Athletic Eligibility Rules—Page 2

You may be eligible if you are entering high school as a freshman and:
A. You attend the public high school in the district in which you live full time with both of your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian; or
B. In the case of a multiple school district, you attend the public high school in the attendance area where you live full time with your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian; or
C. You have paid tuition to attend a public school for a minimum of 7th and 8th grades in a district other than the one where you live with your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian and you continue to pay tuition as a high school student in that same district; or
D. You attend a private/parochial school located within the boundaries of the public school district where you live with your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian; or
E. You attend a private/parochial high school and have attended a private/parochial school for 7th and 8th grades, or for any four (4) grades from kindergarten through eighth grades; or
F. You attend the private/parochial high school which one or both of your parents attended; or
G. You attend a private/parochial high school located within a thirty (30) mile radius of the residence where you live with your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian.

B. If you transfer after classes begin for the current school term, you will definitely be ineligible for thirty days from the date you start attending classes at the new high school. In addition, you will be ineligible for that entire school term in any sport in which you engaged in any team activity, including but not limited to tryouts, drills, physical practice sessions, team meetings, playing in a contest, etc. at the school from which you transferred. For example, if you were out for cross country at the school from which you transfer and transfer after the IHSA sport season has begun, you will be ineligible for cross country that entire school term at the new school.
C. If you transfer attendance from one high school to another high school, you will be ineligible unless:
1. Your transfer is in conjunction with a change in residence by both you and your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian from one public school district to a different public school district;
2. Your transfer is between high schools within a public school district and both you and your parents, custodial parent or court appointed guardian change residence to the district attendance area for the school to which you transfer;
3. Your parents are divorced or legally separated; you transfer to a new school in conjunction with a modification or other change in legal custody between your parents by action of a judge; and required court documents are on file at the school into which you transfer;
4. Your transfer is in conjunction with a change in legal guardianship, a ruling on your eligibility must be obtained from the IHSA Office.
E. If you transfer attendance from one school to another while you are ineligible for any reason, the period of ineligibility imposed prior to your transfer or the period of ineligibility that would have been imposed had you stayed at the school, will be enforced at the school to which you transfer, even if you are otherwise in compliance with the by-laws.
5. Age
You will become ineligible on the date you become twenty (20) years of age, unless your twentieth (20th) birthday occurs during a sport season. In that case, you will become ineligible in regard to age at the beginning of the sport season during which your twentieth (20th) birthday occurs.

6. Physical Examination
You must have placed on file with your principal/ofﬁcial representative a certiﬁcate of physical ﬁtness, signed by a licensed physician, physician’s assistant or nurse practitioner in order to practice or participate. Your physical examination is good for 395 days from the date of the exam. The physician’s report must be on file with your high school principal/ofﬁcial representative.

7. Amateur Status
A. If you win or place in actual competition, you may accept a medal or trophy for that accomplishment, without limit to its cost. Your school may provide IHSA state champions with championship rings/mementoes.
B. For participating in competition in an interscholastic sport, or for athletic honors or recognition in a sport, you may receive any type of award (except cash, check or legal tender) that does not exceed $75 fair market value. There is no limitation on the value of your school letter.
C. The amateur rule does not prohibit you from being paid to referee, receiving pay for teaching lessons or coaching in a little kids league, etc. It only applies to your own competition in an athletic contest.
D. If you violate the amateur rule, you become ineligible in the sport in which you violate. You must be reinstated by the Executive Director before you may compete again.

8. Recruiting of Athletes
A. The by-laws prohibit recruiting of high school students for athletics. If you are solicited to enroll in or transfer to a school to participate in athletics, you are being illegally recruited and your eligibility is in jeopardy.
B. You will lose your eligibility if you enroll in or transfer to a school in response to recruiting efforts by any person or group of persons, connected with or not connected with the school, related to athletic participation.
C. You will lose your eligibility if you receive special beneﬁts or privileges as a prospective student-athlete which are not uniformly made available to all students who attend your school.
D. You may not receive an “athletic scholarship” or any other special beneﬁt from your school because you participate in athletics.
E. It is a violation for any student-athlete to receive or be offered remuneration or any special inducement which is not made available to all applicants who apply to or enroll in the school.
F. It is also a violation to induce or attempt to induce or encourage any prospective student to attend any member school for the purpose of participating in athletics, even when special remuneration or inducement is not given. Please remember that you may not be offered or receive any beneﬁt, service, privilege or opportunity which is not also provided or made available to all prospective students at that school.

Athletic Eligibility Rules—Page 4

Note: If you are interested in ﬁnding out more information about a school, contact the principal/ofﬁcial representative or an administrator at the school, not a member of the coaching staff.

9. School Team Sports Seasons
A. Each sport conducted by IHSA member schools has a starting and ending date. Your school may not organize a team, begin practice or participate in contests in a given sport until the authorized starting date. Your school may not continue to practice or participate in contests after the authorized ending date. This means that:
1. During the school year, you may not participate on a non-school team coached by any member of your school’s coaching staff unless it meets speciﬁc criteria established by the by-laws.
2. No school coach may require you to participate in an out-of-season sport program as a requirement for being a member of a school team.
3. Violation of the sport season by-laws will result in penalty to you and/or your school’s coaching personnel.

10. Playing in Non-School Competition
A. During the time you are participating on a school team in a sport at your high school, you may neither play on a non-school team nor compete in non-school competition as an individual in that same sport or in any skill of that sport.
B. If you participate in non-school competition during a sport season and subsequently wish to join the school team in the same sport, you will not be eligible.
C. If you wish to participate in a competition sanctioned by the National Governing Body of a sport, or an ofﬁcial Illinois afﬁliate for the sport, your principal/ofﬁcial representative must request approval through the Schools Center prior to any such participation.

11. All-Star Participation
A. After you have completed your high school eligibility in the sport of football, basketball, soccer or volleyball, you may participate in three (3) all-star contests in any of these sports and still play for other school teams, provided the high school season in that sport has been completed.
B. You may lose your eligibility for other interscholastic sports if you play in all-star competition in any of these sports under any other conditions.

12. Misbehavior During Contests
A. If you violate the ethics of competition or the principles of good sportsmanship, you may be barred from interscholastic athletic contests, either as a participant or spectator or both.
B. If you are ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, you will be ineligible for your team’s next contest. You are also subject to other penalties.