

BYLAWS OF THE KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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.

Case BL-10-1- What is the limit on the value of an award received by a student-athlete for competition outside of the representation of his/her high school?

These limits vary from sport to sport within the purview of the National Governing Body (NGB) for that sport. For example, golfers should check with the United States Golf Association (USGA), while tennis players should check with the United State Tennis Association (USTA). These limits are revised regularly, and are studied for their impact on the overall program.

Case BL-10-2- Does the association have a recommendation on how school personnel shall handle out of season play inquiries from athletes and coaches who want to enter events which offer cash for prizes?

Yes, in light of recent situations at the high school and college level, we would offer several suggestions for Athletic Directors, Principals and Coaches to pass along to the student athletes.

- (1) *Recommend strongly that these students should not participate in such events. Even the appearance of possible "cash for play" rewards lends itself to suspicion and allegations of the violation of Bylaw 10 and the PERMANENT loss of amateur status;*
 - (2) *Remind the students of the provisions of KHSAA Bylaw 10 in that they cannot accept cash, gift certificates or things that cannot be properly personalized and in addition, they cannot have the money or prizes deferred to a later date or given in someone else's name;*
 - (3) *Be mindful that the event organizer awarding the prize, particularly cash, to the member school in lieu of giving it to the student-athlete is NOT permissible as it allows the school to benefit from the name or image of the student and his/her ability;*
 - (4) *If they insist on participation, request that event organizers denote a list, and post prominently such list, of those students who are competing in the competition, but will not be accepting prizes; and*
 - (5) *Make sure the students understand that they may accept specific prizes up to the limit of the National Governing Body (NGB) for that sport, but cannot under any circumstances, accept a gift voucher or simply be given an amount to spend.*
- Number (5) above appears to be the most frequently violated from the anecdotal evidence available to the Association, as for example, a golfer is told he can go to the pro shop, and spend up to \$50 for finishing third in a tournament. This is not legal and potentially renders the athlete PERMANENTLY ineligible at all amateur levels. If for example, the prize was predetermined that the third place finisher was to receive a golf bag as displayed at the 18th hole, then if that bag is under the NGB limit for golf (assume it had a price of \$80), then it could be accepted. But that same golfer could not be allowed to go spend \$80 in the pro shop. While this may seem like a minute difference, member school representatives should do everything possible to protect the amateur status of our competitors.*

Case BL-10-3- Does Bylaw 10 apply to Sport-Activities?

No. At this time, Bylaw 10 and the restrictions on awards do not apply to the Sport Activities of Archery, Bass Fishing, Bowling and Cheer.