



IHSAA By-Laws Summary

Rule 3-9 Use of Ineligible Player

The IHSAA By-laws contain specific rules regarding the scholastic and athletic eligibility of student-athletes. Use of an ineligible player in a contest requires that the **school immediately contact the IHSAA**. Penalties are issued according to whether the violation occurs during the regular season or the tournament series, and whether the sport is considered an individual or team sport:

During the Regular Season:

1. Individual Sport – disqualify ineligible individual, forfeit their individual points/awards and refigure score, notify all schools involved
2. Team Sport – disqualify ineligible individual, forfeit games, notify all schools

During the Tournament Series:

1. Individual Sport – disqualify ineligible individual, forfeit their individual points/awards and refigure score, all awards returned to the Association
2. Team Sport – disqualify ineligible individual but team advances, state finals championship or runners-up vacated and all awards returned to the Association

Rule 3-10 Consent and Release Certificates (Physical Examination Forms)

Between May 1 and the student's first practice, the student shall have had a physical examination from a doctor holding an unlimited license to practice medicine. In addition, the parents or guardian of the student must give written consent for such participation. This physical examination will suffice for the entire school year until Monday of Week 5 of the following year. Athletes participating without a physical are in violation of this rule which can jeopardize the standing of the school with the IHSAA.

Rule 4-1 Age

A student who is or shall be twenty (20) years of age prior to or on the scheduled date of the IHSAA state finals in a sport shall be ineligible for interschool athletic competition in that sport, (a student who is nineteen (19) years of age on the scheduled date of the IHSAA state finals in a sport shall be eligible as to age for interschool athletic competition in that sport).

Rule 9-13 Sunday Practices and Contact

There shall be no interschool athletic contests, practices, or school sponsored clinics held on Sunday. Calling one or more team members together on Sunday for studying scouting reports, viewing films of games, any kind of participation, etc. will be considered a violation of this rule.

Rule 9-16 Removing A Team From The Field Of Competition

Withdrawal of a school athletic team from an athletic contest other than in emergency situations which are beyond the control of school personnel may jeopardize the standing of the school in the Association. (Removal of a team due to dissatisfaction with the calls of officials and/or the style of play by the opponents DOES NOT constitute an "emergency situation".)

Rule 9-17 Student Below Grade 9

Member schools may not use students below the 9th grade on their athletic teams in contests.

Rule 9-18 Scouting

Filming, telecasting or video taping for scouting purposes of any season contest by any party other than the two participating schools shall be prohibited. Parents may not videotape an opponent's contest for scouting purposes.

Rule 14-1 Use Of Unlicensed Officials

Only IHSAA licensed officials shall be used in interscholastic contests which require officials. The Commissioner shall direct that the contest be forfeited when this rule is violated. (Willing and/or "knowledgeable" parents or fans CANNOT be called into action to step in for missing officials. Contests may be conducted with fewer than the prescribed number of officials when events occur outside the control of school officials.)



Participation Rules During the Season

Rule 15-1.1a,c Outstanding Student Participant Waiver

Student athletes may not participate in a non-school sports competition, unless an outstanding student participant waiver form is approved by the coach, principal, and the IHSAA office. A maximum of two waivers may be granted during a contest season. An outstanding student athlete may participate as an individual during the authorized contest season of a sport, without loss of interschool eligibility, provide the following criteria are met:

- (1) a completed waiver application form signed by the parent, coach, and principal is forwarded to the Commissioner seven (7) days prior to the event and approved by the Commissioner,
- (2) the event that the athlete will be participating in is certified by a State, National or International body
- (3) arrangements to complete academic lessons and assignments is made in advance
- (4) the student may not miss an Association sponsored tournament series or school contest for which he/she is eligible.
- (5) no violation of the student's amateur status takes place.

Rule 15-1.1c, Rule 15-1.2c, 9-4 Violation of the "Scrimmage Rule"

Participation of students in an organized athletic contest with or against players not belonging to their school constitutes a game and must be counted toward the season's contest total.

An organized "scrimmage" or practice by students with or against team(s) or player(s) not belonging to their school is considered a game. Rules established for the administration of "scrimmages" CANNOT be altered regardless of the wishes of the participating schools or coaches. (Coaches must follow the prescribed "script" for scrimmages in their sport. These guidelines are available on the IHSAA website – ihsaa.org)

Participation Rules During The School Year Out Of Season

Rule 15-2.1 Participation in Individual Sports

- a. Students may participate in non-school contests as individuals or as members of a non-school team in non-school contests.
- b. Coaches, from a member school coaching staff, may coach students in that sport if NOT under the organization, supervision and operation of the member school.
- c. Member schools may not organize, supervise or operate athletic practices or interschool athletic contests.
- d. Member schools may not provide school-owned uniforms (jerseys, shirts, shorts, pants, singlets, or swimsuits, etc.) worn by the student in non-school contests.

Rule 15-2.2 Participation In Team Sports

Students may participate in team sport contest as members of a non-school team provided no more that the following number of students who have participated in a contest the previous season as a member of one of their school teams in that sport are rostered on the same non-school team, at the same time.

Baseball – 5 Basketball – 3 Football – 6 Soccer – 6 Softball – 5 Volleyball – 3

Rules for participation in Individual Sports under this rule are somewhat different. Consult the IHSAA By-Law booklet for more details.

Rule 15-2.6 Open Facility

An open facility program is a program in which the gymnasium, playing fields, or other school facilities are open to all students for participation on a voluntary basis. Specific equipment related to a particular sport, i.e. balls, goals, nets, etc., may be used.

- a. Open facility sessions for a particular sport may conducted three times per week. However, they may be held more frequently within a month of the date of the official first practice in that sport.
- b. Member school coaches may supervise the program, communicate with students and offer correction provided that:
 1. they do not organize teams or assign individuals to teams;
 2. the program is open to all students of the member school;
 3. attendance and participation is voluntary and not required by the member school coach for membership on a team.
 4. the coaching staff may offer instruction and work directly with a maximum of two athletes at a time.



Participation Rules During The Summer

Rule 15-3.2h Participation in Camps and Clinics

For all school sponsored camps and clinics and non-school sponsored camps and clinics for fall sports, attendance must be terminated prior to Monday, Week 4. For non-school sponsored camps and clinics in other sports, attendance must be terminated prior to Monday, Week 5.

Rule 15-3.3 Open Facility Program

Participation MUST be voluntary. Member school coaches may supervise these open facilities provided that participation is truly "open" and "voluntary". Operation of the **open facility** program must be terminated prior to Monday of IHSAA Week 4 for ALL sports. Open facility programs may resume when school starts. Operation of **conditioning programs** may be extended through Saturday of Week 4. Conditioning programs may resume when school starts.

Rule 15-3.4 Moratorium Week

During this 7 day period (Mon-Sun) there shall be no contact between athletes and coaches, and no athletic activities, including conditioning, conducted. (*No contact means, "NO CONTACT"*)

Rule 18-1.6 Scholastic Eligibility

Students who are ineligible scholastically at the end of a grading period or semester, are ineligible for the following grading period. (Semester grades take precedence over grading periods. The eligibility for Fall athletes is determined by their 2nd Semester grades and any courses that are taken over the summer. All Freshmen are eligible for FALL sports because they have not yet established eligibility according to this rule.)

Rule 19 Transfers

An athletic transfer form must be completed any time a student athlete transfers to the new school, after his/her initial enrollment as a 9th grader. This process must be completed whether the student transfer from an in-state school, out-of-state school, home school, even if the student has not previously participated in athletics. Athletes must fill out proper transfer forms and receive approval for competition from the IHSAA before they can participate in a contest for the receiving school. Once enrolled at the receiving school, however, athletes may participate in practices prior to the completion of the athletic transfer process.

Rule 19-7 Foreign Exchange Student Eligibility

Foreign exchange students must also fill out a form that must be approved by the IHSAA before they are eligible to participate in contests. Foreign exchange student eligibility is for ONE year only.

Rule 20-3 Undue Influence

Coaches from member school programs may only visit the practices and/or contests of their respective feeder school/s.

- "Coaches" include contracted and volunteer, high school and middle/junior high, and anyone representing the respective school or athletic program for the purposes of searching out and contacting students and/or parents for the encouragement of enrollment for the purpose of athletic participation at a particular school.
- Representatives of a school's athletic program may not visit the homes of non-feeder school students or use other means of communication for the purpose of encouraging enrollment and athletic participation at a particular school.
- Coaches of non-school teams may not be used as agents to direct non-feeder school students to another school.

Rule 20-4 Undue Influence

Parents of a student from a non-feeder school that makes contact with a member school should be referred to the Principal. (If a coach or coaches from a member school meet with parents of a prospective athlete prior to that student enrolling in the coach's school, that contact can be regarded as "undue influence" and violates this By-Law.)

Rules 50 and 101 Number of Practice Days

10 DAYS (not practices) of organized practice are required prior to an athlete's participation in any contest. These practices must be under the direct supervision of the high school coaching staff in that sport. Athletes moving directly from one sport season into another (within one week) may be eligible to participate after FIVE days of practice.

Rule 51-59 and 101-111 Exceeding the number of quarters, halves or contests

Each sport has specific rules regarding the number of quarter, halves and/or games that an athlete may compete in each season. Check your sport regarding this rule.