acceptance of an inexpensive, unmounted, unframed paper certificate of recognition as an award, or an inexpensive table favor which is given to everyone attending a banquet.

c. *Awards for participation in nonschool programs.* If a student participates in an outside school activity, the student may receive any award provided that the award does not violate the amateur award rule of the amateur sanctioning body for that sport. In the absence of an applicable amateur award rule, the student may not receive any award the value of which exceeds \$50.

d. *Absolute prohibition on cash.* At no time may any student accept an award of cash.

e. *Compliance.* The superintendent or designee shall be held responsible for compliance with this subrule. Questions or interpretation regarding medals or awards shall be referred to the executive board.

# Kansas

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## **Rule 20 AWARDS**

Any school violating this rule shall be suspended for a period not to exceed one year, unless reinstated by the Executive Board.

Any student who violates this rule shall be ineligible in that activity for a period of one year from the date of the violation, unless reinstated by the Executive Board.

### **Section 1: General Regulations (apply to grades 7-12)**

#### **Art. 1: Member schools:**

- a. may provide awards limited to traditional letters to students participating in interscholastic activities. Team patches, chevrons, and/or year dates are considered as part of the letter, should the school desire to provide them. Schools may give additional individual awards, in each activity, excluding cash, if the cost does not exceed \$25.
- b. may give framed or unframed certificates and photographs.
- c. may award medals, ribbons or certificates to their students for outstanding achievement where interschool activities is but one of several attributes and includes recognizing excellence in scholarship, or citizenship, or leadership.
- d. may award medals or ribbons to their students in league activities, invitational tournaments, music festivals, or other activities involving competition among several schools. A list of the awards to be given shall be announced to the participating schools in advance of the activity.
- e. may award certificates, ribbons, medals or trophies to their students for participation in **intraschool** activities (intramurals, school plays, musical events, etc.)
- f. shall not be involved in fund-raising or in financing students to attend outside school-training sessions, tryouts or camps in competitive athletics and debate. Booster Clubs are considered synonymous to schools
- g. may not allow their interscholastic coaches and directors to accept gifts from any source(s) (accumulative per year), valued at more than \$100, in recognition for their services.

#### **Art. 2: Outside Agencies—School Participation**

- a. No cash or merchandise prizes shall be awarded to students. Medals, ribbons and certificates may be awarded. Scholarships payable to the educational institution of the student's choice are acceptable.
- b. Organizations may honor and recognize students with dinners, programs, paper certificates, photographs and video tapes for their participation in **interschool** activities.
- c. In keeping with the policies of the Executive Board, contributions for the purchase of equipment or other items shall be made through the local school authorities.
- d. Schools shall not accept awards for **interscholastic** activities from outside agencies, unless approved by the Executive Board.

**EXCEPTION:** Music groups representing member schools in "field trip" activities, may receive trophies, medals, ribbons and certificates. No cash or merchandise prizes shall be awarded to member schools or students. (See **Rule 46-1-4b, Music.**)

#### **Art. 3: Outside Agencies—Non-School Participation**

- a. Students who participate in athletic activities, outside of interscholastic competition, shall not accept awards of cash or merchandise. Medals, trophies and T-shirts shall not be considered merchandise.

## **Rule 21 AMATEUR**

Ineligibility under this rule holds for the entire time the student is in middle/junior or senior high school, unless he or she is reinstated by the Executive Board.

### **Section 1: General Regulations (apply to grades 7-12)**

**Art. 1:** A student who uses his or her athletic skill or knowledge for gain, or who plays with a professional team, or who competes for a cash prize, shall be ineligible for that sport.

**Art. 2:** If the student signs a professional athletic contract, he or she shall be ineligible in that sport.

**Art. 3:** A student who receives pay for participation in athletics is ineligible in that sport under the provisions of this rule.

- a. A student may receive pay for teaching activities such as swimming, lifesaving, golf, tennis, wrestling, basketball, dancing, baseball, etc., provided he or she confines the work to teaching skills.
- b. A student may not receive pay for coaching teams or individuals involved in competition.
- c. A student may receive pay for officiating athletic contests.

**Art. 4:** It is permissible for a student to accept necessary meals, lodging and transportation while competing, if such are accepted in service rather than money or other material form.

**Art. 5:** The acceptance of merchandise, jackets, sweaters or other wearing apparel, athletic equipment, pay for pitching a game, remuneration for scoring a certain number of goals or making base hits, etc., or any other form of cash or merchandise award, is a violation of this rule. Neither may the foregoing be accepted as pay to cover necessary expenses.

**Art. 6:** Competing for a cash prize applies to one individual or team members. It does not matter whether the amount is sufficient to cover expenses, or whether an individual receives a portion.



# Kentucky

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## BYLAW 10. AMATEUR/AWARDS

### Sec. 1) AMATEUR STATUS

A student who represents a member school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasure benefits derived from said participation.

An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

- a) Competing for money or other monetary compensation (allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses may be accepted);
- b) Receiving any award or prize of monetary value not approved by this Association;
- c) Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or other gifts of monetary value not specifically approved by Section 2 or 4 of this rule (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are specifically exempted);
- d) Signing a professional playing contract in that sport; or
- e) Accepting a nominal standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground, or camp activities shall not jeopardize amateur status. "Organized youth sports program" includes both school and non-school programs.

### Sec. 2) AWARDS

- a) Awards governed herein and received by a student-athlete while representing a member school include awards received by a student-athlete while enrolled during the academic year as a regular student or awards received by a student-athlete while representing the school at any other time.
- b) Awards received by a student-athlete participating in an event while not representing the school, shall conform to the regulations of the recognized amateur athletic organization(s) associated with the event. If no limit exists for the amateur organization, the limit shall be \$300. At no time shall the student-athlete be permitted to receive cash for this type of participation.
- c) Awards presented by a member school conference, or approved agency shall be uniform for all team members receiving the award.

### Sec. 3) IMPERMISSIBLE AWARDS:

- a) An individual may not receive a cash award for athletics participation. An individual may not receive a cash equivalent item (i.e., an item that is negotiable for cash or trace or other services, benefits or merchandise) for athletic participation;
- b) Gift certificates and merchandise items that cannot be properly personalized shall be prohibited; and
- c) Cash or any other award that an individual cannot receive under these rules may not be forwarded in the individual's name to a different agency or individual.

### Sec. 4) TYPE OF AWARDS

- a) Awards for recognition of interscholastic athletics participation (letter awards) may be presented each year by a member school. In addition, the school may present senior awards and awards in recognition of special attainments or contribution to a team's competitive season (i.e., scholar-athlete, most improved player, etc.)
- b) Awards for participation in special events (postseason tournaments) and established regional or national recognition awards (Mr./Miss Basketball, All-State, etc.) may be presented only by the management of the event, awards program, or by a school that has had or will have a team or individual participate in the event or sport.
- c) The total value of any award presented for high school competition shall not exceed \$300, except awards presented by the Association or a member school for participation in KHSAA sponsored events.
- d) Schools or conferences may not present individual awards to student-athletes for specialized performances in particular contests or events or during a limited time period (i.e., "player of the game" or "player of the week"). However, an organization, business firm or other outside agency may recognize a student-athlete's outstanding performance in a particular contest or during a particular time by presenting a certificate, plaque or medal valued at less than \$50. It is not permissible for an organization to provide any other tangible item or award.

# Louisiana

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## **1.34 MAINTAINING AMATEUR STATUS**

**1.34.1** An amateur athlete is one who takes part in one or more branches of athletics for the sake of the sport alone, without receiving or expecting to receive any financial remuneration of any form. No student shall, at any time, receive any salary or financial compensation, except actual expenses.

**1.34.2** A student who signs an athletic contract for any kind of pay shall be ineligible for further high school athletic participation in the LHSAA. Acceptance of a college grant-in-aid is acceptable and not a violation of this rule.

**1.34.3** The following acts shall be considered violations of the amateur rule:

1. Competition or exercise in any sport under an assumed name.
2. Directly or indirectly receiving pay or financial benefit in consideration of, or as a reward for, participating in any sport, in any public competition or exhibition, or disposing of prizes for personal gain.
3. Directly or indirectly receiving pay or financial benefit in consideration of, or as reward for, appearing in person at any competition, exhibition, or exercise in sports, other than officiating or instructing in a recognized recreation program.
4. Participation by a student, during the school year, in any public competition or exhibition as a team member or against a team consisting of one or more members who are professionals or former professionals in some sport, without having obtained consent, in writing, from the principal of the school he/she attends before participating.

**1.34.4** Students may officiate or serve as instructors in recreational sports as part of regular recreation programs and receive financial remuneration for these services during the entire year.

**1.34.5** Students may receive pay as lifeguards at swimming pools during the summer months.

**1.34.6** If a student violates the amateur rule and returns any financial remuneration that he/she received to the applicable source prior to a penalty ruling being issued to his/her school and can document its return to the Executive Director's satisfaction, the student's eligibility shall be reinstated. Once a penalty ruling is issued to the school, the above rule shall not be applicable.

# Maine

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Maine has no restrictions. The only caution that we give if contacted is to ensure that college eligibility will not be affected and we direct them to U-Maine compliance for specific responses.



# Maryland

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## **.08 Awards and Recognition**

### **A. Awards may be made as follows:**

- (1) A school, school related, or nonprofit group may purchase and present to a student for athletic achievement a school insignia, medal, pin, or similar article;
- (2) Awards from outside the school may be given to individual athletes or school teams provided the awards are approved by the local superintendent, meet MPSSAA guidelines, and the presentation is made at a school approved function.

### **B. Recognition of student athletes and teams, other than through awards, shall be limited to appreciation banquets approved by the local superintendent.**

## **.10 Amateur Rules**

### **A. Students who have not used or are not using their athletic skill as players for financial gain, or who have not competed under assumed names as players, shall be considered amateurs. Employment as an instructor, counselor, or official may not be considered a violation.**

### **B. Students who have ceased to be amateurs in a particular sport may not represent their school in interscholastic athletics in that sport.**

### **C. Students who have lost amateur standing may apply for reinstatement to the MPSSAA Appeals Committee after the lapse of 60 days. The 60 days shall commence with a letter of determination from the local superintendent of schools.**

### **D. Students may not lose amateur standing by playing with or against professional players as long as they do not receive pay for their services.**

### **E. Students shall lose their amateur status in a particular sport if they sign a professional contract in that sport.**

# Massachusetts

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## **47. Amateurism -- Definitions and Loss of Amateur Standing**

47.1 A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

47.1.1 Competing for money or other monetary compensation (MIAA preapproved travel, meals, and lodging expenses may be accepted);

47.1.2 Receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved in advance by the MIAA.

47.1.3 Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are specifically exempted); or

47.1.4 Signing a professional playing contract in that sport.

47.2 Accepting a nominal standard fee or salary for instructing or officiating in an organized sports program or recreation, playground or camp activity shall not jeopardize amateur status. "Organized youth sports program" includes both school and non-school programs. Compensation for giving private lessons is permissible if approved in advance by MIAA. A high school student who loses amateur status may apply to the MIAA for reinstatement after a waiting period of one calendar year.

**47.3 Only awards of no monetary worth to anyone else may be accepted by a high school student-athlete as a result of participation in school or non-school competition in any sport recognized by the Association.**

Individual interscholastic athletic awards and similar mementos to athletes shall be limited to those approved and administered by the institutions, league, or MIAA in keeping with traditional school requirements as to what constitutes an acceptable award.

47.4 Participating under an assumed name in any athletic contest shall make the student ineligible for one year.

# Michigan

## SECTION 11-AMATEUR STATUS/AWARDS

SECTION 11 (A)-Eligibility for interscholastic athletics at MHSAA member schools is limited to amateurs, meaning those student-athletes who have not received gifts of material or money and have not received other valuable considerations, including special considerations for loans, because of athletic performance or potential. Treatment of or privileges received by athletes or their families that are not provided or available to all students violate the principles of amateurism in interscholastic athletics. Gifts or loans to family members, based on the student's athletic performance or potential, are treated as gifts or loans to the student and violate that student's amateur status.

SECTION 11 (B)-After once representing any MHSAA member school in competition in any MHSAA Tournament sport, a student shall not be eligible to represent his or her high school if that student: (1) receives money or other valuable consideration from any source for participating in athletics, sports, or games listed in Section C; (2) receives money or other valuable consideration for officiating in interscholastic athletic contests, except as allowed by Interpretation 139 and 140; or (3) signs a professional athletic contract; or (4) violates any of the Interpretations included in this Section.

SECTION 11 (C)-A student shall be ineligible under this Section if he or she violates its amateur and awards provisions only in the following activities: baseball, basketball, bowling, girls competitive cheer, cross country, football, golf, girls gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, alpine skiing, soccer, girls softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, girls volleyball, or wrestling. In sports where playing rules also have separate Amateur Status rules (e.g., USGA, USTA, USBC), the limits and restrictions in Section 11 apply, not those of the National Governing Body.

SECTION 11 (D) -A student violating this Section shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of not less than the next 90 scheduled school days after the date of the student's last violation, except that a student violating Interpretation 125 may not apply for reinstatement until the equivalent of one full school year of enrollment has elapsed following the date of his or her last violation. (Also see Interpretation 150.)

## INTERPRETATIONS-SECTION 11

### Awards Limits

112. A student may accept, for participation in athletics, a symbolic or merchandise award such as trophies, medals or plaques which do not have a fair market value or cost in excess of \$25.
113. Awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any other type of negotiable documents are never allowed.
114. Banquets, luncheons, dinners, non-competitive trips, and fees or admissions to be a spectator at events, if accepted in kind, are permitted under this Regulation.
115. Rings and jewelry presented in any form or manner for non-school competition with a full retail value in excess of \$25 are violations of this Regulation.
116. Special offers to purchase rings, plaques, jackets, sweaters, or other mementos in excess of \$25 to commemorate sport seasons are permitted so long as the opportunity to purchase such items is made available to all students, not just athletes.
117. A school, organization, or individual may present one or more symbolic or other acceptably defined awards to athletes, provided the cost of each award does not exceed \$25.
118. Acceptance of game balls from contests in which students participated does not violate the Awards Regulation.
119. When any part of the purchase price of an award is paid by the student or the school, is donated, or is raised through individual or group action to reduce the cost to \$25, it is a violation.
120. Acceptance of an award by an athlete for accomplishments in non-MHSAA tournament sports and other non-athletic activities is not considered a violation, e.g. archery, water polo, equestrian, extreme sports, etc.
121. The cost of the regular letter award of the school is not limited to the \$25 maximum. Chenille lettering on school letter awards is permitted. In addition, the cost of engraving on medals or similar awards need not be included in determining the value of a medal or other similar award.
122. Knowledge that there will be presentation of an award at or after graduation, or the previous acceptance or holding of an award by anyone, which would render a student ineligible if accepted by that student during the school year, is regarded as a violation of the Regulation calling for disciplinary action.



### **Uniforms/Equipment**

- 123. Fundraising by team members to purchase athletic equipment, clothing, shoes or other items specific to that team membership is allowable as long as the item(s) remains a part of the school athletic department inventory.
- 124. Players may purchase at fair (current) market value and keep equipment such as shoes, gloves, jerseys, jackets, and award sweaters without incurring a loss of eligibility. Personal wear items such as caps, shoes, and swimsuits may have a value of zero at the end of the season.

### **Contracts**

- 125. After once representing any MHSAA member school in competition in any MHSAA Tournament sport, a student shall not be eligible to represent his or her high school if that student signs a professional athletic contract which involves monetary payment, valuable consideration or any other compensation in exchange for participation or endorsement. Agreements, contracts or rosters that simply indicate a commitment to play for a non-school team or in age group events with no compensation or valuable consideration are not considered contracts and are not violations of MHSAA regulations.

### **Camps, Clinics, Competitions**

- 126. Students may accept reduced or waived tuition, and in-kind travel and room and board from those who sponsor or conduct specialized (single-sport focus) team or individual athletic camps, clinics, competitions or leagues provided such is offered to all other participants or based on economic need (as interpreted by a neutral, non-athletic interest), not athletic ability or potential.
- 127. Students may accept reduced or waived tuition (scholarships) to specialized (single-sport focus) team or individual athletic camps, clinics, competitions or leagues without violating the amateur regulation, provided the funds are paid by:
  - a. the student's parents, grandparents or siblings; or
  - b. the school district, not with general funds, but with funds generated through school approved fundraising activities of booster clubs, school teams, student groups, and community, civic or service groups, and are not provided on the basis of athletic ability or potential subject to the limits of Interpretation 142.

### **Skills Contests**

- 128. A student may receive the benefits of participation in any "skills contest" activity that is open to participation by the general public. Open to participation by the general public involves more than just the participants at a prearranged competition or camp. Events such as 3-point shots, slam dunk, home run derby, long drive contests, half court shots, etc., are considered skills contests when open to participation by the general public.

### **Lodging, Travel, Meals - Non-School Competition**

- 129. A student may accept in-kind, travel and room and board to participate as a member of a National Team or in an Olympic Development Program as defined in Section 11 (C).
- 130. A student may accept in kind, travel, and room and board to participate for a non-school team or as an individual when competing in open competition and/or advancing through levels of competition or qualifying events, provided such is offered to all other participants or based on economic need (as interpreted by a neutral, nonathletic interest), not athletic ability or potential.

### **Scholarships**

- 131. Prior to graduation, senior athletes may accept monetary awards designated for continuing education after their graduation without a loss of high school eligibility as long as the award is based wholly or in part on non-athletic, academic achievement. Such criteria must be a meaningful measurement of academic achievement such as a specific GPA at graduation, not just completing high school. Grants-in-aid awarded by colleges and universities are permitted, regardless of criteria, provided the scholarships are allowed by the college conference and national intercollegiate athletic association to which the institution belongs.



### **Valuable Consideration, Benefits, Discounts**

132. "Valuable consideration" includes, but is not limited to rent, room and board, discounts, loans, privileges from individuals or companies, memberships or privileges in clubs or organizations, or personal services. Items or privileges accepted by students as prizes or payments will result in a loss of athletic eligibility. Valuable consideration to family members based on the student's athletic performance or potential is considered valuable consideration to that student and violates the student's amateur status.
133. It is a violation if an individual student (not the team or school) receives valuable consideration in the form of equipment or waiver of fees at sport clubs. Items of equipment may not be retained by the student but must be returned to the school or benefactor at the conclusion of the season.
134. If a student takes part in an athletic tryout or in a non-school competition as an individual or on a team, negotiable items such as money, tickets, gifts, certificates, etc., are not to become the possession of the high school student or his/her parent(s) at any time. Handling of funds must be done by someone who is in charge of the event or trip.
135. It is a violation if a golf course, tennis club, ski facility, etc., waives or reduces fees for selected individual members of school teams in that sport to use the facility on his/her own time. Such waivers or discounts must be available to all team members in season. Out of season, no such waivers or discounts may be provided that are not available to all students of that school.
136. It is not a violation for high school students who are participants (team members of other levels in the same sport) to be admitted without admission charged to other levels of games played in that same sport whether or not the event is scheduled on the same day if such is available to all participants on that level in that sport; e.g. Admitting high school sub varsity football players to varsity football games would be permitted if local school policy allows. This is not permitted for MHSAA tournament competition.

### **Student Employment**

137. In general, students may work in school or other recreational programs, on play grounds, golf courses, swimming pools or beaches, at tennis or skiing facilities and receive appropriate pay without losing athletic eligibility.
138. A student may be compensated for giving lessons as part of a youth camp or recreation program (school or non-school), but may not also be a camper or participant in the camp or program.
139. A student may be compensated for officiating in CYO, YMCA, YWCA, church, and other youth programs without violating this section.
140. A 12th-grader who is 17 years of age or older may register with the MHSAA and officiate subvarsity high school or lower level contests and, through the legacy Program, an 11th or 12th-grader who is 16 years of age or older may register to officiate subvarsity high school as well as 7th and 8th-grade contests with a registered official who has been authorized by the MHSAA as an acceptable mentor. The student may receive the, normal compensation paid to officials by schools.

### **Fundraising**

141. Students may accept in kind waivers, discounts or the results of opportunities to work off or fundraise school financial assessments required for participation in athletics, provided the allocation is available to all students in that sport, not based on athletic ability or potential but based on financial need as determined by a neutral, non athletic entity such as the federal school lunch program or other non-athletic determination.
142. A student may accept in kind up to \$200 per sport per year (September through August) from approved school fundraisers to participate out-of-season in specialized team or individual athletic camps, clinics, competitions or leagues (but not to tryouts or combines). This does not permit schools or booster clubs to sponsor, fund or support out-of-season activities which are prohibited under Regulation II, Section 11 (H) and Interpretation 227.
143. In general, students may engage in school or non-school fundraising either as an individual or as part of a group, to pay the costs to attend specialized team or individual athletic camps, clinics, or leagues or to participate in cultural/athletic exchanges, or travel to and enter team or individual competitions.
  - a) Funds must be in the form of checks made out to the camp, clinic, exchange coordinator or competition sponsor, or to the school or tax-exempt organization for which the student is fundraising.
  - b) If cash is donated on behalf of a student, it must be paid directly to the organization.
  - c) Neither cash nor checks payable to the student may be accepted by the student unless the student has been employed and performed labor or service for which the payment is reasonable compensation.

144. Students may accept items included in an entry fee for a camp, clinic or competition provided the fee covers the actual cost of the item (e.g. golf towel, practice jersey) as well as all event activities in the entry fee for a tournament Or materials, instruction, room and board at a clinic or camp.
145. Prizes or awards to team members who raise the most money through team fundraising efforts, which involve athletes or their parents only, are subject to awards limits: No cash or negotiable certificates are allowed; maximum value of \$25. Fundraising that involves all students in the school are not subject to this restriction. Prizes, cash or merchandise awards to students from third party fund raising organizations are not allowed unless the fund raising activity is open to other students in the school, not just team members.

**Commercial Endorsements**

146. A student may never be paid or given merchandise or privileges in exchange for a commercial endorsement; and a student may not pose in the school's athletic uniform to promote a for-profit or non-profit non-school commercial enterprise, even if the student is not paid for the endorsement.
147. It is not a violation for school calendars, programs, rosters and other school publications that include photography of athletes to have advertising material or sponsorships. Generally, student-athletes may appear in advertisements that promote their school, school team or a nonprofit cause, but not in advertisements that promote a business or commercial enterprise. It is not a violation for a student or team to be recognized for athletic achievement by a media organization or commercial enterprise (e.g. athlete of the week, team of the week) provided there are no benefits of cash, negotiable certificates, or merchandise to students, no statement.

# Minnesota

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## BYLAW 201.00 AMATEUR STATUS

### **Cross Reference: Bylaw 204 (Awards)**

1. A student may not participate in League-sponsored activities unless the student is an amateur in that activity.
2. A student loses their amateur status in that sport and becomes a professional if the student accepts any of the following for participation in school or non-school athletics:
  - A. a salary, cash or merchandise. (Actual and reasonable reimbursement for transportation, food and lodging when paid in connection with travel to and playing in a contest are not violations. Golf is governed by the United States Golf Association amateur rule.) A student may receive payment for officiating, instructing, teaching or coaching a sport without losing their amateur status in that sport.
  - B. a share in the season's profit.
  - C. an expense allowance for athletic tryouts.
3. It is recommended that awards and prizes for non-school participation should be of a symbolic nature. However, the acceptance of an award valued at less than \$100 retail when received for non-school participation will not constitute a violation.
4. Student cannot use athletic skills to promote or advertise products.
5. **Penalty:**  
A student who becomes a professional will be disqualified from further high school participation in that sport.

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## BYLAW 204.00 AWARDS

### **Cross Reference: Bylaw 201 (Amateur Status)**

1. Awards presented to students shall be of a symbolic nature rather than those which have intrinsic value. School officials will make certain that awards approved conform to the letter, spirit and intent of the bylaw.
2. **Acceptable awards which are not a violation include:**
  - A. Game balls, medals, ribbons, trophies, golf balls, plaques, athletic insignia, cups and other items of little or no intrinsic value.
  - B. Honor banquets of a non-promotional nature, if they are held with the approval of the high school principal.
  - C. Free and reduced price admissions accepted from colleges or universities for their events if they have prior approval of the high school principal.
  - D. Awards of transportation, tickets and expense allowances, by member schools or clubs of member schools, for attendance at League-sponsored, and or college and university events if they have prior approval of the high school principal.
  - E. Awards of transportation and entertainment by colleges and universities for recruiting purposes, when carried on within the limitation of NCAA, NAIA, AIAW, if they have prior approval of the high school principal.
  - F. A scholarship award made on the basis of a combination of two or more factors such as scholarship, character, athletics and citizenship, made by a non-promotional type of organization to a graduating senior, if they have prior approval by the high school principal.
  - G. Awards for participation in non-school athletics which meet the provisions of the amateur bylaw.
  - H. Acceptance of a prize, including money, for a sport that is not conducted or sponsored by the League such as bowling, boxing, rodeo, free throw contests, hole in one contests, etc.



**3. Awards constituting a violation include:**

- A. Items such as jackets, rings, jewelry, watches, merchandise, services, trips, free or reduced price admissions in which the value of the award(s) exceeds \$100 retail.
- B. Awards made by individuals, business concerns, private enterprises, and service clubs, which do not conform to the limitations of 204.02 and are promotional in nature.
- C. Free Tickets: The acceptance of a free ticket valued at more than \$100 is a violation of League bylaws if the ticket is presented as a result of participation in a League sponsored activity.
- D. Reduced price tickets: The acceptance of a reduced price ticket if the full value of the ticket less the amount charged exceeds \$100. High school athletes may purchase a \$100 ticket or receive a free one from an organization without violating the bylaw if the same privilege is available to all other students.

**4. Awards distributed by member schools:** It will be a violation of League policy for a member school or a representative of a member school to establish, distribute or accept any awards not approved by the League for section, or state tournaments.

**5. Penalty:**

The student shall be ineligible for all further high school competition. A school violating the bylaw is subject to suspension from membership in the League.



# Mississippi

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## **2.39 AMATEUR RULE**

2.39.1 A student must be an amateur in order to be eligible to represent his/her high school. Definition: An amateur is a student who engages in athletics/activities for the physical, mental, social, and educational benefits he/she derives from participation and to whom athletics/activities is an avocation.

2.39.2 For a student to lose his/her amateur standing, he/she must have committed one of the following acts:

1. Entered competition for a monetary guarantee, including gift certificates
2. Entered completion for a share of the gate receipt
3. Accepted money
4. Entered competition for prizes or merchandise of more than \$500.00 in retail value
5. Sold or pawned a prize
6. Taught or coached an athletic sport for money
7. Accepted payment of expense allowances in excess of actual expenses (It shall be permissible for an eligible student accept actual and necessary expenses.)
8. Signed a contract to play professional athletics or played on a professional team in any sport; directly or indirectly received a salary or any form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization
9. Played with or against college or professional teams or against an individual college or professional player
10. Competed under a false name

2.39.3 A student may engage in the following:

1. Play summer ball as an amateur on any team not under the jurisdiction of a professional organization, provided he/she does not receive pay for participation
2. Accept meals, travel and lodging expenses
3. Give Red Cross swimming and life saving instruction and receive pay for the service
4. Serve as a life guard at swimming pools and receive reasonable pay
5. Officiate or serve as an instructor in recreational sports as part of regular recreation program and receive financial remuneration of these services
6. Accept the usual athletic jackets, letters, medal, ribbons, and trophies from the school and MHSAA, as well as trophies given by outside parties with the approval of the school
7. Participate in bowling activities under the same conditions that govern other outside or summer athletic participation

# Missouri

## 3.6 AMATEUR AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

**3.6.1 Amateur Status:** A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived there from.

a. An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

1. Competing for or accepting money or other monetary compensation (it is permissible for a student to accept necessary meals, lodging, and transportation in connection with playing a contest);
2. Receiving any award or prize of monetary value which exceeds the amount that has been approved.

**Editor's Note:**

*See also 3.6.2*

3. Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money, gifts of monetary value, or merchandise;
4. Signing a professional playing contract in that sport.

b. Accepting a nominal, standard fee or salary for teaching or coaching sport skills or techniques or officiating shall not jeopardize amateur standards.

c. Athletes shall not represent the school (appearing in school uniform, school-named clothing, at school facilities, or with mascot/school colors) to endorse or promote a product/service, commercial venture, political venture, etc. without prior written consent by a school administrator. If consent is given, the requirements of By-Law 3.6.2 must be met.

d. If gifts, benefits, awards or opportunities are provided to all enrolled students at the school rather than to members of a particular sports team only, then amateur status has not been compromised and the awards limits are not applicable.

**3.6.2 Awards:** A student may accept an award for participation in an athletic contest, or for athletic honors or recognition of athletic achievements in the interscholastic program. Awards presented to students shall meet the following criteria.

a. A student may receive the following symbolic awards: unattached school letters or emblems, medals, ribbons, trophies, certificates, etc.

b. A student shall not have accepted or competed for the following types of awards: services, cash or gift certificates.

c. A student may receive a merchandise award that shall not exceed \$100.00 in manufacturer's suggested retail price.

d. A student may receive an award of commemorative jewelry of a value greater than \$100.00 in recognition of achievements in the school athletic program only if purchased and awarded by the school.

e. A banquet sponsored by other than the school shall not constitute a violation if arranged with approval of the school administrator.

f. An award presented to a student in recognition of achievements in the school athletic program by a non-school organization or individual shall be approved in advance by the school administration. **Editor's Note:** *No award presented shall contain artwork or sponsorship contrary to the standards of the interscholastic program.*

g. This standard shall not prevent a student from signing an agreement which binds him or her to play only for a particular team or an athletic letter-of-intent with a university or college.

h. A student who wins only an Olympic medal and receives specified funds only from the National Governing Body for the sport for the Olympic placement in competition, may continue or return to interscholastic sports without jeopardizing his/her secondary school eligibility.

i. Awards in the form of high school scholarships or concessions on tuition because of athletic ability shall cause the student to become ineligible for future competition in all interscholastic sports.

1. A certificate of compliance with this provision along with a report of the system(s) of financial assistance available to students in each school shall be filed with the MSHSAA office no later than Monday of Standardized Calendar Week 7 by all schools with students receiving scholarships or tuition concessions and approved by the Board of Directors annually.

# Montana

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## **Section (15) AWARD RULE**

15.1 No award exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00) in value shall be given per event in any MHSA sanctioned sport or in any MHSA sanctioned interscholastic activity by a member school, by any person or by an organization to a student in recognition of that student's achievement or participation in any interscholastic activity. An event is defined as a sports camp, an invitational tournament/meet, a post season recognition function (i.e. sports banquet), or a fund raiser or similar function. Cash cannot be awarded. A single Association Contest is not considered an "event" for the purpose of this rule.

15.2 Awards of \$5.00 or less in value may be provided to individuals based on sportsmanship exhibited in any single Association contest. Awards of \$3.00 or less in value may be provided to individuals based on satisfactory completion of tasks set forth for fundraising activities such as pop hoop shoots, passing accuracy contests etc.

15.3 When a student is selected by chance or random drawing, to participate in a halftime or pregame contest involving a sport skill (e.g. throwing, kicking, or shooting a basketball), he or she may receive cash or merchandise prize from the contest, without affecting eligibility under MHSA Awards and Amateur rules.

Random drawing of names or lucky numbers in a program determining the participant would not be a violation. Examples include, but are not limited to, booster club fund-raisers, drawings to shoot a half-court or three point shot, or passing a football to win a prize. During the season of activity, a player from a school team is permitted to participate in such contests, provided the selection occurs randomly.

15.4 Individual miniature trophies for first and second place MHSA state championship events may be purchased from the Association's awards provider.

15.5 Penalties shall apply when:

- a. The student accepts any award exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00) in value from a commercial club or other civic organization.
- b. Any type of cash is accepted.

Penalties shall not apply when:

- c. The award is purchased and presented by the student's parents.
- d. The award is purchased by the student with money earned or secured through his/her own individual efforts.

15.6 Violation of the award rule will render the student ineligible in the MHSA-sponsored sport or activity for which the student received the award.

The Executive Board will follow the same procedure for restoring the eligibility status as provided in the last paragraph of the Amateur Rule, Article II, Section (19) of the By-Laws.

## **Section (16) AMATEUR RULE**

16.1 All contestants in the Montana High School Association must be amateurs. An amateur is one who engages in athletics for the educational, physical, mental and social benefits he/she derives therefrom, and to whom athletics are nothing more than an avocation. To remain an amateur, the student may not:

- a. Accept remuneration directly or indirectly for playing on athletic teams.
- b. Play or manage under an assumed name.
- c. Receive donations or gifts for participation outside the MHSA award rule.
- d. Knowingly accept payment for excessive expense allowances. It is not permissible for an athlete to receive money from coaches for unidentified or unspecified expenses.
- e. Sell a prize won in competition.
- f. Bet on a contest in which he/she is to participate.



# Nebraska

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**2.15.1 School's Responsibility.** The school shall have the control and supervision of the giving and receiving of awards to students.

**2.15.2 Awards to Students.** Awards shall be kept within reasonable bounds.

**2.15.2.1** For each activity season sponsored by the NSAA in which a student participates, he/she may accept a symbolic or merchandise award which does not exceed the full retail value as set by the Board of Directors.

**2.15.2.2** Awards to individuals for activity participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any negotiable instrument are not allowed.

**2.15.3 Awards to Schools.** No school shall accept a cash or merchandise award for participation in any interscholastic contest in activities sponsored by the NSAA except that organizations sponsoring such contest may underwrite the cost of the participants not to exceed their total expenses, and provided that all contesting schools are subsidized on an equal basis.

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**3.7.1** A student shall be an amateur in all sports sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association. A student may be declared ineligible if he/she:

- a. Accepts merchandise, compensation, or illegal awards for competing in Association--sponsored activities.
- b. Enters into an agreement or contract to compete in professional sports.
- c. Permits, with or without actual endorsement, the use of name, picture, and/or personal appearance as an athlete in the promotion of a commercial or profit--making event, item, plan, or service (this does not prevent a student's picture or name from being included in programs).
- d. Received remuneration for coaching any NSAA approved sport during the season of the sport in his/her school.

**3.7.2** When a student participates in other than NSAA competition at any time during the calendar year, the student is governed by the rules of the amateur governing body of that sport.

**3.7.2.1** If the student violates the amateur standing rule of the amateur governing body for that NSAA approved sport, the student is ineligible for NSAA competition.

**3.7.3** Should a student lose his/her amateur standing, he/she may be reinstated by the Board of Directors after the lapse of one complete year, provided he/she has not persisted in breaking the amateur rule.



# Nevada

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NAC 386.697 Participation of pupil as amateur in sanctioned sport. (NRS 386.430)

1. A pupil who participates in a sanctioned sport must be an amateur in each sanctioned sport in which he or she participates. A pupil is not an amateur in a sanctioned sport if he or she:

- (a) Participates in a sanctioned sport for money or any other thing of value, other than allowable expenses for travel, meals or lodging;
- (b) Receives any award, equipment or prize that has a retail value of more than \$200, including, without limitation, any award or prize to attend a camp for instruction or an all-star game; or
- (c) Executes a contract to play as a professional athlete in a sanctioned sport.

2. For the purposes of this section, a pupil specified in subsection 1 who accepts a fee for providing instruction for or supervising or officiating an organized program of sports or recreation for a minor does not, by accepting the fee, forfeit his or her status as an amateur in a sanctioned sport.

3. If a pupil specified in subsection 1 forfeits his or her status as an amateur in a sanctioned sport pursuant to this section, the pupil may, upon the expiration of 1 year after the forfeiture, apply to the Association to reinstate eligibility to participate in the sanctioned sport.

4. A pupil who participates in a sanctioned sport during any period other than the season for that sanctioned sport shall comply with the requirements, if any, prescribed by the agency governing that sanctioned sport for participating in the sanctioned sport as an amateur.

5. As used in this section, "amateur" means a person who engages in an athletic competition solely for the physical, mental or social enjoyment obtained from engaging in that athletic competition.

(Added to NAC by Nev. Interscholastic Activities Ass'n by R206-03, eff. 11-2-2004)

# New Hampshire

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## **Sect. 6: Amateur Status**

An amateur athlete is one who participates in athletics solely for the physical, mental, social and educational benefits derived from such participation. The amateur athlete treats all athletic activities in which he/she participates as a vocational endeavor. One who takes or has taken pay, or has accepted the promise of pay, in any form, for participation in athletics, or has directly or indirectly used his/her athletic skill for pay in any form shall not be considered an amateur and will be in violation of this By-Law.

The following are the basic interpretations of the principles involved in the amateur code, which may lead to the loss of an athlete's eligibility:

- A. Participating in any athletic activity under an assumed name.
- B. Accepting awards other than those considered being symbolic in nature. Examples of such include letters, sweaters, jackets, pins, trophies, other similar type awards, and rings or watches, which are properly inscribed.
- C. Participating on an amateur sports team in which the student athlete receives, directly or indirectly, any salary, incentive payment, gratuity or expense allowance other than actual and necessary travel allowances, and room/board expenses for practice and games.
- D. Signing a contract or verbally commit with an agent or a professional sports organization.
- E. Participating on a professional team or against professional athletes.
- F. Working as a counselor in a summer camp without affecting his/her eligibility. Under the terms of this principle, he/she may work in a tennis or golf shop provided he/she does not give instruction for compensation. He/she may obtain employment with a recreation department and his/her duties may include some officiating or coaching responsibilities.
- G. Appearing on radio or television related in any way to his/her athletic ability or prestige; the athlete may not under any circumstance receive remuneration for his/her appearance. Under such circumstance, however, an athlete may appear on a sponsored radio or television program or have his/her name appear in newsprint ads or in player of the week, month, year advertisement promoting products provided he/she does not endorse or implicitly endorse any commercial product.



# New Jersey

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## **Section 1. Awards.**

Awards are not restricted by the NJSIAA, if approved by the Board of Education, so long as they are symbolic awards, i.e., letters, sweaters, jackets, pins, trophies, other similar type awards, and rings or watches which are properly inscribed. All other awards must be approved by the local Board of Education and the NJSIAA.

Student-Athletes and prospective Student-Athletes must be cautioned when competing in any program including marathons and other running events in which cash or merchandise are the awards. By refusing to accept the cash or merchandise the student absolves himself/herself from placing his/her eligibility in jeopardy.

# New Mexico

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## **6.18.5 Retention of Amateur Status**

An amateur athlete who received pay for officiating or teaching in recreation programs retains amateur status for interscholastic competition.

## **6.18.6 Participation With or Against Professional Athletes**

An amateur athlete may participate with or against professional athletes. The athlete's amateur standing is ultimately under the jurisdiction of the national or international governing body for the specific sport. The Dual Participation Regulation applies.

## **6.18.7 Non-School Sponsored Events - Awards**

In non-school sponsored events, the awards a participant may receive and still retain amateur status shall be determined by the national or international governing body for that specific sport. If there is not an NMAA recognized national or international amateur governing body, the NMAA regulations must be followed.

## **6.18.8 School Sponsored Events - Awards**

Individual participants in any interscholastic athletic/activity sponsored and/or approved by the Association shall not accept cash or merchandise awards. Awards must be symbolic in nature with no functional or intrinsic value such as, but not limited to, letters, plaques, trophies, medals, ribbons, certificates, and letter adornments.

A. "Cash" includes such things as, but not limited to, remuneration in any form such as cash, money orders, gift certificates, scholarships, free or reduced price meals.

B. "Merchandise" awards include such things as, but not limited to, jackets, sweaters, blazers, wind-breakers, blankets, etc.



# New York

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## 2. AMATEUR:

a. A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the pleasure of the activity and for the physical, mental, and social benefits derived from participation. When competing in non-NYSPHSAA sponsored events, an athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

1. Competing for money or other compensation (allowable entry fees, travel, meals, and lodging expenses may be accepted).
2. Receiving an award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by this Association. NOTE: Only awards or prizes having a monetary value of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or less per competition will be approved by the Association. When honoring student-athletes for success in NYSPHSAA sponsored championship events, Boards of Education are encouraged to approve limited awards that are appropriate to high school level competition.
3. Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value (scholarships to institutes of higher learning are specifically exempted).
4. Signing a professional playing contract in that sport.

b. Instructing, supervising, or officiating in any organized youth sports program, recreation, playground, or camp activities will not jeopardize amateur standing. Receiving compensation for officiating shall not effect amateur standing.

c. A student who violates the above rule may apply to the league or to the designated body within that section for reinstatement one year from the date of the latest violation.

***Reporting Procedure: All violations shall be reported to the League and Section.***

## North Carolina

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**13. AMATEUR RULE:** Money or awards having utilitarian value (Example: golf balls, clubs, tennis balls, racket, etc.) may not be given to students for participation in athletics except as noted in the following paragraphs. A student may receive merchandise, etc., if it does not exceed \$20 value per season. Students may not accept items by virtue of being on a "free list" or "loan list". Enforcement of this rule by the NCHSAA begins with a student's entry in the ninth grade, so to participate as a member of a high school tennis team, for example, an athlete may NOT receive racquets, warm-ups, etc., by virtue of being on a free list or loan list.

A player may accept a gift provided it meets each of these conditions: is available to every member of the team, is totally consumable and nontransferable (e.g., meals, trips, etc.) or is labeled in a permanent manner (i.e., monogrammed, engraved, etc.) and is approved by the local principal and superintendent.

A student may accept a medal, trophy, ribbon, pin, high school letter, sweater, jacket, blazer or blanket. Sweaters, jackets, blazers and blankets must carry the high school letter or other appropriate school emblem. None of the approved awards shall be accepted from an individual or non-school organization unless the giving of such an award has been approved by the principal and superintendent of the school the athlete attends.

Acceptance of money or a forbidden award will cause an athlete to lose athletic eligibility in that particular sport for a period of time to be determined by the Board of Directors.

A member school which has any connection with the presentation of a forbidden award—such as assisting in the selection of the person to receive the award, permitting the award to be given at a school function, or holding the award for a student until he has graduated—shall be subject to penalty. Accepting a nominal, standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground, or camp activities shall not jeopardize amateur status. "Organized youth sports program" includes both school and non-school programs.

A student is entitled to receive "essential expenses" for any particular game, or games, in which he participates as a player—that is, meals, lodging and transportation for each particular game. Any remuneration beyond these essential expenses shall debar a student from future contests.

No student shall be eligible for any contest if he competes under a false name.

# North Dakota

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## **Article VIII: Amateurism**

SECTION I: All contestants must be amateurs.

SECTION II: Professionalism is defined as accepting remuneration, directly or indirectly, for playing on athletic teams or for managing, officiating or playing under assumed names. Reasonable meals, lodging and transportation may be accepted if accepted in service and not in any other way.

SECTION III: A student shall be considered as violating his/her amateur standing if he/she participates in athletic activities, tryouts, practices and games held or sponsored by professional athletic organizations, clubs, or their representatives during the season of a sport. This rule shall not apply to activities during the summer vacation.

SECTION IV: No high school student shall be eligible to participate in any interschool contest or activity under the rules of the Association if it shall be shown that he/she or any member of his/her family is receiving or has received any remuneration, either directly or indirectly, to influence him/her or his/her family to reside in a given school district or to attend any given school in order to establish eligibility on the team or organizations of said school, and any school permitting such participation shall, upon satisfactory evidence, be suspended from membership in the Association for a term of not less than a year.

This rule shall not interfere with the right of high school pupils to work during vacation or during out-of-school hours in order to pay their way through school. It shall apply to the use of funds created by gift or by subscription with the intent of offering them or parts of them for the free use of the student or any member of his/her family as an inducement to secure their attendance at said school and to become eligible for participation in the activities thereof.

SECTION V: Reinstatement of amateur status: A high school student who has violated his/her amateur standing according to the rules and By-Laws of the Association may apply for reinstatement as an amateur to the Board one calendar year after the date he/she was declared ineligible on account of the violation, provided he/she has been in school throughout the year.

Such application shall be in writing and shall be signed by the student and superintendent or principal, and shall certify that one calendar year has elapsed since the student was declared ineligible, and that the student has not violated amateur rules during that calendar year.

## **Article IX: Awards**

SECTION I: The giving and receiving of awards and medals shall:

- a. Be kept within reasonable bounds
- b. Have symbolic value only, and
- c. Be done by and with the consent and under the supervision of the superintendent and/or principal concerned.

SECTION II: Awards such as unattached letter, trophy, metal football, metal basketball, metal track shoe or similar article of symbolic value only may be given, provided that the cost of the awards shall not exceed the amount set by the NDHSAA Board of Directors (\$75.00).



# Ohio

## Section 10. Amateur

**4-10-1** A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who participates in the activities of his/her sport for the purpose of deriving the physical, mental and social benefits organized sports competition has to offer and not for any present or future pecuniary or commercial gains. Since the student is considered an integral member of the student body, a clear line of distinction between educationally based athletics and professional sports must exist and be maintained at all times. It shall be the shared responsibility of school personnel, the athletes and their parents to maintain this clear line of distinction.

**4-10-2** An athlete forfeits amateur status, and thus interscholastic athletic eligibility, if any of the following standards of amateurism are violated:

a) Competing for money or other remuneration. Allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses may be accepted provided that these expenses are not conditioned on the individual's or team's place finish or performance or given on an incentive basis and such expenses are provided to all participants in the competition. **Exception:** If a student, who is competing in the amateur division within a competition where prize money is available, signs a Request for Retention of Amateur Status written declaration prior to the competition in which the student agrees that he or she will not accept any prize money, the student may accept allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses provided that these expenses are not contingent upon the student's individual or a team's finish or performance or given as an incentive to achieve a specific goal or performance. Receipt of expenses received by the athlete shall be reported to the OHSAA so as to determine whether or not the expenses are in excess of those reasonable amounts for travel, meals and lodging. The written declaration form can be found here:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/Bylaw4-10-2RequestRetentionofAmateurStatus.pdf>

b) Capitalizing on the athlete's fame by receiving money, merchandise or services of value. An athlete "capitalizes" on his/her "athletic fame" by accepting money, merchandise or services of value based in whole or in part upon the notoriety the athlete received through his/her athletic skills and achievements. This includes using the athlete's skill, directly or indirectly, for pay in any form in that sport. "Pay" includes, but is not limited to, any direct or indirect remuneration, gratuity or other economic benefit in either the present or future, or any division or split of surplus (bonuses, games' receipts, etc.). Scholarships to institutions of higher education are specifically exempted;

c) Signing a contract or making a commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any payment received. This prohibits signing a contract during the interscholastic athletics season that is dated after the completion of the athlete's interscholastic athletic eligibility;

d) Receiving, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses, merchandise or services or any other form of financial assistance or benefits from a professional sports organization based upon athletics skills or participation.

**EXCEPTION:** An athlete may receive reimbursement of expenses as per item (a) for a professional tryout;

e) Competing with any professional athletics team, even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received; or

f) Entering into an agreement with a sports or marketing agent (O.R.C. §§4771.01 et seq.).

**4-10-3** The following activities do not jeopardize amateur status:

a) Accepting a fee for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground or camp activities;

b) Receiving school-sponsored membership or participation fees in youth serving agencies, athletic clubs, community recreation centers, instructional programs or camps, etc. provided such fees are paid directly to the agency;

c) Receiving an award, playing equipment or prize of monetary value which does not exceed the awards amount authorized by the Association;

d) Receiving all non-monetary benefits and awards provided to members of an Olympic team beyond actual and necessary expenses, including entertainment, equipment, clothing, long distance telephone service, Internet access, and any other item or service for which it can be demonstrated that the same benefit is available to all members of the nation's Olympic team or the specific sport Olympic team in question;

e) Accepting funds that are administered by the United States Olympic Committee pursuant to its Operation

Gold Program; or f) Participating in member school, charitable or educational promotions or fund-raising

activities that involve the use of athletic ability by student-athletes to obtain funds (e.g., swim-a-thons, lift-a-thons, shoot-a-thons) from donors, provided the student-athletes receive no compensation or prizes for their participation.

g) Accepting scholarship funds that are administered by a national governing body, e.g. the United States Bowling Congress' Scholarship Program, provided such funds are paid directly to a postsecondary institution and the funds are not available until after the student has graduated from high school.

**4-10-4** A high school student who loses amateur status/athletic eligibility may apply to the Association for reinstatement in the interscholastic program. Such appeals shall be handled by the Commissioner in accordance with the bylaws. If a student-athlete in one sport violates a provision of the amateur bylaw as detailed above, the student-athlete may represent the member school in a different sport.

## **BYLAW 5 — AWARDS**

### **Section 1. Awards — Approved**

**5-1-1** Awards directly resulting from participation in interscholastic athletics may be accepted by a student from any source provided the award does not exceed in value \$200 per award.

**5-1-2** College scholarships may be accepted provided the amount of the scholarship is paid for college expenses.

### **Section 2. Awards — Violations**

**5-2-1** The penalty for violation for any member of a school squad, except a senior, shall be ineligibility in that sport for the ensuing season.

**5-2-2** The penalty for violation for a senior shall be ineligibility for all interscholastic athletics the remainder of the school year.

**5-2-3** The school itself shall be held accountable to the Association for any violation of this bylaw, by individuals or groups before, at, or after graduation.



# Oklahoma

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## **RULE 5 - AMATEURISM AND AWARDS (DOES NOT APPLY TO NON-ATHLETICS)**

### Section 1.

- a. This Association endorses the general principle of amateur athletics that prompts an individual to participate in physical activity solely for personal pleasure and satisfaction and for physical, mental, social and moral benefits derived from the activity.
- b. In order that students may retain their amateur standings and be eligible to participate in high school, college, national, and international amateur athletics, it shall be the duty of the principal to instruct the students as to how they may avoid jeopardizing their eligibility. A student should be advised not to use his or her knowledge or skill of athletics or reputation as an athlete for financial gain. A student should be advised not to participate in physical activities with professionals or where professionalism is practiced--that is, where individuals are being compensated directly or indirectly for their participation; or where teams or their sponsors are compensated or reimbursed on a win or lose basis; or where cash or merchandise prizes other than medals or trophies are offered, given, or paid to individuals or to teams. A prize is any article that is to be given as an inducement to participate or an article competed for.
- c. The exceptions and provisos given in the remaining sections of this rule are to apply only to eligibility for participation as a representative of a member school of this Association.

### Section 2.

- a. A student is not eligible to participate in interscholastic contests in any sport in which he/she has used his/her knowledge or skill for financial gain. An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:
  - (1) Competing for money or other monetary compensation (allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses may be acceptable.)
  - (2) Receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by his/her state association.
  - (3) Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value (scholarships given by institutions of higher learning are specifically exempted).
  - (4) Signing a professional playing contract in that sport.
- b. Accepting a nominal, standard fee or salary for instruction, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground, or camp activities shall not jeopardize amateur status. "Organized youth sports program" includes both school and non-school programs. Compensation for giving private lessons is permissible if approved by the state association.
- c. A student athlete who loses amateur status may apply to his/her state high school association for reinstatement in the interscholastic program after a waiting period to be determined by that state association.
- d. Only awards of no intrinsic value and approved by his/her state high school association may be accepted by a school student-athlete as a result of participation in school or non-school competition in a sport recognized by that state association.

### Section 3.

Any student who shall appear on a bout or card for wrestling, if on the same card or bout a professional appeared, or who participated in any athletic contest where cash or merchandise is offered, given or paid to his/her team or individual members of his/her team, shall be ineligible for interscholastic contests in the sport in which he/she participated or appeared until such time as it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Board that he/she did not receive cash or merchandise prizes or gifts because of such participation. If a student has appeared in a wrestling match where a professional appeared or has received a merchandise prize or gift, and refrains from further violations of the rules of the Association and forfeits one year's eligibility, he/she may be reinstated by the Board of Directors.

A student will not be made ineligible should the manager of the team accept gate receipts provided division of receipts does not depend upon the results of the contest and provided such receipts are used to defray team expenses such as playing equipment, care of injuries, team transportation, hotel and meals while playing away from home, and that no member of the team is given or paid an allowance for individual expenses or is compensated at any time for his/her services as a player on this team during the season. This rule does prohibit a student entering a contest where cash or merchandise prizes that are offered, given or paid to his/her team or individual members of his/her team. War savings stamps and bonds are classed as cash or merchandise prizes that are offered, given or paid to his/her team or individual members of his/her team. This does not prohibit prizes such as a loving cup, medal or similar trophy.



Section 4.

- a. Other than trophies, medals or plaques, no awards or prizes of any nature shall be given to or accepted by students in recognition of participation, attainment or honor because of participation in interscholastic athletics except those given by the school, the Association, a conference, the sponsors of an approved meet or tournament, and to outstanding senior athletes upon approval by the principal. This does not prohibit donations to the sponsors of the meet or tournament or the school for the purpose of purchasing such awards.
- b. Medals and trophies may be offered as prizes in conferences or other athletic events involving competition among several schools or intramural competition within the school, and arrangements for such prizes must be made in advance by the organization sponsoring the event so that all may have the same opportunity of qualifying as the winner of the prize.
- c. Courtesies extended to teams in recognition of their participation, attainment or honor given because of their participating in interscholastic athletics, such as banquets, entertainments and trips, may be accepted by the team with the approval of the principal.
- d. Any member of the Association which violated this rule shall be liable for suspension from the Association for one year. Any individual player violating the provisions of this rule shall be ineligible for one year.
- e. "Award", as used in this rule, means any article emblematic of an honor or attainment which was not offered as an inducement for participation or as an article to be competed for which competition is held. "Prize," as used in this rule, means anything competed for or offered as an inducement for participation.
- f. Members of the team and other school groups are not to raise funds through benefits such as dances, shows, donations, sale of refreshments, etc., to be used in the purchase of awards or prizes other than those specified in this rule. Any individual, organization, or group utilizing students in activities to raise funds will be considered a school group.
- g. A general award open to the outstanding boy or girl athlete may be made each school year and it is suggested that scholarship, sportsmanship, leadership, character and team play be considered in making the award.
- h. Students may receive one award per year such as a ring or jacket through the school. Any additional awards from non-attached school individuals or groups must be approved by the principal.

## Oregon

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**8.4. Awards.** A student becomes ineligible for one calendar year after the date of the report of the violation to the OSAA if at any time the student accepts or enters into any agreement for the purpose of later accepting any compensation or thing of value for or in recognition of athletic or activities abilities, with these exceptions:

**8.4.1.** A student activities participant may not accept monetary compensation in recognition of activities ability, participation and/or achievement during the Association year. A student may accept non-monetary compensation or items of value solely in recognition of activities ability, participation and/or achievement if the total value of such non-monetary compensation or items of value, including the actual value of any gift certificates (so long as they are not convertible to cash), discounts, coupons, etc., does not exceed \$300 retail value in any association year.

NOTE: For the purposes of this rule, "non-monetary compensation or items of value" does not include customary awards of a symbolic nature without resale value such as the school's athletic letter, medals, ribbons, certificates, plaques, trophies and other emblems. This rule does not regulate or prohibit compensation received by a student for ability, participation and/or achievement in a non-OSAA sport or activity, nor does this rule prohibit the acceptance of college scholarships by students.

**8.4.2.** A coach or director is responsible for reporting to the school's athletic/activities director all compensation or items of value received by the students on that coach/director's team within one month of the receipt of the compensation or items of value. Principals are responsible for verifying to the association that the total sum of compensation or items of value received by each student participant at that school does not exceed \$300 retail value for each participant.

**8.4.3.** A student participating without compensation as a contestant, coach or similar participant in athletic or other activities may accept the use of necessary equipment and incidental services customarily furnished amateur participants in such activities, may accept reimbursement for direct and necessary expenses for participation (including mileage where the student must drive), and where participation requires absence from home, may accept necessary meals and lodging.

# Pennsylvania

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## 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.

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 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.
- B. The student receives Consideration for becoming a member of an athletic organization or school.
- C. The student plays on a professional team or as an individual professional athlete in that sport.
- 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 \$500. 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 \$500.

**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 of Athletic Equipment and/or Product and/or Payments to Schools:** Nothing in this Section should be deemed to prohibit a donor of athletic equipment and/or product and/or the sponsor of any athletic event or group of athletic events 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:** 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.

# Rhode Island

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## **Section 19. AMATEURISM - DEFINITIONS AND LOSS OF AMATEUR STANDINGS**

A. A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasurable benefits derived there from. An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

1. competing for money or other monetary compensation (allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses may be accepted).
2. receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.
3. capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are specifically exempted).
4. signing a professional playing contract in that sport.

B. Accepting a nominal standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground or camp activities shall not jeopardize amateur status. "Organized youth sports program" includes both school and non-school programs. Compensation for giving private lessons is permissible if approved by the state association. A high school student who loses amateur status may apply to the League for reinstatement in the interscholastic program after waiting a period of one (1) year.

C. Only awards of no intrinsic value and approved by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League may be accepted by a high school student-athlete as a result of participation in school or non-school competition in a sport recognized by the League.

D. Individual interscholastic athletic awards and similar mementos for athletes shall be limited to those approved and administered by the institutions, approved League sponsors, or the Rhode Island Interscholastic League in keeping with traditional school requirements as to what constitutes an acceptable award.

E. Participation under an assumed name in any athletic contest shall make the student ineligible for one (1) year.

# South Carolina

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## Section 13. Amateur Status

A. A student must maintain an amateur status.

B. A student may not have competed for money or valuable consideration other than prizes with symbolic value. No participants may accept material awards in excess of actual expenses, including hotel bills and transportation. The word symbolic is used to mean that the award must have some relationship to the sport being played. The following are permitted when given by the school: regular letter awards of the school; miniature gold and silver footballs, basketballs, track shoes or other similar emblematic awards; sweaters or jackets; ribbons, banners, medals, trophies, plaques, cups, etc., and banquets. The following are not permitted: wearing apparel; service (such as board, laundry, dry cleaning, etc.); membership in other than school letter organizations; fountain pens or similar articles that have distinct economic value and may be sold freely and easily on the regular market.

**NOTE:** If watches and rings are given, they must be symbolic in value and shall not exceed \$100.00.

**NOTE:** Student athletes who accept a nominal standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program will not be in violation of this rule. Awards or gifts given to golfers or tennis players such as balls, shoes, rackets, or clubs are a violation of this rule. Coaches are responsible for making this known to their players.



# South Dakota

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## **SECTION 5. AWARDS.**

The Board of Directors shall annually set the monetary value of awards which may be accepted by the athletes of member schools. A member school shall not give awards for athletic participation of any kind that have a value more than the amount set by the Board of Directors. Any student who accepts an award from any source for athletic participation that has a value of more than the amount set by the board, except in the case of medals or other awards given or approved by the Association in connection with tournaments, meets, and other athletic contests, shall be ineligible for any further participation in athletic contests under the jurisdiction of this Association. This Bylaw has no bearing on sweaters or jewelry or other athletic trophies that may be purchased by the athlete's parents or bought by the student with money earned by the student.

The Board of Directors may waive the awards rule for non-school athletic events held during the summer months after school closes in the spring and before school opens in the fall. A student is restricted by the closing and opening dates of the school which the student attends.

# Tennessee

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## **Amateur Rule**

**Section 18.** A student who has never used and is not using his/her knowledge of athletics or his/her athletic skill for pay in the sports which this Association governs and who has always contested under his/her own name is an amateur. (Accepting money for officiating athletic contests or for working as an employee in a city or county recreation program is not a violation of this regulation.) A student who violates the amateur rule shall be ineligible for 12 months in the sport in which the violation occurs.

Such a student may be reinstated as an amateur after a period of one calendar year from the time he/she was declared ineligible has elapsed, provided he/she has not violated the amateur rule during this period.

## **Award Rule**

**Section 19.** A student may accept a medal, trophy, state championship ring, high school letter, sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer or blanket but nothing else of commercial value. (A sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer or blanket must carry the high school letter or other appropriate award emblem.) None of the approved awards shall be accepted from an individual or a non-school organization unless the giving of such award has been approved by the principal of the school the athlete attends. Acceptance of forbidden awards will cause a student to become ineligible for 12 months in the sport in which the violation occurs. Bowling, golf and tennis students will abide by USBC, USGA, and USTA regulations in accepting awards.

**Section 20.** A member school that has any connection with the presentation of a forbidden award — such as assisting in the selection of the person to receive the award, permitting the award to be given at a school function, or holding the award for a student until he/she has graduated — shall be subject to suspension from tournament play in the involved sport(s) for one season.

# Texas

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## Section 441: AMATEUR ATHLETIC STATUS

An amateur participates in athletics for the aesthetic, physical, mental, and social benefits to be derived. Therefore, the purpose of such participation is playing for the intrinsic rewards rather than for valuable consideration. The amateur rule is a safeguard against exploitation and commercialization of high school students. It poses a responsibility on the student at all times (whether in school or outside school) to abide by the letter and intent of amateurism. Schools are charged with the responsibility of informing students of all applicable subsections of this rule and enforcing this rule. Administrators and coaches must insure that athletes receive only services specifically permitted by written rule. Any breach of the rule undermines the educational goals of interscholastic athletics.

(a) NOT AN AMATEUR. For purposes of competing in an athletic contest, a student in grades 9-12 is not an amateur if that individual, within the preceding 12 months received money or other valuable consideration for teaching or participating in a League sponsored school sport or received valuable consideration for allowing his or her name to be used in promoting a product, plan or service related to a League contest or accepted money or other valuable consideration from school booster club funds for any non-school purpose. It is a violation of the athletic amateur rule for parents of student athletes to accept tickets to athletic contests where their children are participating. It is also a violation for parents of student athletes to accept free pass gate admission to athletic contests where their children are participating unless they are at the contest in another capacity, i.e., if the parent is an employee of the school or a board member, or working at a concession booth, etc. (See Official Interpretations #11 and 12, Appendix I.)

(b) EXCEPTIONS:

- (1) Seniors may sign a letter of intent or scholarship agreement which contains the conditions of a scholarship with a postsecondary institution.
- (2) For purposes of competing in an athletic contest, the participant school, school district or a student's parent(s) may provide medical examination and services, athletic insurance, transportation and other travel expenses incurred in competing away from home, or supplies and services during and in connection with a game or practice period. Jerseys or game shirts may be worn on game day as well as during practice or competition, with school district approval.
- (3) Participant schools and member school districts may permit student athletes to attend contests by permit admission through a pass gate.
- (4) A student-athlete in grades 9-12 may accept funds that are administered by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) pursuant to its Operation Gold program.
- (5) Student athletes may accept small "goodie bags" consisting of cookies, candy and symbolic gifts from their classmates, if allowed by local school policy.
- (6) Student athletes may accept travel expenses and attend free banquets in connection with an awards ceremony to accept a national and/or state-wide award, after completing their eligibility in that sport.
- (7) This rule is sport-specific. For example if a student violates the rule in one sport, such as accepting a prize for winning a hole-in-one contest in golf, that student would be ineligible only for golf.

## Section 480: LIMITATION OF AWARDS

(a) LIMIT.

(1) *Awards Schools May Give.* A participant school or member school district may give one major award not to exceed \$70 in value to a student during that student's high school enrollment at the same school for participation in UIL interschool competition(s) listed in Section 380. Each year a participant school or member school district may give one additional award per student per interschool activity listed in Section 380, not to exceed \$10 each. Schools may give a student the \$10 minor award for an activity during the same school year the \$70 major award is given for that activity.



(2) *Awards Students May Receive.* A student may not accept from any source other than the school attended or the school district, any award in money, product or service for competing in an interschool contest except as follows:

- (A) A certificate, medal, trophy or other symbolic award for participating in any UIL activity which counts on League standing, if it is given by the school, school district, the district executive committee or the entity that organized the competition (i.e., the regional director, zone director, etc.). (Note: Students may not accept and keep trophies presented to them by an outside source to honor them for UIL participation and remain eligible according to the Awards Rule, Section 480 (a). The school may permanently accept the trophy to be kept in the trophy case of the school.)
- (B) A certificate for participating in any UIL activity, if it is given by the participant school, school district or district executive committee.
- (C) A certificate for participating in a UIL contest at the state level, if it is given by the UIL or one of the professional education organizations sanctioned by the UIL.
- (D) A medal, trophy, patch or other symbolic award for participating in an invitational athletic contest which does not count on League standing, in an activity which the UIL sponsors as listed in Section 380, if it is given by the organization conducting the contest or competition. (Sports which are not sanctioned by the UIL, such as bowling, motorcycle racing, rodeo, etc., do not come under this rule.)
- (E) Unlimited awards for participating in an invitational academic or fine arts contest which does not count on League standing, whether or not it is an activity which the League sponsors.
- (F) Educational trips sponsored by the school.
- (G) Scholarships for college or university enrollment if awarded at or after graduation from high school.

(3) *Awards Students May Receive for Intraschool Competition.* A student may accept unlimited awards for participating in intraschool competition.

# Utah

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## **SECTION 6: Amateur Rule**

A. In order to protect the high school athlete from exploitation, undue influence or unthinking action which may jeopardize a student's athletic future, the following rule definitions and interpretations shall apply to participants in athletic programs of member schools: an amateur sports person is one who engages in sport solely for the pleasure and the physical, mental and social benefits derived there from. A student must be an amateur to be eligible to represent his or her high school. An athlete has forfeited his or her right to compete as an amateur, and has thereby become ineligible for further high school competition, by any of the following actions:

1. Having knowingly competed as a member of a team which included professional athletes in organized athletic competition or against a team composed all or in part of professionals.
2. Having competed for money in any organized athletic activity.
3. Having competed under an assumed name in any organized athletic activity.
4. Having accepted an award in non-school athletic activities which he or she has converted into cash by sale or by pawning.
5. Having signed a professional athletic contract.

## **Interps & Guidelines 1.6.1: AMATEUR RULE**

- A. The amateur rule applies to those athletic activities which are recognized and sponsored by the Utah High School Activities Association as part of the interschool program.
- B. Play with or against professionals in individual sports is excluded from Section 6 providing no money is received by the amateur.
- C. It is permissible for a player to accept necessary meals, lodging and transportation if such are accepted in service rather than in money or any other material form.
- D. Competing for a cash prize is interpreted as competing either as an individual or as a member of a team for cash award. It matters not whether the amount awarded as a cash prize is only sufficient to cover expenses. Students who compete as members of teams in athletic events where cash prizes are offered or awarded are ineligible for further high school athletic competition.
- E. The ineligibility described in Article 1 Section 6 only relates to the sport in which the professional contract was signed.

## **SECTION 7: Prohibition of Awards**

Individual participants of any interscholastic activity sponsored and/or approved by the UHSAA shall not accept any cash award.

# Vermont

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- I. Students are ineligible if they have lost their amateur standing, i.e., they have accepted remuneration, gifts or donations directly or indirectly for participation in an athletic contest, or they have participated under an assumed name, or they have competed on a team some player of which was paid for his participation, or they have entered into a playing contract with a professional club or agent. Reference to "gifts or donations" is not intended to preclude the acceptance of playing apparel and equipment that is presented by the sponsoring organization.

**J. Amateur Status Rulings and Comments:**

1. Students who lose amateur status in one sport do not lose it in other sports.
2. Students will lose their amateur status in the sport involved if they accept any money whether for participation or as a prize for being outstanding players.
3. Students who become members of a ski patrol will not jeopardize their amateur standing.
4. Amateurs or a team of amateurs may participate against a team of professionals. Amateurs may not participate on a professional team, or on a team where members of the team are receiving remuneration for their athletic services.
5. High school students should be advised to exercise great caution in participating in any athletic activity where there are cash prizes. Youngsters should be extremely careful in participating in adult bowling leagues where there are cash prizes. These rulings are made with two thoughts in mind:
  - (a) Maintaining an amateur status while participating in interscholastic activities.
  - (b) Protecting future athletic eligibility for activities after completion of high school.



# Virginia

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**28B-2-1 AMATEUR RULE-**A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasure benefits derived therefrom.

**28B-2-2 Exception:** Accepting a fee for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth or recreation, playground, or camp activities program shall not jeopardize amateur status.

**28B-2-3 Interpretations:**

(1) An individual loses amateur status and thus shall not be eligible for interscholastic competition in a particular sport if the individual:

- (a) Uses his or her athletics skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in that sport;
- (b) Accepts a promise of pay for participation in that sport even if such pay is to be received following completion of interscholastic athletics participation;
- (c) Signs a contract or commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any consideration received, in that sport;
- (d) Enters into a professional draft or an agreement with an agent or other entity to negotiate a professional contract in that sport;
- (e) Accepts payment for expenses beyond actual and necessary travel, room and board expenses for practice and competition in that sport;
- (f) Accepts preferential treatment, benefits or services (e.g., loans with deferred pay-back) because of the individual's athletics reputation or skill or pay-back potential as a professional athlete in that sport. An award of a country club or sports club membership is prohibited. Receipt of a benefit by student-athletes or their relatives or friends is not a violation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to students or their relatives or friends determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability;
- (g) Accepts merchandise, prizes or awards having a retail value greater than that permitted by the amateur athletic governing body regulating amateur status in that sport. If that governing body has no limit, the maximum value of merchandise, prizes or awards shall be \$500 per event.

# Washington

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**18.23.0 AMATEUR STANDING** - A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport must be an amateur in that sport. An amateur student-athlete is one who engages in athletics for the physical, mental, social and educational benefits, and to whom athletics is an avocation and not a source of financial reward.

**18.23.1** In order to maintain amateur standing in those activities under WIAA jurisdiction, the student-athlete may not:

- A. Accept merchandise or in-kind gifts of more than \$300 in fair market value per sport during any one calendar year August 1 through July 31. Reduced membership fees or reduced user fees from an athletic club, recreation center, golf course, etc., do not count toward this \$300 limit.
- B. Accept cash awards.
- C. Enter competition under a false name.
- D. Accept payment of expense allowances over the actual and necessary expenses for the athletic trip (NOTE: Entry fees are not considered a reimbursable expense.)
- E. Sign or have ever signed a contract to play professional athletics in that sport.
- F. Play or have ever played in a competition or against any professional team or individual in that sport.
- G. By sport receive or have ever received, directly or indirectly, a salary or any other form of financial assistance (including scholarships, educational grants-in-aid, or any of his/her expenses for reporting to or visiting a professional team) from a professional sports organization.

# West Virginia

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## §127-3-5. Awards.

5.1. Only a member school or a school sponsoring a sanctioned event may give the following awards to a student or team: medal, trophy, cup, certificate, ribbon, plaque, unattached letter, unattached chevron or any similar award.

5.2. A student may accept on an individual or team basis the above specified awards in the following situations:

- a. from a member school for participation.
- b. in a sanctioned event.
- c. in a non-sanctioned event at any time in the following sports: cheerleading, cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track, or wrestling.
- d. in a non-sanctioned event but not during the school sports-season for the following sports: football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball or soccer.

5.3. A student may not receive the following awards from any source:

- a. Wearing apparel - sweaters, jackets, jerseys, shoes, etc.
- b. Equipment - radio, televisions, etc.
- c. Athletic goods - batons, tennis rackets, bats, golf bag, tennis or golf balls, etc.
- d. Money - (Scholarships to institutions of higher learning are exempted.)

5.4. Purchase of an item as mentioned in subsection 5.3 above whereby any portion is donated by a school, booster club, auxiliary agency or any other group or organization is prohibited.

5.5. Nothing in this Awards Rule shall be interpreted to affect the recognition of scholarship or scholastic achievements.



# Wisconsin

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## **C. AMATEUR STATUS**

A student may not accept, receive and/or direct to another, any cash or merchandise awards for achievement in athletics. This means athletes may not accept items such as shoes, jackets, gift certificates, etc., for athletic accomplishments, such as being on a winning team, being selected for the school varsity team, or being a place winner in an individual tournament, etc. They may receive an award which is symbolic in nature, such as trophies, medals, banners, ribbons, pictures, event T-shirts, event hats, game balls, unattached emblems, letters, season highlight DVD or video or other items of no intrinsic value. Rules further prevent athletes from receiving compensation or benefit, directly or indirectly, for the use of name, picture and/or personal appearance as an athlete. This includes receiving free and/or reduced rates on equipment, apparel, camps/clinics/instruction and competitive opportunities that are not identical for all other participants. A student may not be identified as an athlete, provide endorsement as an athlete, or appear as an athlete in the promotion of a commercial/advertisement and/or profit-making event, item, plan or service. Also, an athlete violates this rule if he/she plays in any contest (school or nonschool) under a name other than his/her own. (RE – Art. IV)

# Wyoming

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5.6.0 AWARDS STANDARDS - Only awards with values not greater than \$250.00 may be accepted by a student/athlete as a result of participation in school or non-school competition in a sport that is sanctioned by the WHSAA, except for golf, which will follow the rules of the USGA (Rule 7.8.41).

5.6.1 A student may receive the following without violating this standard: unattached school letters or emblems, medals, ribbons, plaques, trophies, certificates, or other similar symbolic awards.

5.6.4 Any award presented by a non-school person or organization must have the approval of the school administrator and meet the \$250.00 retail value limit. This limitation does not apply to any high school participants at WHSAA member schools who receive an Operation Gold Award.

5.6.5 A non-school sponsored banquet shall not constitute a violation if arranged with the approval of the school administrator.

5.6.6 Awards in the form of high school scholarships or concessions on tuition because of athletic ability shall cause the student to become ineligible for future competition in all interscholastic sports.

5.6.7 Individual students may receive monetary rewards for participation in luck-of-the-draw or lottery type programs. This type of competition must be limited to individual type competition and not pit one contestant against another. There is no limit on the amount of monetary award for this type of competition. (Examples: Shooting baskets at half time at professional basketball games; shooting hockey pucks at goals during intermissions at hockey events.)

5.6.8 The student and the school shall be held accountable to the WHSAA for any violation of this rule by individuals or groups before, at, or after graduation.

5.6.9 This standard shall not prevent a student from signing an agreement which binds him or her to play only for a particular team or an athletic letter of intent with a university or college.

Application for reinstatement to eligibility may be filed with the commissioner 365 days from the date of violation. However, the Commissioner shall not reinstate to eligibility any student who has received a scholarship, concession on tuition, or direct or indirect financial aid because of his or her athletic ability.

5.7.0 AMATEUR STANDARDS - A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived from such participation. Operation Gold award recipients are exempt from this rule.

5.7.1 An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

1. Competing for or accepting money or other monetary compensation (it is permissible for a student to accept necessary meals, lodging, and transportation in connection with playing a contest)
2. Receiving any award or prize of monetary value which exceeds the amount that has been approved by the WHSAA
3. Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money, gifts of monetary value, or merchandise
4. Signing a professional playing contract in that sport

5.7.2 Accepting a nominal standards fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation or playground activities shall not jeopardize amateur standards.