

# WIAA ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION BULLETIN

To: Student-Athletes and Their Parents  
From: Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and Valley Christian High School

Your high school is a member of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, and the rules and regulations of the WIAA govern the participation by boys and girls both in school athletics and sports activities outside the school.

This information bulletin is a summary of the WIAA OFFICIAL HANDBOOK as it pertains to those rules and regulations. Both student-athletes and their parents should have an understanding of these requirements. Equally important is that student-athletes and/or parents talk to their principal, athletic director, or coach, if they have any question about these regulations.

This bulletin does not discuss penalties for violations. The reason is that penalties vary depending upon the nature of the violation. In addition, schools often have established penalties or periods of ineligibility which are greater than the minimum prescribed by WIAA rules.

There also are exceptions and other permissive provisions in some rules. These are not listed, because they would add to the length of this bulletin. Student-athletes and their parents may want to discuss their situations with the school principal or athletic director who, if necessary, will get a decision, interpretation, or opinion from the WIAA office.

Student-athletes as well as parents are asked to read this bulletin, then sign it, after which one copy of the bulletin must be returned to the school.

These are WIAA eligibility rules:

## AGE

A student-athlete must be under nineteen (19) years of age on the August 1 which precedes the start of the school year.

## ACADEMICS

A student-athlete must have failed no more than one class in the latest regular school year grade-reporting period.

## ATTENDANCE

A student-athlete must be a full-time student and be carried on the attendance rolls (for purposes of state aid) as a student in Grades 9-12 in his/her school.

- A. Must complete eligibility in the four consecutive years starting with Grade 9 and the three consecutive years starting with Grade 10, unless there are documented extenuating circumstances.
- B. A student is ineligible if he/she has graduated from a school offering studies through Grade 12 or its equivalent.
- C. A student who graduated in May or June retains eligibility for (a) any portion of a spring athletic schedule not completed by the end of the academic year and (b) the school's summer athletic schedule.
- D. A student is ineligible if he/she has not been enrolled in some school by the 17<sup>th</sup> day of a semester or trimester, except upon request of a school in special cases involving sickness, accident, military service, social services assignment, etc.
- E. A student-athlete may not participate in school sports in more than four different years, and a student-athlete may not participate in the same sport more than one season each school year.

## TRANSFER (Private Schools)

There are no residence boundaries for private schools, however, students must be residing full time with their parents. Residential school students are an exception and are eligible as long as they are attending as a full-time student (exception: foreign students).

- A. A student-athlete who transfers after attending one or more days of school or one or more athletic practices at the school the student is leaving is ineligible for the remainder of that school year, unless the transfer is made necessary by a total change in residence by the parents.
- B. A student-athlete who transfers from a parochial or private school to a public school is eligible only following the first such transfer unless there is a change of residence by the parents.
- C. A student-athlete will not be eligible if his/her attendance at a particular school resulted from undue influence (special consideration because of athletic ability) on the part of any person.
- D. A student-athlete who has been declared ineligible at a school for disciplinary reasons retains that ineligibility status if he/she transfers to another school.

A student-athlete must have written permission of parents to participate in school athletics and he/she must have a physical examination (signed by a licensed physician or advanced practice nurse prescriber) every other school year.

### **TRAINING AND CONDUCT**

A student-athlete must follow his/her school's code of conduct (training rules) on a year-round basis.

- A. A student-athlete who violates his/her school's code of conduct during the season of a sport (start of practice to final game) must be suspended from competition for a period of time specified in the code (minimum of one meet) if the violation involves (a) use of alcohol, (b) use, including chewing, of tobacco and (c) use, possession, buying or selling of controlled substances.
- B. A student-athlete who violates his/her school's code of conduct at times other than during the actual season of a sport must be disciplined by the school, the nature of such discipline to be determined by the school as indicated in its code of conduct.
- C. A student-athlete who violates any part of the school or WIAA's code of conduct during the course of WIAA-sponsored tournament competition must be immediately declared ineligible for the remainder of tournament series in that sport.
- D. A student-athlete, disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, is also suspended from the next competitive event.

### **AMATEUR STATUS**

A student-athlete must be an amateur in order to be eligible for school athletics.

- A. A student-athlete may not receive reimbursement in any form – cash, merchandise, jackets, watches, billfolds, gift certificates, sweatshirts, etc. for achievement related to athletics.
- B. A student-athlete may receive awards for school achievement which are symbolic in nature – trophies, medals, plaques, event T-shirts, event hats, etc.
- C. A student-athlete may not receive compensation or benefit, directly or indirectly, for the use of name, picture, and/or personal appearance, as an athlete, or provide endorsement, as an athlete, in the promotion of a commercial or profit-making event, item, plan, or service.

A student-athlete may not participate in school athletics or in sports activities outside the school under a name other than his/her own name.

### **SPORTS ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL**

A student-athlete in a given sport may not participate in that same sport outside of school either as a team member or an individual or independent entry during the same time he/she is participating with the school team.

- A. Before and/or after the school season of a sport, a student-athlete may participate in activities outside of school in that same sport with these restrictions:
  - (1) A student-athlete must not participate in an all-star game or similar contest except for summertime activities (a) within the same league or program (e.g., softball game between divisions of same league) or (b) in which a team is selected to represent a league in post-season play (e.g., Babe Ruth league team).
  - (2) A student-athlete must not participate before or after the school season of a sport in programs, activities, camps, clinics, etc., in that same sport which is limited to individuals who are likely to be candidates for the school team in that sport in the following season, except that students may assemble voluntarily (without school/coach involvement) in any way during the summer non-school period.
- B. A student-athlete or his/her parents must pay the fee for specialized training or instruction such as camps, clinics, and similar programs.
- C. A student-athlete may not be instructed except during the school season of a sport by the person who will be his/her coach in that sport in the following season. The sports of baseball, cross country, golf, gymnastics, softball, swimming, tennis, and track & field are exempt from this rule, BUT only (a) during the summer months and (b) if the program involved is not limited to individuals who are likely to be candidates for the school team in that sport in the following season.

### **WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK YOUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

I have read and understand the above regulations.

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Signature of Student-Athlete

I have received a copy of the Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin.

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Signature of Parent