



# STUDENTS PROTECT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

## MSHSL ELIGIBILITY AND SUMMER SPORTS PARTICIPATION

This information is intended to assist you in protecting your continued eligibility for high school sports. Review the following Minnesota State High School League rules which may affect your summer sports participation. **Contact your high school athletic director if you have any questions about these rules as you plan for summer sports participation.**

### Bylaw 201 Amateur Status

A student may not participate in League-sponsored activities unless the student is an amateur in that activity. A student becomes a professional if the student participates with a professional team in a contest or accepts any of the following for participation in school or non-school athletics:

1. A salary or cash.
2. Merchandise valued at \$100.00 or more.
3. A share in the season profit.
4. An expense allowance for tryouts.

Golf is governed by USGA rules.

**Penalty:** A student who becomes a professional will be disqualified for further high school participation in that sport.

### Bylaw 203 Camps and Clinics During the Summer

Student athletes attending summer camps or clinics must adhere to the following guidelines established by the Board of Directors:

1. A student may attend a camp or clinic where a salaried or non-salaried Sophomore, "B" squad, Junior Varsity or Varsity member of the coaching staff from the student's high school serves as an instructor or is a staff member during the student's attendance.
2. Camp, clinic and or team participation fees must be provided by the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), unless other arrangements are approved by the League Board of Directors.
3. The non-school camp or clinic program shall not include any type of competition with teams from another camp or clinic.

**Penalty:** See penalties outlined in box on next page.

#### Interpretation:

- Q. Can a booster club pay the camp fee for a student or for groups of students?
- A. *No. Booster clubs and other civic groups can give money to a school for the school athletic programs, but the camp or clinic fee must be paid by the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).*

### Bylaw 204 Awards

Awards presented to and accepted by students shall be of a symbolic nature (under \$100.00 retail value).

**Penalty:** Ineligible for all further high school competition. The provisions of the bylaw do not void the right of a student to accept an award in a non-League sponsored activity. Acceptance of a prize for a sport or contest not conducted by the League such as bowling, boxing, rodeo, free throw contest, etc., would not make a student ineligible. Hole-in-one contests are governed by USGA rules.

#### Interpretation:

- Q. Does the acceptance of a jacket for being a member of a summer team constitute a violation of MSHSL rules?
- A. *The MSHSL awards rule states that: Items such as jackets, rings, jewelry, watches, merchandise services, trips, free or reduced price admission, in which the value of the award(s) exceeds \$100.00 and other like items of more than \$100.00 value would constitute a violation. If the value of the jacket does not exceed \$100.00, it would not constitute a violation.*

### Bylaw 208 Non-School Competition and Training During Summer Vacation

Students may participate in summer activities through training at summer camps or clinics or participation on competitive non-school teams, provided that:

1. Activities are voluntary and students are not influenced or directed to do so by a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport.
2. Students may not use any type of high school uniform or equipment including helmets, pads, etc. Exception: Goalie equipment may be issued by schools.
3. A student's fee 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 League Board of Directors.

**Summer Defined:** Summer shall be defined as the period from the Saturday following the fourth Friday in May through Labor Day. Summer for the sport of soccer shall be defined as the day following the fourth Friday in May through the Sunday immediately prior to the official starting date of the MSHSL high school soccer season. Note: Students may participate in activities during the summer, as defined above, even though their high school sport season in the same sport has begun, i.e. students may play tennis tournaments or participate in road races through Labor Day. Soccer is excluded from dual participation as defined above.

**Penalty:** See penalties outlined in box on next page.

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## Interpretations:

- Q. Are high school students eligible to participate in AAU tournaments and or other non-school events without jeopardizing their high school eligibility?
- A. *Yes. Students who have been members of their high school sports team are eligible to participate in the non-school events under the following conditions:*
1. *Participation in a particular event/activity does not occur during the high school season in that same event/activity.*
  2. *Students may not use any type of high school uniform or equipment including helmets, pads, etc. Exception: Goalie equipment may issued by schools. Students may rent personal protective equipment from their schools.*
- Q. May students participate in Captain's Practice?
- A. *Yes. Students may participate in practices organized by the team's captains so long as participation is voluntary and no salaried or non-salaried school personnel are involved in any capacity.*
- Q. May students participate in Open Gym?
- A. *Yes. Students may participate in open gym so long as it meets the following criteria:*
1. *The school facilities are available for students to participate in a number of activities.*
  2. *The recreational activities are open to all students.*
  3. *There is no coaching of the skills and techniques of activities provided in the school interscholastic athletic program.*
  4. *There is no requirement for students to attend open gym activities as a prerequisite for membership on a high school team.*

## THE FOLLOWING PENALTIES APPLY TO VIOLATIONS OF BYLAWS 203 AND 208

1. **First Violation:** After confirmation of the first violation, the student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks of that season, whichever is greater. If there are fewer than two events remaining in that sport, the loss of eligibility will continue into the next season in that sport.  
**Note:** This means that a senior who violates the bylaws at the end of a sport season will lose eligibility for two games in the next sport season in which the student participates.
2. **Second Violation:** After confirmation of the second violation, the student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests.
3. **Third Violation:** After confirmation of the third or subsequent violations, the student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next twelve consecutive interscholastic contests.
4. **Consecutive Penalties:** Penalties shall be consecutive beginning with the student's first participation in a League activity and continuing through the student's high school career.

## 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 no 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 regular season and 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 join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and 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.
- D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of the season are eligible **for the regular season only** (not post-season) if they **have** participated in the same sport:
  - 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - 2) in a camp or clinic; or
  - 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.