

with courses available online and hosted the NFHS National Conference of High School Directors of Athletics in Indianapolis.

In 2004, the NFHS, in concert with ASEP, started online course offerings through the NFHS Coaches Education Program. In 2005, the NFHS held its annual Summit Meeting and addressed the topic of gambling, approved a landmark weight-management program in wrestling, developed its fourth three-year strategic plan, approved a new Mission Statement and Belief Statements, and initiated a steroids-awareness program including the development of brochures, posters and DVDs for distribution to more than 16,000 high schools.

As a follow-up to the 2005 steroids-awareness program, the NFHS in 2006 produced two public-service announcements on steroids awareness, as well as two sportsmanship public-service announcements and a DVD for distribution to state associations; entered into a sponsorship agreement with T-Mobile to include a basketball invitational tournament for both boys and girls; and started its own Coach Education Program.

In 2007, the NFHS produced three DVDs regarding risk management and replaced the "NFHS News" with "High School Today." The online version of the NFHS Coach Education Program was started in January and the blended classroom version was launched in June. Approximately 40 state associations are currently using the NFHS Coach Education Program. The first T-Mobile Invitational basketball tournament was held in Seattle, Washington, in late 2006, and the fourth National Student Leadership Conference was held in Indianapolis.

In 2008, the NFHS developed its "National High School Spirit of Sport Award," which is conferred to eight section winners and one national winner. The second T-Mobile Invitational basketball tournament was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in December 2007, and the fifth National Student Leadership Conference was held in Indianapolis.

During the 2008-09 academic year, the NFHS introduced its "Sportsmanship - It's Up to You" Toolkit, and launched a national merchandise licensing program to benefit high schools. The third T-Mobile Invitational basketball tournament was held in Muncie, Indiana, in December 2008, and the sixth National Student Leadership Conference was held in Indianapolis.

The 2009-10 academic year marked a change in the NFHS' leadership as Executive Director Bob Kanaby retired following 17 years of service and was succeeded by Bob Gardner, who had served the previous 10 years as the NFHS' chief operating officer. In addition, the fourth T-Mobile Invitational basketball tournament was held in Birmingham, Alabama, in December 2009, and the seventh National Student Leadership Conference was held in Indianapolis.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The NFHS, the voice of interscholastic activities, exists to promote the sound educational principles of secondary education. Activities are a social force which teach values/achievement for physical, psychological and emotional growth in the education environment.

Participation in activities reinforces responsible social processes. Educational experiences gained through activities programs are opportunities to learn, promote and reinforce the elements that influence students to become productive citizens. The commitment students make to their schools and their teammates help them accept responsibility, recognize self-worth, learn about sportsmanship, gain integrity, promote fairness, enhance optimism and condition themselves to self-sacrifice. As participants, they place the welfare of others ahead of self, accept others regardless of abilities or background, develop self-respect/discipline, and think independently while having a commitment to group or collective goals which go beyond winning. Learning to compete, and learning to prepare to compete, are crucial to the maturation process.

The central commitment of the NFHS is to support and enhance at the national level the interaction between and among the member state associations in their efforts to administer and direct participation of their respective member schools in activities programs.

The NFHS is dedicated to the continued development and maintenance, through common agreement of its members, of rules for the administration of contests. In turn, the NFHS membership is committed to enhancing and stimulating opportunities for ever-greater numbers of qualified students in athletic and activity programs.

The NFHS membership is committed to keeping school-sponsored contests in perspective as a part of the total educational program at the local, conference, district and state levels.

The NFHS believes it is imperative to maintain cooperative relationships, wherever possible, with other educational and/or nonschool organizations involved in amateur and professional athletics. These relationships can be beneficial to all organizations involved and the individual participants as a means of preserving the integrity of the programs and the eligibility of participants. It is the position of the NFHS that activities permit the pursuit of excellence, but they also are for enjoyment, recreation, entertainment, the promotion of healthy lifestyles, sports for the sake of sports and opportunities for greater fulfillment of interests and aptitudes of youth.

The overriding commitment of the NFHS membership is the health, welfare and ethical growth of students who participate directly in high school activities programs. This commitment is being achieved through a continuing, unified effort of the NFHS membership to maintain the highest ideals of fair play and responsible citizenship.

One of the primary missions of the educational process is to teach participants essential skills that will provide for a lifetime of contributions to their communities. Sports and fine arts activities are conduits through which young people feel part of their communities, and thus such activities can be effective vehicles for promoting citizenship.

RATIONALE FOR ELIGIBILITY RULES

Each state association promulgates eligibility rules governing the participation of its respective student-athletes and conduct of its programs. The following represent the general rationale for the areas addressed by state association eligibility rules.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

An age limitation requirement: provides commonality between student-athletes and schools in interscholastic competition; inhibits "redshirting;" allows the participation of younger and less experienced players; enhances the opportunity for more students to participate; promotes equality of competition; avoids over-emphasis on athletics, and helps to diminish the inherent risk of injury associated with participation in interscholastic athletics.

To ensure equality of competition and opportunity, a standard must be established at some point to determine the cut-off date for age eligibility. Use of a specific cut-off date gives notice to all parties involved in interscholastic athletics and maintains equality of participant eligibility among schools.

ENROLLMENT/ATTENDANCE

A student enrollment requirement: promotes loyalty and school spirit which lends itself to cohesion of the student body; helps promote amateurism by drawing athletes only from each school's student population; avoids professionalism and over-emphasis on athletes; discourages "team-shopping," which wrongfully skews the relationships among student-athletes and coaches; secures role models for other students, and allows students in many public schools to participate in interschool athletics for credit in fulfillment of physical education requirement for graduation.

An attendance requirement helps ensure that students will adhere to a school's attendance plan which, in turn, prompts students to maintain the academic standard required for participation and promotes graduation in a common time frame.

MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION

A maximum participation requirement: promotes timely progress toward graduation by discouraging students from delaying or interrupting their high school education; disallows students to enroll for one semester each school year to increase athletic ability and skill; promotes equality of competition; diminishes risks stemming from unequal competition, and places emphasis on the academic mission of the school.

A maximum participation requirement promotes harmony and fair competition among member schools by maintaining equality of eligibility. Each student is afforded the same number of semesters of athletic eligibility, which increases the number of students who will have an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics.

A maximum participation requirement is conducive to the prevention of redshirting; helps avoid exploitation by coaches or boosters who otherwise might seek to obtain transfers or to delay a student's normal progress through school, and prevents displacement of younger student-athletes by older student-athletes wishing to protract unfairly their high school athletic careers.

TRANSFER/RESIDENCY

A transfer/residency requirement: assists in the prevention of students switching schools in conjunction with the change of athletic season for athletic purposes; impairs recruitment, and reduces the opportunity for undue influence to be exerted by persons seeking to benefit from a student-athlete's prowess.

A transfer/residency requirement: promotes stability and harmony among member schools by maintaining the amateur standing of high school athletics; by not letting individuals other than enrolled students participate, and by upholding the principle that a student should attend the high school in the district where the student's parent(s) guardian(s) reside.

A transfer/residency requirement: also prohibits foreign students, other than students who are participants in

an established for Educational Travel

ACADEMIC

The primary purpose of future lives as citizens academic standards performance. In addition

Academic standards are truly representative of standards, and performance and

NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

A restriction on athletic teams from student to participate in outside teams or in non-school activities from a restriction also p

The sanctioning of conflicts of practices school coaching

PREPARTICIPATION

Acting on a recommendation Directors has stated and desirable p

In the opinion of others not less than tuted sports medicine or cardiology.

The NFHS believes that any regulatory or regulatory whether use of sport-specific associations and who should

RESTITUTION

A restitution requirement rulings in court prevent exploitation

A school may be under court order court later determine a competitive re to protect the pu

A fuller discussion Associations, in

AMATEUR/AMATEURSHIP

An amateur/aw exploitation of student benefits.