

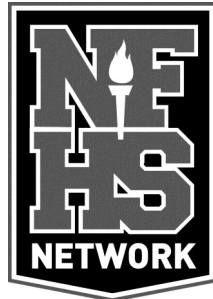
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2015-16

FHSAA™

Middle School

Guidebook

Building leaders through teamwork, sportsmanship and citizenship



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21.2 NFHS Rules. Unless noted on the FHSAA.org website, the rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), or those approved by it, shall be the official rules for interscholastic athletic competition in all sports. Please refer to www.FHSAA.org for more information on middle school competition rules.

22. INCLEMENT WEATHER

22.1 Safety is Paramount. The safety and welfare of all concerned is of paramount importance. In no case may an official deny a request by a principal or his/her designee to delay, suspend or postpone an outdoor contest due to inclement weather or imply that the contest will be forfeited as a result of such a request.



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLE

Local Rules May Be More Stringent. Schools and /or school districts may adopt more stringent rules for the students under their supervision. No school or school district, however, may adopt rules that are less stringent than those of the FHSAA.

1.2 PURPOSE

The FHSAA provides leadership for the development, supervision and promotion of interscholastic athletic programs sponsored by its member schools. Participation in these programs enriches the educational experience of qualified student-athletes by providing them with opportunities to compete in an equitable, sportsmanlike and wholesome manner.

1.3 FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF

Interscholastic athletic programs play a vital role in the education of students who participate in them. Through their participation in interscholastic athletics, students are provided character-building opportunities to demonstrate honesty, integrity, respect, caring, cooperation, trustworthiness, leadership, tolerance and personal responsibility. These fundamental values enable participants to realize and fulfill their potential as students, as athletes, as individuals and as citizens.

1.4 EDUCATIONAL NATURE OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletic programs are designed to enhance the educational experience. The student-athlete is a student first, an athlete second; and each and every practice and competition is an extension of the classroom. This is what clearly separates interscholastic athletics from all other forms of youth sports.

1.5 PARTICIPATION IS A PRIVILEGE

Participation in interscholastic athletics by a student is a privilege, not

student cannot be allowed to participate in any activity related to interscholastic athletic programs until the fully executed consent form is on file in the school.

20. USE OF INELIGIBLE STUDENTS PROHIBITED

20.1 Use of Ineligible Students. The intentional or inadvertent use of ineligible students is strictly prohibited by this association and should be reported immediately upon discovery.

20.2 Ineligible Student Defined. An ineligible student is one who has been found to have violated one or more the guidelines and other rules of this association such as, but not limited to:

- (a) Age
- (b) Academic requirements
- (c) Attendance requirements
- (d) Limit of eligibility
- (e) Amateurism
- (f) Suspended students due to unsportsmanlike acts
- (g) Recruited students
- (h) Required forms for participation

20.3 Penalties for Use of Ineligible Students. Schools found to have used ineligible students could be subject to one or more of, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Forfeiture of contests
- (b) Reprimand
- (c) Restricted participation in future invitational events in that sport for a minimum of one year; or
- (d) Restricted participation in all events for a minimum of one year

for a period not to exceed one calendar year from the date of practitioner's signature. The student cannot be allowed to participate in any activity related to interscholastic athletic programs until the fully executed physical evaluation form is on file in the school (s. 1002.20(17)(b), Florida Statutes).

19.1.2 Qualified Practitioners. The annual physical evaluation must be administered either by a licensed physician, a licensed osteopathic physician, a licensed chiropractic physician, a licensed physician assistant, or a certified advanced registered nurse practitioner.

19.1.3 Filing Requirements. The student-athlete shall be required to file with the principal or his/her designee a fully executed physical evaluation form signed by the practitioner and medical history questionnaire signed by the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).

19.1.4 Evaluation Requirements. The Board of Directors shall adopt minimum requirements for the physical evaluation to which each member school shall adhere.

19.2 CONSENT AND RELEASE (FHSAA Form EL3/EL3CH/EL3CH addendum – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate)

19.2.1 Forms. Student Must Provide School with Signed Consent and Release Form to Participate (EL3), Consent and Release Form for Concussion and Heat-Related Illness (EL3CH) and Consent and Release from Liability Certificate for Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Concussion (EL3CH addendum). A student must have the consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to participate in interscholastic athletic programs at a member school. The student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must also release the FHSAA, its member schools and contest officials from all liability for any injury or claim that may result from the student's participation in interscholastic athletics. This consent and release from liability must be provided in writing on a form developed by this Association for that purpose. The form must be signed by the student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The

a right. To earn this privilege, students must abide by the rules and meet standards of academic performance and personal behavior that are related to school purposes.

2. FHSAA ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

2.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2.1.1 School Responsible to Ensure Student Eligibility. A school must not permit a student to represent it in interscholastic athletic competition unless the student meets all eligibility requirements and the school has certified the student's eligibility to the FHSAA Office.

2.1.2 FHSAA Participation. Students in grades 6 through 8 who attend FHSAA member schools registered as a middle school program may participate in FHSAA Middle School Invitationals.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

3.1.1 Opportunity for Membership. A middle school, a charter school, a virtual school or a home education cooperative located in Florida may be a member of the FHSAA if it meets the qualifications, conditions and obligations of membership.

3.1.2 Middle School Definition. A "middle school" is any traditional public school, charter school, virtual school, private school or university laboratory school that provides instruction to students in middle school configurations (terminal grade of 6, 7 or 8).

3.1.3 Home Education Cooperative. A "home education cooperative" is a parent-directed group of individual home education students that provides opportunities for interscholastic athletic competition to those

students and may include students in grades 6–8.

3.1.4 Administrative Control. A member school must control its interscholastic athletic programs in accordance with the regulations of the Association. Responsibility for this control rests with the principal, who is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the school’s interscholastic athletic programs.

3.1.5 Compliance with Rules. A member school must comply with all guidelines and other rules of the Association. The school must monitor its athletic programs to assure compliance with all guidelines and regulations must identify and report to the FHSAA Office instances in which compliance has not been achieved, and must take appropriate corrective actions regarding such instances of non-compliance. Staff members, student-athletes and other individuals and groups representing, supporting or promoting the school’s athletic interests must comply with applicable guidelines and rules. The school is responsible for such compliance.

4. SPORTSMANSHIP

4.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

4.1.1 Sportsmanship Requirement. Players, coaches, administrators, spectators, contest officials and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics before, during and after any interscholastic event.

4.1.2 Use of Alcohol and Tobacco. The use of alcohol, tobacco or tobacco-like products by student-athletes, coaches and officials is prohibited during the contest and in the vicinity of the playing field or court. A coach or student-athlete in violation of this policy is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, will be ejected from the contest and will be suspended from subsequent contests

icy also requires individual schools, or districts, to select and promote a method of environmental monitoring to be used outside the acclimatization period and comply with standard recommendations for practice modifications, for the safety of the student-athlete.

18.3 Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of sports-related death. This guideline provides procedures for educational requirements of all paid coaches and recommends added training.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. If this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA can cause death if it's not treated within minutes.

18.3.1 Requirement. All FHSAA member school head coaches and paid/supplemented coaches are required to annually view the FREE online education course “Cardiacwise 2.0”. This Sport Safety International (SSI) course may be viewed online at www.sportsafetyinternational.org.

18.3.2 Recommendation. All member school personnel, contest officials, student-athletes, parents and media are strongly encouraged to educate themselves by viewing the FREE online education course “Cardiacwise 2.0”. This Sport Safety International (SSI) course may be viewed online at www.sportsafetyinternational.org.

19. REQUIRED FORMS FOR PARTICIPATION

19.1 PHYSICAL EVALUATION (FHSAA Form EL2 – Pre-participation Physical Examination)

19.1.1 Physical Evaluation Required Prior to Participating. A student must have a physical evaluation prior to participating in an FHSAA-sponsored event and be certified as being physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletic programs. A physical evaluation shall be valid

sciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems, shall be immediately removed from the contest or practice and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

18.1.2 Requirement. All FHSAA member school head coaches, paid/supplemented coaches and student athletes are required to annually view the FREE online education course “Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know”. This NFHS concussion course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

18.2 Heat Acclimatization

Heat illness is a cause for concern for student-athletes beginning pre-season practices in the warm, summer months and other times of extreme heat. The most serious heat illness, exertional heat stroke, is one of the leading causes of preventable death in these athletes. Heat production during intense exercise is 15 to 20 times greater than at rest and can raise body core temperature one to two degrees Fahrenheit every five minutes unless heat is dissipated. Please refer to the FHSAA Handbook policy 41 for heat acclimatization procedures.

18.2.1 Rationale. The recommendation of the National Federation of High School Association’s (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) and the National Athletic Trainers’ Association’s (NATA) Secondary School Committee, that all sports use acclimatization and recovery principles to develop their preseason practice schedules for the purpose of enhancing the student athlete well-being, is based on the following: The primary focus of the preseason period should be to provide an adjustment period to the intensity and duration of exercise and environmental conditions. These procedures are based upon medical literature. Careful consideration should be given to the various levels of fitness in the student-athlete.

18.2.3 Requirement. The intent of this guideline is to require FHSAA member schools to follow a preseason acclimatization and recovery model for all sports that enhances student-athlete well-being. The pol-

4.1.3 Use of Human Growth Hormones, Steroids, Performance-Enhancing Drugs, or Schedule 3 Narcotics. The use of human growth hormones, steroids, performance-enhancing drugs, or schedule 3 narcotics by a student-athlete is not permissible and shall be reported to the FHSAA and the principal. The use of such substances is considered to be an act of unsportsmanlike conduct.

5. STUDENT-ATHLETE TYPES & PARTICIPATION

5.1 Traditional Student – Traditional students are students who are enrolled in and physically attend the school at which they participate, except for Dual Enrolled or Early Admission students and Youth Exchange or International students.

5.2 Non-Traditional Student – Non-Traditional Students are students who are not enrolled in and physically attend the school at which they participate, including, but not limited to; Home Education students, certain Charter School students, Special School students, certain Non-Member Private School students and students enrolled in FLVS-FT Public Program, except for Youth Exchange or International students.

5.3 Athletic Participation Defined. A student in athletic uniform during an athletic contest (invitational event) is defined as having participated. Any member school which allows a student to participate in interscholastic athletic competition (dress in any part of the full uniform worn for that contest with the exception of a cap) is in violation of the regulations of this Association will be held guilty of using an ineligible student and subject to the penalties assessed.

6. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Student May Only Participate at School he/she First Attends Each School Year. A student must attend school, and may participate only in the interscholastic athletic programs sponsored by the school he/

she first attends each school year, which is either: (s. 1006.20(2)(a), Florida Statutes)

- (a) The school where the student first attends classes; or
- (b) The school where the student first participates in athletic activities on or after the official start date of that sport season before he/she attends classes at any school.
- (c) For transfer student eligibility see guideline 8.

6.1.2 Definition of “Attend School.” A student attends school if he/she is present in a school classroom on a regular basis or is a “Non-Traditional” student participating for a member school. A student can attend only one school at a time for the purposes of interscholastic athletic eligibility.

6.1.3 Definition of “Interscholastic Athletic Programs.” Interscholastic athletic programs encompass all activities relating to competitive sport contests involving individual students or teams of students from one school against individual students or teams of students from another school. Such activities include, but are not limited to, tryouts, off-season conditioning, summer workouts, preseason conditioning, in-season practice and contests.

6.1.4 Students with Multiple Residences. A student who, through the actions of a court of competent jurisdiction, is required to have multiple physical residences will establish his/her school residence as per guideline 6.1.

7. ATTENDANCE EXCEPTIONS

7.1 Home Education Student. A legally registered home education student may participate at one the following: (s. 1006.15(3)(c), Florida Statutes)

- (a) The public school the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies; or

17. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

17.1 Financial Assistance Definition - “Financial assistance” is funds from various sources that are administered and provided by a school to students to pay or assist in paying costs directly related to their education at the school. (Reference FHSAA Handbook Policy 38 for additional information.)

17.2 GENERAL PRINCIPLES. Financial assistance provided by a school must be administered by the school; meaning that the school, through an established process that conforms to this policy, makes the final determination of the student who is to receive the assistance and the amount of assistance to be given. No student-athlete may accept financial assistance from any other person, business or organization unless it is received from one upon whom the student-athlete is naturally or legally dependent or is received through established and continuing programs to assist students that are administered by the State of Florida.

18. CONCUSSIONS, HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION, & SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

Please refer to Policies 40-42 in the FHSAA Handbook for additional resources

18.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

18.1.1 Concussion

A concussion is a brain injury caused by a blow to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. Concussions can also result from a fall or from collisions between with one or more individuals or with obstacles. As brain injury, concussions are serious.

Any student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion including, but not limited to, loss of con-

Handbook Policy 37 for additional information.)

15.2 GENERAL PRINCIPLES. No school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, may make contact, either in person or through any form of written or electronic communication or through any third party, with a student, or any member of the student's family, in an effort to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics. (Refer to policy 37.1.2, for specific prohibitions)

16. IMPERMISSIBLE BENEFIT

16.1 Impermissible Benefit Definition - An "impermissible benefit" is any arrangement, assistance or benefit that is not offered or generally made available to all students and/or their families who apply to or attend a school, or that otherwise is prohibited by FHSAA rules. Receipt of a benefit by a student-athlete or his/her family is not a violation of FHSAA rules if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the school's students or family members and is not based in any way on athletic interest, potential or performance. (Reference FHSAA Handbook Policy 37 for additional information.)

16.2 GENERAL PRINCIPLES. No school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, may be involved, directly or indirectly, in promising, offering or giving an impermissible benefit to any student or any member of his/her family for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics, or to any student-athlete who already attends a school. (Refer to policy 37.2.2 for specific prohibitions)

(b) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student; or

(c) A private school that will accept the student for participation; or

(d) A home education cooperative to which the student belongs.

7.2 Home Education Student Requirements. To participate in interscholastic athletics, a home education student must: (s. 1006.15(3)(c)1-7, Florida Statutes)

(a) register as a home education student with the district school superintendent of the county in which he/she resides; and

(b) register with the school of his/her intent to participate before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wants to participate; and

(c) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance as the school requires of other participating students; and

(d) certify to the school at the end of each semester that he/she has the minimum cumulative grade point average required for participation; and

(e) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements; and

(f) must be approved by the FHSAA Office each year using a form provided by the Association.

7.3 Charter School Student. A student who attends a charter school that does not sponsor an interscholastic athletic program in one or more sports may participate in the sport or sports not sponsored by the charter school at either of the following schools: (s. 1006.15(3)(d), Florida Statutes)

(a) The public school the student would be assigned according

to district school board attendance area policies; or

(b) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student.

7.4 Charter School Student Requirements. To participate in interscholastic athletics, a charter school student must: (s. 1006.15(3)(d)1-7, Florida Statutes)

(a) meet the requirements of the charter school education program as determined by the charter school governing board; and

(b) meet the minimum grade point average standards that are required of all students; and

(c) meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he/she participates; and

(d) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance that are required of other students in interscholastic athletics; and

(e) register with the school his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wishes to participate; and

(f) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements (no form is required).

7.5 Students in Alternative or Special Schools. A student who attends an alternative school or other special school operated by a school district and does not sponsor an interscholastic athletic program may participate at:

(a) The public school the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies; or

(b) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions of the school district and provided the

A school's responsibility for the conduct of its interscholastic athletic program includes responsibility for:

(a) The acts of any employee or athletic department staff member;

(b) The acts of third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, that is a representative of the school's athletic interests when a member of the school's administration or athletic department staff knows or should know that the person, business or organization is promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program; and

(c) The acts of any other third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, acting at the request, direction, or otherwise on behalf of any employee or representative of the school's athletic interests.

(d) The acts of any other third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, acting on behalf of any student athlete.

(e) Informing student athletes and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of potential eligibility issues related to the participation by the student athlete in non-school athletic activities (e.g. AAU team, club team, travel team, recreation league team, etc.) affiliated with the school through one of its coaches or other athletic department staff members or a representative of the school's athletic interests.

15. IMPROPER CONTACT

15.1 Improper Contact Definition - "Improper contact" is contact, either directly or indirectly, whether in person or through written or electronic communication, by a school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, with a student or any member of the student's family, in an effort to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics. (Reference FHSAA

14. ATHLETIC RECRUITING

14.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

14.1.1 Athletic Recruiting Forbidden. Athletic recruiting is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of educational athletics. Athletic recruiting is unethical and unsporting conduct, and is forbidden by FHSAA Bylaws (refer to FHSAA Bylaw 6.3).

14.1.2 Athletic Recruiting Definition - “Athletic recruiting” is any effort by a school employee, athletic department staff member or representative of a school’s athletic interests to pressure, urge or entice a student to attend that school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

14.1.3 Representative of a School’s Athletic Interests Definition - “Representative of a school’s athletic interests” refers to any independent person, business or organization that participates in, assists with and/or promotes that school’s interscholastic athletic program. This includes:

- (a) A student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school;
- (b) The parents, guardians or other family members of a student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school;
- (c) Immediate relatives of a coach or other member of the athletic department staff at that school;
- (d) A volunteer with that school’s athletic program;
- (e) A member of an athletic booster organization of that school;
- (f) A person, business or organization that makes financial or in-kind contributions to the athletic department or that is otherwise involved in promoting the school’s interscholastic athletic program.

14.2 Scope of School’s Responsibility

deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student.

7.6 Alternative or Special School Student Requirements. To participate in interscholastic athletics, an alternative or special school:

- (a) Must be reported by the district superintendent or district athletic director as a school qualified to allow students to participate under this guideline; and
- (b) The student must register his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wishes to participate; and
- (c) The student must meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements.

7.7 Non-member Private School Students. A student who attends a private school shall be eligible to participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic sport at a public middle school, or a combination public school that the student is zoned for the physical address at which the student resides if: (s. 1006.15(8), Florida Statutes)

- (a) The private school in which the student is enrolled is not a member of the FHSAA; and
- (b) The private school does not offer an interscholastic or intrascholastic athletic program; and
- (c) The private school enrollment consists of 125 students or fewer.

7.8 Non-member Private School Student Requirements. To participate in interscholastic athletics, a non-member private school student must: (s. 1006.15(8), Florida Statutes)

- (a) make all student records, including, but not limited to, academic, financial, disciplinary, and attendance records, available upon request of the FHSAA; and
- (b) meet the minimum grade point average standards that are required of all students; and
- (c) meet the same residency requirements as other students in

the school at which he/she participates; and

(d) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance that are required of other students in interscholastic athletics; and

(e) register with the school his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wishes to participate; and

(f) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements; and

(g) be approved by the FHSAA Office each year using a form provided by the Association.

7.9 Florida Virtual School – Full Time Program (FLVS-FT) Students. A student of the Florida

Virtual School full-time program may participate in any interscholastic extracurricular activity at:

(a) The public school the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies; or

(b) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student.

7.10 FLVS-FT Student Requirement. To participate in interscholastic athletics, an FLVS-FT student must: (s. 1006.15(3)(e)1-5, Florida Statutes)

(a) meet any additional requirements as determined by the board of trustees of the Florida Virtual School; and

(b) meet the minimum grade point average standards that are required of all students; and

(c) meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he/she participates; and

(d) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance that are required of other students in interscholastic

(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.

12.1.3 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.

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

13. AUDITS AND COMPLIANCE REVIEWS

13.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The FHSAA Office may review member schools to verify compliance with guidelines and other rules of the Association. A school selected for review must fully cooperate with the review. A school that refuses to grant access to and inspection of records under review or refuses to permit the interview of any individual responsible for maintaining those records, or otherwise interferes with or obstructs the review, will be in violation of this provision.

his/her age cannot participate.

11.3 What is Documented Proof of Age? Documented proof of age is one or more of the following:

- (a) An original birth certificate issued by the office of vital records in the country, province, state, county or city where the student was born;
- (b) A passport, visa or “green card” that lists the student’s date of birth; or
- (c) An official record of birth from the hospital in which the student was born.

12. AMATEURISM

12.1 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.

12.1.1 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.

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

athletics; and

(e) register with the school his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wishes to participate; and

(f) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements.

7.11 Middle School Students Attending Non-member Public Schools.

A student in grades 6 through 8 who attends a public school that is not a member of this Association and has no athletic program due to low student population may represent a member public school that is part of the same school district in interscholastic competition, provided such participation is at the junior high or middle school level.

7.12 Ineligible Student Cannot Change Schools to Become Eligible.

A student who is deemed ineligible for a period of time cannot change schools and become eligible. Attending a new school at the beginning of the school year does not decrease or eliminate the period of ineligibility.

8. TRANSFERS

8.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

School districts and private schools are responsible for determining transfer guidelines for their students. If guidelines are not established and published by school districts or private schools, FHSAA Bylaw 9.3.2 shall be used as the school’s transfer guidelines. Please refer to Bylaw 9.3.2 for specific requirements.

8.1.1 Transfer Student Not Eligible for One Full Semester if Transcript Cannot be Obtained.

A transfer student whose former school cannot or will not provide an official sealed transcript will not be eligible in the new school until he/she has been in attendance for one full semester and has established a cumulative GPA. The school must submit a writ-

ten report to the FHSAA Office that includes the student's name, date of first attendance in the school, and the beginning and ending dates of the previous semester.

8.1.2 Ineligible Student Cannot Transfer to Become Eligible. A transfer student who is deemed ineligible for a period of time cannot transfer schools and become eligible. Attending a new school at the beginning of the school year does not decrease or eliminate the period of ineligibility.

8.1.3 Students Under Expulsion. A student who has been expelled by a school district or school shall not be considered eligible at any member school during the length of the expulsion. If the student who chooses not to attend an alternative school, if offered by the school district or school, shall be ineligible to represent a member school for the next two consecutive "full" semesters. Attending a new school at the beginning of the school year does not decrease or eliminate the period of ineligibility.

9. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

9.1 Grade Point Average Requirement A middle school student must have 2.0 GPA, or the equivalent of a 2.0 GPA based on a 4.0 scale, at the conclusion of each semester.

9.2 Middle School GPA Calculation. For grades 6 through 8, the semester GPA will be calculated at the conclusion of each semester by taking the sum of quality points earned (as per FHSAA Bylaw 9.4.2) divided by the number of credits attempted during that semester.

9.3 Academic Records. A student must provide the school with all information the school needs to determine the student's eligibility using the scale in Bylaw 9.4.2. The student cannot be declared academically eligible by the member school until all such information is received to its satisfaction. Final grades previously earned by the student

shall not be converted using the scale in Bylaw 9.4.2.

9.4 Attendance During Previous Two Consecutive Semesters Required. A student cannot be academically eligible if he/she has not attended school and received grades for all courses taken during the previous two consecutive semesters.

9.5 Non-Member Schools. Student must be eligible academically eligible at the time of his/her participation in the FHSAA sponsored contest. Each school's governing body is responsible for setting the academic requirements for participation.

10. LIMIT OF ELIGIBILITY

10.1 Limits. A 6th, 7th or 8th Grade Student Has 1-Year Limit of Eligibility in Each Grade. A 6th, 7th or 8th grade student may participate only one year in each grade level. A 6th, 7th or 8th grade student who repeats a grade will not be eligible during the grade being repeated.

11. AGE LIMIT

11.1 A student may participate in interscholastic athletic competition at the middle school level until the day he/she reaches the age of 15 years 9 months. The student becomes permanently ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition at the middle school level on the day he/she reaches the age of 15 years 9 months. Beginning with students entering grade 6 in 2014-15, and thereafter, a student who reaches the age of 15 on or after September 1st may participate in interscholastic athletics during that school year.

11.2 School Must Verify Age of Student. A school must verify the age of each student who represents it in interscholastic athletic competition. The student must provide documented proof of his/her age for this purpose. A student who is unable to provide documented proof of