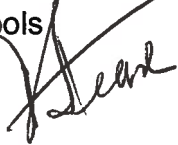


The Minnesota State High School League provides educational opportunities for students through interscholastic athletic and fine arts programs and provides leadership and support for member schools.



Member of the National Federation of State High School Associations

TO: Member Schools
FROM: Dave Stead 
DATE: October 30, 2009
RE: Representative Assembly Proposed Amendments

Attached please find a copy of the amendments submitted for consideration by the League's Representative Assembly.

Each Region Committee must provide their input regarding these amendments, and nine of the sixteen committees must provide their support before the amendment will be advanced to the Assembly for consideration.

In order to provide input regarding these amendments, please contact the Region Committee member who represents your school.

DVS/lmj
Attachment

Amend Bylaw 208.03, Item C (1), Summer Coaching Waiver

Submitted by: Baseball and Softball Coaches Advisory Committees with the support of the following Designated School Representatives:

Bruce Waitas, AD, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's
Todd Oye AD, Luverne
Jeff Annis AD, Maple River

Perry Aadland, AD, Chisago Lakes
John Hedstrom, AD, Minnetonka

C. A student may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved summer coaching for that sport. Fees and expenses for non-school coaching or training must be provided by the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) unless approved by the Board of Directors.

1) Summer Coaching Waiver:

Member schools shall have the authority to approve a coaching waiver for their salaried and non-salaried coaches. The summer coaching waiver grants permission to high school coaches to coach and instruct members of the high school team during the summer waiver period. The summer waiver period begins on June 1 and concludes on July 31. **With the exception of Baseball and Softball** the summer waiver period also includes a no-contact period from July 1 through July 7. During the no-contact period salaried and non-salaried coaches may not coach members of their high school program. Coaches who have been granted a summer coaching waiver by their high school to coach a summer league team may continue to coach that team through Labor Day if that team participates in an end-of-the-season tournament as a natural extension of the summer team season. Said exception must be approved, in writing, by the high school athletic director of that school.

Rationale:

Baseball and Softball are seasonal sports that have a very limited window to play in with the climate of Minnesota. We have had a long standing tradition of community based summer ball and have had an exemption from this new ruling for years, even prior to the Summer Coaching Waiver rule. We get about 6 week summer season and to have a blackout period during that time is detrimental to our athletes as the games have to go on and then we have to find less qualified individuals to coach. This leads to safety and liability issues for our communities and the programs that they sponsor.

Previous MSHSL board members have realized that Legion, VFW and AAU seasons go on in our communities and are not school programs but summer, community based, activities designed to entertain our youth and that is why the precedence was set to grant us the exemption for many years. We have never had an issue with this before and we see no reason to fix something that is not broken.

Small towns are hurt a great deal by the blackout ruling. Coaches in small towns give back to their communities by coaching summer ball. There sometimes is no other safe option available for a community.

The softball and baseball coaches believe that they should continue with the summer coaching exemption that has been the precedent for many years. Coaches are free to choose whether or not they coach, and if they do most schedule time off around the 4th of July.

Submitted by: Tim Hermann - Austin; Ken Hubert – Faribault; Don Hulbert – Moorhead; Tom Graupmann – Northfield; Mark Kuisle – Rochester Century; Marv Peters – Rochester Lourdes

BYLAW 505.00

BASKETBALL - Boys & Girls

1. **SEASON BEGINS:**
Eighteenth Sixteenth Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.
2. **PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST:**
Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first contest except when Thanksgiving occurs during the second week of organized practice, a game may be scheduled and played on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.
3. **CONTESTS:**
Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)
 - A. Maximum number allowed – ~~26~~ 23
 - B. Non-League Tournaments
Conference or division champions may schedule a ~~27th~~ 24th game to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be listed on the school schedule. Tournaments not part of League play: Each game played in the tournament will count as one game toward the maximum number of games allowed for the season.
4. **PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS:**
Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)
5. **EQUIPMENT ISSUED:**
Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).
6. **LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM:**
 - A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team not later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.
 - B. Membership Defined: A student must:
 - 1) be practicing with the high school team;
 - 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
 - 3) be under the bylaws of the League.
 - C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below.
 - 1) Transfer students who become eligible in their new school.
 - 2) Students, who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage.
 - 3) Students who were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date. Students must have written documentation from the physician.
 - 4) Students who, since the official start date of the MSHSL high school season, **have not participated in the same sport:**
 - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
 - b) in a camp or clinic; or
 - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

Rationale:

- The winter season is too long for athletes and coaches in the sport of basketball.
- By shortening the season to sixteen weeks, the 2/1 ratio of games in the activity is now 23 regular season games with opportunity during holidays for multiple non-school dates.
- This reduces the loss of class time by the students and coaches.
- Reduces the number of basketball games per week.
- Reduces the cost(s) associated with a game: officials, game workers and transportation cost associated with the sport and will decrease the gym conflicts with winter sports.
- This will create a break between the fall and winter season and/or the winter and spring season.

Amendment to Bylaw 508.2 and Bylaw 411.10

Submitted by:

Neil Fletcher, Blaine High School; Eric Lehtola, Andover High School; John Baufield, Anoka High School; Patti Weldon, Armstrong High School; Brian Hegseth, Centennial High School; Matt Mattson, Champlin Park High School; Kelley Scott, Coon Rapids High School; John Barth, Elk River High School; Ron Zopfi, Maple Grove High School; Ray Kirch, Osseo High School; Minnesota State Football Coaches Advisory Committee.

BYLAW 508.00

FOOTBALL

1. SEASON BEGINS:

Practice may begin on the 15th Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST:

A five-day organized conditioning program and two weeks of organized practice must precede the first scheduled game. The first three days of conditioning will be conducted only with the issue of helmets, mouth proctors, dummies and shoes. The final two days of the conditioning week players may dress in full protective pads and may be allowed to hit dummies and sleds and may have full, person-to-person contact. Inter-school practice scrimmages may not be held until after five separate and complete days of organized practice exclusive of the five days of conditioning. ~~Delete:~~ (Games may not be added to the schedule without written permission of the Board.) Add: Games may be scheduled beginning the Thursday of the second week of practice exclusive of the five days of conditioning. If the varsity plays a game on that first Thursday, a lower level game (B/JV) may be scheduled on the previous day (Wednesday of the second week).

BYLAW 411.00

SCHEDULING OF CONTESTS

10. Definitions:

End of the Week:

Thursday shall be defined as being the end of the week for purposes of scheduling the first game of any sport season. Contests can be scheduled for that Thursday. Note the exception for lower level football games in Bylaw 508.

Rationale:

This amendment would allow schools and conferences to schedule non-varsity football games on another date prior to Labor Day, therefore, not on a school day. With non-varsity games being played on the suggested Wednesday and varsity games on Thursday, it would allow more families in more communities to enjoy the Labor Day weekend

Submitted by: Tim Hermann – Austin; Don Hulbert – Moorhead; Tom Graupmann – Northfield; Mark Kuisle – Rochester Century; Mike Traphagen - Worthington

BYLAW 511.00

HOCKEY – Boys & Girls HOCKEY, ADAPTED – Co-educational

1. SEASON BEGINS:

Seventeenth Sixteenth Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST:

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first game except when Thanksgiving occurs during the second week of organized practice. In that event, a game may be scheduled and played on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

3. CONTESTS:

Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)

A. Maximum number allowed – 25 23

B. Non-League Tournaments

Conference or division champion may schedule a 26th 24th game to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be listed on the school schedule. Tournaments not a part of League play: Each game played in the tournament will count as one game toward the maximum number of games allowed for the season.

4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS:

Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)

5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED:

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

6. ADAPTED ATHLETICS – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

The League has two competitive interscholastic divisions: Physically Impaired (PI) and Cognitively Impaired (CI). Participation in the interscholastic program of a high school is limited to students in grades 7 through 12. Students in an ungraded setting are first eligible when their age peers are in the 7th grade. Student will be eligible for 8 consecutive semester (4 years), beginning with their or their peers initial entrance into the 9th grade.

The League requires a sports qualifying exam every three (3) years for participants in competitive athletics. The League acknowledges that some students with disabilities, like some students without disabilities, will be unable to participate in adapted athletics due to the competitive nature of the programs and for reasons unrelated to their disability. Like other students who do not “make the team”, these students should be directed to alternative programs which are less competitive and more recreational in nature.

Students may not participate in both PI and CI divisions. If a student participates in both divisions the penalty for the use of an ineligible player will be enforced and result in an automatic forfeiture of the game. Participants in the Adapted Program may not concurrently participate in the non-adapted Interscholastic Athletic Program during the same season and the penalty would be the same as the use of an ineligible player.

A. PI Division – The League Adapted Athletics PI Division program is specifically intended for students with physical impairments who have medical clearance to compete in competitive athletics. A student is eligible to compete in the PI Division with one of the following criteria.

The student must have a diagnosed and documented impairment specified from one of the two sections below: (Must be diagnosed and documented by a Physician and or Physicians Assistant):

1) Neuromuscular, postural/skeletal, traumatic, growth, or neurological impairment that affects motor function, modifies gait patterns, or requires the use of a prosthesis or a mobility device including but not limited to, canes, crutches, or wheelchairs.

2) Cardio/respiratory impairment that is deemed safe for competitive athletics but limits the intensity and duration of physical exertion such that sustained activity for over five minutes at 60% of maximum heart rate for age results in physical distress in spite of appropriate management of the health condition.

Note: A condition that can be appropriately managed with appropriate medications, which eliminate physical or health endurance limitations, will NOT be considered to be eligible for adapted athletics.

Specific exclusions to PI competition:

The following health conditions **without coexisting physical impairments as outlined above** do not qualify the student to participate in the PI Division even though some of the conditions below

may be considered Health Impairments by an individual's physician, student's school, or a government agency. This list is not all-inclusive and the conditions are examples of non-qualifying health conditions; other health impairments that are not listed below may also be non-qualifying for participation in the PI Division.

- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)
- Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)
- Emotional Behavioral Disorder (EBD)
- Autism Spectrum Disorders (including Asperger's Syndrome)
- Tourette's Syndrome
- Neurofibromatosis
- Asthma
- Reactive Airway Disease (RAD)
- Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD)
- Blindness
- Deafness
- Obesity
- Depression
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder
- Seizure Disorder
- Other Similar Disorders

B. CI Division – The League Adapted Athletics CI Division program is specifically intended for students with cognitive impairments who have medical clearance to compete in competitive athletics. A student is eligible to compete in the CI Division with the following criteria.

The student must have a diagnosed and documented cognitive impairment. Cognitively impaired refers to students with sub-average intellectual function defined by a **Full Scale** intelligence quotient of 70 or below, using a standardized, nationally-normed, technically adequate, and individually administered intelligence test.

Specific exclusions from CI competition:

A student becomes ineligible to participate in Adapted Athletics when they have attained a level of cognitive performance that exceeds the eligibility requirements. A student whose Full Scale IQ score increased above 70 after the start of a season will be permitted to complete that sports season.

Challenges to a student's eligibility to participate in PI and CI adapted athletics:

A school may file a written challenge regarding a student's eligibility to participate in Adapted Athletics based on the qualifications stated above. Challenges must be submitted within 24 hours of the end of a game in which an ineligible player participated. A challenge submitted after the deadline will not be honored. The student shall remain eligible during the review process. The committee's findings will be final and follow the student through the remaining years of eligibility unless there is a change in physical or cognitive status.

Upon receipt of a written challenge the League will activate the following review process:

- A. Request of a brief statement from the school/coach supporting the eligibility of the athlete.
- B. Review of the school's/coach's submission and the school's supporting data (testing, medical history, school documentation) by one reviewer who will submit a brief written statement regarding the eligibility status.
- C. Appeal Process: If the initial finding is appealed, a panel of three (3) reviewers will be convened. Two (2) of these reviewers must be from different disciplines (MD, Adapted PE teacher, PT, etc). The school/coach will be asked to submit a video of the player during a game or during PE class that will best demonstrate the disability. The video will be at the schools expense.

7. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM:

- A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team not later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.
- B. Membership Defined: A student must:
 - 1) be practicing with the high school team;
 - 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
 - 3) be under the bylaws of the League.
- C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below.
 - 1) Transfer students who become eligible in their new school.
 - 2) Students, who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage.

- 3) Students who were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date. Students must have written documentation from the physician.
- 4) Students who, since the official start date of the MSHSL high school season, **have not participated in the same sport:**
 - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
 - b) in a camp or clinic; or
 - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

Rationale:

- The winter season is too long for athletes and coaches in the sport of hockey.
- By shortening the season to sixteen weeks, the 2/1 ratio of games in the activity is now 23 regular season games.
- This reduces the loss of class time by the students and coaches.
- Reduces the number of hockey games per week.
- Reduces the cost(s) associated with a game: officials, ice rental, game workers and transportation cost associated with the sport and will decrease the rink conflicts with winter sports.
- This will create a break between the fall and winter season and/or the winter and spring season.

Submitted by: Patricia Derby – Byron; Ken Hubert – Faribault; Don Hulbert – Moorhead; Tom Graupmann – Northfield; Mark Kuisle – Rochester Century

BYLAW 514.00

**SOCCKER – Boys & Girls
SOCCKER, ADAPTED – Co-educational**

1. SEASON BEGINS:

On the 12th Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST:

Two weeks of organized practice must precede the first scheduled contest. Interscholastic practice scrimmages may not be held until after five separate and complete days of organized practice. Practice sessions shall be conducted within the local school environs. Special training camps are not permitted. Games may not be added to the schedule without the written permission of the Board. A championship game between the winners of two conferences or sections of an officially organized conference shall not constitute a violation of this rule provided it is within the total game limitation of the League and is listed on the official schedule of each member school.

3. CONTESTS:

Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)

A. Maximum number allowed – 18 16

B. Non-League Tournaments

Conference champions may schedule a 19th 17th game to determine the inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be listed on the school schedule. Each game played in the tournament will count as one game toward the maximum number of games allowed for the season.

4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS:

Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)

5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED:

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

6. ADAPTED ATHLETICS – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

The League has two competitive interscholastic divisions: Physically Impaired (PI) and Cognitively Impaired (CI). Participation in the interscholastic program of a high school is limited to students in grades 7 through 12. Students in an ungraded setting are first eligible when their age peers are in the 7th grade. Student will be eligible for 8 consecutive semester (4 years), beginning with their or their peers initial entrance into the 9th grade.

The League requires a sports qualifying exam every three (3) years for participants in competitive athletics. The League acknowledges that some students with disabilities, like some students without disabilities, will be unable to participate in adapted athletics due to the competitive nature of the programs and for reasons unrelated to their disability. Like other students who do not “make the team”, these students should be directed to alternative programs which are less competitive and more recreational in nature.

Students may not participate in both PI and CI divisions. If a student participates in both divisions the penalty for the use of an ineligible player will be enforced and result in an automatic forfeiture of the game. Participants in the Adapted Program may not concurrently participate in the non-adapted Interscholastic Athletic Program during the same season and the penalty would be the same as the use of an ineligible player.

A. PI Division – The League Adapted Athletics PI Division program is specifically intended for students with physical impairments who have medical clearance to compete in competitive athletics. A student is eligible to compete in the PI Division with one of the following criteria.

The student must have a diagnosed and documented impairment specified from one of the two sections below: (Must be diagnosed and documented by a Physician and/or Physicians Assistant):

- 1) Neuromuscular, postural/skeletal, traumatic, growth, or neurological impairment that affects motor function, modifies gait patterns, or requires the use of a prosthesis or a mobility device including but not limited to, canes, crutches, or wheelchairs.
- 2) Cardio/respiratory impairment that is deemed safe for competitive athletics but limits the intensity and duration of physical exertion such that sustained activity for over five minutes at 60% of maximum heart rate for age results in physical distress in spite of appropriate management of the health condition.

Note: A condition that can be appropriately managed with appropriate medications, which eliminate physical or health endurance limitations, will NOT be considered to be eligible for adapted athletics.

Specific exclusions to PI competition:

The following health conditions without coexisting physical impairments as outlined above do not qualify the student to participate in the PI Division even though some of the conditions below may be considered Health Impairments by an individual's physician, student's school, or a government agency. This list is not all-inclusive and the conditions are examples of non-qualifying health conditions; other health impairments that are not listed below may also be non-qualifying for participation in the PI Division.

- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)
- Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)
- Emotional Behavioral Disorder (EBD)
- Autism Spectrum Disorders (including Asperger's Syndrome)
- Tourette's Syndrome
- Neurofibromatosis
- Asthma
- Reactive Airway Disease (RAD)
- Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD)
- Blindness
- Deafness
- Obesity
- Depression
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder
- Seizure Disorder

B. CI Division – The League Adapted Athletics CI Division program is specifically intended for students with cognitive impairments who have medical clearance to compete in competitive athletics. A student is eligible to compete in the CI Division with the following criteria.

The student must have a diagnosed and documented cognitive impairment. Cognitively impaired refers to students with sub-average intellectual function defined by a **Full Scale** intelligence quotient of 70 or below, using a standardized, nationally-normed, technically adequate, and individually administered intelligence test.

Specific exclusions from CI competition:

A student becomes ineligible to participate in Adapted Athletics when they have attained a level of cognitive performance that exceeds the eligibility requirements. A student whose Full Scale IQ score increased above 70 after the start of a season will be permitted to complete that sports season.

Challenges to a student's eligibility to participate in PI and CI adapted athletics:

A school may file a written challenge regarding a student's eligibility to participate in Adapted Athletics based on the qualifications stated above. Challenges must be submitted within 24 hours of the end of the game in which an alleged ineligible player participated. A challenge submitted after the deadline will not be honored. The student shall remain eligible during the review process. The committee's findings will be final and follow the student through the remaining years of eligibility unless there is a change in physical or cognitive status.

Upon receipt of a written challenge the League will activate the following review process:

- A. Request of a brief statement from the school/coach supporting the eligibility of the athlete.
- B. Review of the school's/coach's submission and the school's supporting data (testing, medical history, school documentation) by one reviewer who will submit a brief written statement regarding the eligibility status.
- C. Appeal Process: If the initial finding is appealed, a panel of three (3) reviewers will be convened. Two (2) of these reviewers must be from different disciplines (MD, Adapted PE teacher, PT, etc). The school/coach will be asked to submit a video of the player during a game or during PE class that will best demonstrate the disability. The video will be at the schools expense.

7. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM:

- A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team not later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.
- B. Membership Defined: A student must:
 - 1) be practicing with the high school team;
 - 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and

- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.
- C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below.
 - 1) Transfer students who become eligible in their new school.
 - 2) Students, who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage.
 - 3) Students who were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date. Students must have written documentation from the physician.
 - 4) Students who, since the official start date of the MSHSL high school season, **have not participated in the same sport:**
 - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
 - b) in a camp or clinic; or
 - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

Rationale:

- Several years ago, the length of season was changed for soccer but the number of contests was never adjusted or reduced.
- The 2/1 ratio of games in the activity is now 16 regular season games.
- This reduces the loss of class time by the students and coaches.
- Reduces the number of soccer games per week.
- Reduces the cost(s) associated with a game: officials, game workers and transportation cost associated with the sport.

Submitted by: Tim Hermann - Austin; Ken Hubert – Faribault; Don Hulbert – Moorhead; Mark Kuisle – Rochester Century; Jeff Whitney – Rochester Mayo

BYLAW 522.00

DANCE TEAM – Girls

1. SEASON BEGINS:

Practice may begin on the ~~17th~~ 16th Sixteenth Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

2. COMPETITIVE WINTER SEASON:

A. There are two divisions: high kick and jazz. Member schools can choose to participate either in one or both divisions.

B. Performances and related practices may continue until the end of the school's participation in winter tournament play provided that the dance team performs continuously in post-season appearances.

3. SUMMER PERFORMANCE SEASON:

Teams may perform in one community-based event during the summer provided that approval has been received from the League office 30 days prior to the event. A summer waiver form must be filled out and sent to the League. Preparation time is limited to one week preceding the event.

4. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST:

~~Two (2)~~ Three (3) weeks of organized practice shall precede the first contest.

5. CONTESTS:

Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)

Maximum number allowed: Member schools shall not schedule more than 15 contests, exclusive of League-sponsored tournament competition. Any entry into high kick or jazz or both at the same competitive event will count as one of the 15 contests.

6. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS:

Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)

7. TRYOUTS:

~~Coaches may have contact with students for preparation, tryout and team selection following the state competition and prior to June 15. This tryout and selection period shall not exceed one (1) week.~~

8. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM:

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team not later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below.

- 1) Transfer students who become eligible in their new school.
- 2) Students, who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage.
- 3) Students who were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date. Students must have written documentation from the physician.
- 4) Students who, since the official start date of the MSHSL high school season, **have not participated in the same sport:**
 - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
 - b) in a camp or clinic; or
 - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

Rationale:

- The winter season is too long for athletes and coaches in the sport of dance.
- By shortening the season to sixteen weeks, the 2/1 ratio of games in the activity could still have 15 regular season events.
- This reduction will help decrease the gym conflicts with winter sports.
- This will create a break between the fall and winter season and/or the winter and spring season.
- By adding one week before the first contest, total of (3) weeks, allows for tryouts at the beginning of the season.

- Creates a fair opportunity for “newly enrolled” students to tryout during the winter season and for tryouts to take place in season. This would align the activity with all other activities that must do tryouts to select teams.
- Eliminating spring tryouts would reduce gym conflicts, athlete conflicts with spring sport teams when girls are expected to try out for dance.