

200.00

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY BYLAWS

Purpose: The following bylaws are intended to protect and maintain eligibility once a student has participated as an individual or as a member of a team in League-sponsored activities.

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**Please Note: These bylaws are not applicable for Fine Arts only students (Debate, Music, One Act Play, Speech, Visual Arts)*

The most current version of the Official Handbook is always posted on the League website — www.MSHSL.org.

200.00 BYLAWS: STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

BYLAW 201.00

AMATEUR STATUS

Cross Reference: Bylaw 204 (Awards)

1. A student may not participate in League-sponsored activities unless the student is an amateur in that activity.
2. A student loses their amateur status in that sport and becomes a professional if the student accepts any of the following for participation in school or non-school athletics:
 - A. a salary, cash or merchandise.
 - (i) Actual and reasonable reimbursement for transportation, food and lodging when paid in connection with travel to and playing in a contest or participating in a camp or clinic are not violations. Golf is governed by the United States Golf Association amateur rule.
 - (ii) A student may receive payment for officiating, instructing, teaching or coaching a sport without losing their amateur status in that sport.
 - B. a share in the season's profit.
 - C. an expense allowance for athletic tryouts.
3. A student loses their amateur status and becomes a professional if the student participates with a professional team or any team deemed by the MSHSL to be a professional team in a contest, or signs a contract with a professional team (i.e. Canadian Major Junior Hockey teams in the WHL, OHL and QMJHL are considered professional teams).
4. A student does not lose their amateur status if they participate in a tryout with a professional team as long as the student can document that the student has paid all fees and expenses and as long as the student does not participate in a contest.
5. A student can receive one expense paid tryout with a professional team as long as the tryout period does not exceed 48 consecutive hours.
6. It is recommended that awards and prizes for non-school participation should be of a symbolic nature. However, the acceptance of an award valued at less than \$100 retail when received for non-school participation will not constitute a violation.
7. A student cannot use athletic skills to promote or advertise products.
8. **Penalty:**
A student who becomes a professional will be disqualified from further high school participation in that sport.

BYLAW 202.00

ASSAULT

1. Assault on any person including game officials will not be condoned by the League and will be dealt with by the school administration and the local authorities.
2. **Assault defined:**
 - A. an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;
 - B. the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or
 - C. the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.
3. **Assault on a Game Official:**
Assault shall mean any deliberate attempt by a participant to inflict bodily harm on an official, referee, umpire, judge, scorer, timer, or any other person.
4. **Procedure to Report an Assault on a Game Official:**
 - A. The assaulted person or representative must put the charge in writing within 48 hours of the event and send it to the Minnesota State High School League Office. If the charge is not submitted in writing within the specified period of time, the charge shall be waived.
 - B. This report will be forwarded to the principal of the school where the student is enrolled. If the student is home-schooled or enrolled in a charter school, the report shall be filed with the "host" school for the activity.
 - C. The principal, or in the principal's absence, the superintendent, shall conduct an immediate investigation and submit a report to the Executive Director of the League. In all cases, the student shall be ineligible for participation in League-sponsored activities until the decision is rendered.
 - D. The decision shall be submitted in writing to the student and the assaulted person or representative with a notification that the ruling may be appealed to the League's Board of Directors whose decision will be final.
5. **Penalty:**
The student shall be disqualified from participation in all League-sponsored activities for a minimum of 4 weeks.
6. **Appeal:**
In the case of an appeal, the student will be ineligible until the Board of Directors renders its decision.

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Physical contact between a player and an official or a coach and an official:

Physical contact between a coach and an official or between a player and an official that results from disrespectful and/or unsporting behavior will not be tolerated. When the incident is determined to be an assault as defined in Bylaw 202, the process outlined in that bylaw will be followed. When the incident does not rise to the level of assault, the guilty party or parties will be suspended, as a minimum, from the next two consecutive varsity, interscholastic contests or two weeks (14 calendar days), whichever is greater. This penalty will be imposed during the season in which the offense occurs, when possible. The portion of the penalty that cannot be served during the current season will carry over to the next season in which the guilty party or parties play, coach or officiate. This policy applies to officials, coaches and participants—whoever is involved in causing the physical contact to occur.

BYLAW 203.00

ATHLETIC CAMPS AND CLINICS

Cross Reference: Bylaw 207 (National and Olympic Development Programs)

Cross Reference: Bylaw 208 (Non-school Competition and Training—Team and Individual Sports)

1. **Students:** Students may attend a camp or clinic at any time during the year provided that they meet the following requirements.

A. School, Camp or Clinic for a League-sponsored Activity

Definition: A school, camp or clinic is defined as an instructional program which involves physical participation by the individual student.

1) Criteria for participation at a specialized camp or clinic during the school year

- a) The student makes application to the principal or designee prior to the camp or clinic participation.
- b) The principal or designee:
 - (1) approves arrangements for the student to complete missed academic lessons, assignments, and tests; and,
 - (2) approves the absence by the student from school.

2) Camps/Clinics During the Summer

- a) Non-school sponsored summer specialized camps or clinics do not require approval.
- b) Student athletes must adhere to the following guidelines established by the Board of Directors.
 - (1) Camp or clinic participation fees must be provided by the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), unless other arrangements are approved by the Board of Directors.
 - (2) The non-school camp or clinic program shall not include any type of competition with teams from another camp or clinic.
- c) Guidelines for Schools:
 - (1) Schools may not issue uniforms or equipment to students for their personal use in non-school sponsored camps and clinics.
 - (2) Schools may rent or lease protective equipment such as helmets and shoulder pads to individual students/sponsors of camps and clinics provided that the same rental fee is charged to all persons who want to rent equipment and that all rental equipment is inspected by qualified reconditioning companies prior to use by high school students.
 - (3) Schools may rent or lease their facilities to camps and clinics provided that the same rental fee is charged to all persons who want to rent the facility.
 - (4) Schools may approve the Summer Coaching Waiver for the members of their high school coaching staff (see Bylaw 208).

B. Elite National Camp/Tournament

Cross Reference: Bylaw 207 (National and Olympic Development Programs)

Bylaw 207.1 indicates athletes who wish to participate in an Elite or National event sponsored by the National Governing Board, must make application 30 days in advance of the event to the League for approval.

Bylaw 207.2 indicates that athletes who are invited to participate in Elite National camps or Elite National tournaments which are not sponsored by that sport's National Governing Body must make application 30 days in advance to the League for approval.

The applications can be found on the League Web site. They are to be completed and approved by a school administrator and then sent to the League for final approval.

2. Coaches:

- A. **During the School Year Prior to and Following the High School Sport Season:** No full time or part time member of the high school coaching staff at the sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity level, paid or unpaid, shall own, organize, conduct, administer or instruct in a camp or clinic for athletes who have participated at the varsity, junior varsity, B-squad or sophomore level for that school during the school year.

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B. During the Summer:

High school coaches may provide coaching and training to members of their high school team provided that the high school coach has applied for and been approved for a summer coaching waiver. (See Bylaw 208.00 Summer Coaching Waiver)

Summer contact time for athletic camps and clinics shall be from June 1 through July 31. With the exception of Baseball and Girls' Softball, the summer waiver period also includes a one-week no-contact period in July — the week of July Fourth.

3. Penalties:

A. First Violation:

The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, of that season, whichever is greater.

B. Second Violation:

The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater.

C. Third or Subsequent Violations:

The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next 12 consecutive interscholastic contests or four weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater.

D. Applying the Penalty:

If there are fewer events remaining in that sport season than are required to satisfy the penalty, the loss of eligibility will continue into the next season in that sport.

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.

E. Progressive Penalties:

Penalties shall be progressive beginning with the first violation and continuing through the student's high school career. Penalties shall be served consecutively.

BYLAW 204.00

AWARDS

Cross Reference: Bylaw 201 (Amateur Status)

1. Awards presented to students shall be of a symbolic nature rather than those which have intrinsic value. School officials will make certain that awards approved conform to the letter, spirit and intent of the bylaw.
2. **Acceptable awards which are not a violation include:**
 - A. Game balls, medals, ribbons, trophies, golf balls, plaques, athletic insignia, cups and other items of little or no intrinsic value.
 - B. Honor banquets of a non-promotional nature, if they are held with the approval of the high school principal.
 - C. Free and reduced price admissions accepted from colleges or universities for their events if they have prior approval of the high school principal.
 - D. Awards of transportation, tickets and expense allowances, by member schools or clubs of member schools, for attendance at League-sponsored, and or college and university events if they have prior approval of the high school principal.
 - E. Awards of transportation and entertainment by colleges and universities for recruiting purposes, when carried on within the limitation of NCAA, NAIA, AIAW, if they have prior approval of the high school principal.
 - F. A scholarship award made on the basis of a combination of two or more factors such as scholarship, character, athletics and citizenship, made by a non-promotional type of organization to a graduating senior, if they have prior approval by the high school principal.
 - G. Awards for participation in non-school athletics which meet the provisions of the amateur bylaw.
 - H. Acceptance of a prize, including money, for a sport that is not conducted or sponsored by the League such as bowling, boxing, rodeo, free throw contests, hole in one contests, etc.
3. **Awards constituting a violation include:**
 - A. Items such as jackets, rings, jewelry, watches, merchandise, services, trips, free or reduced price admissions in which the value of the award(s) exceeds \$100 retail.
 - B. Awards made by individuals, business concerns, private enterprises, and service clubs, which do not conform to the limitations of 204.02 and are promotional in nature.
 - C. Free Tickets: The acceptance of a free ticket valued at more than \$100 is a violation of League bylaws if the ticket is presented as a result of participation in a League sponsored activity.

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- D. **Reduced price tickets:** The acceptance of a reduced price ticket if the full value of the ticket less the amount charged exceeds \$100. High school athletes may purchase a \$100 ticket or receive a free one from an organization without violating the bylaw if the same privilege is available to all other students.
4. **Awards distributed by member schools:** It will be a violation of League policy for a member school or a representative of a member school to establish, distribute or accept any awards not approved by the League for section, or state tournaments.
5. **Penalty:** The student shall be ineligible for all further high school competition. A school violating the bylaw is subject to suspension from membership in the League.

BYLAW 204.00 INTERPRETATION

- Q. *Can senior student athletes receive scholarship money while in a spring sport? Our firemen give \$250 award to two senior athletes. Would it affect their eligibility if they received it before the spring season was over?*
- A. A scholarship award is based on two or more factors such as scholarship, character, athletics and citizenship, made by a non-promotional type of organization to a graduating senior is acceptable. The award must have the approval of the principal.

BYLAW 205.00

CHEMICAL ELIGIBILITY

Cross Reference: Bylaw 304.2 ("Denial Penalty")

1. At any time during the calendar year, a student shall not, regardless of the quantity:
 - A. use or consume, have in possession a beverage containing alcohol;
 - B. use or consume, have in possession tobacco; or,
 - C. use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any other controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.
 - D. use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away products containing or products used to deliver nicotine, tobacco products and other chemicals.

"Tobacco products" means: any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part or accessory of a tobacco product.
 - E. use or consume, have in possession, buy sell or give away any substance or product where the intent of such use of the substance or product is to induce intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction of the central nervous system, except under the direction and supervision of a medical doctor. Such substances or products shall include, but are not limited to, synthetic drugs, gasoline, glue, aerosol devices, bath salts, and any substances addressed by Minnesota or Federal Law.
2. **Penalties for Category I Activities**

Definition - Category I Activities: Those League-sponsored activities in which a member school has a schedule of interscholastic contests, exclusive of League-sponsored tournaments.

 - Athletic Activities
 - Fine Arts Activities
 - 1) Debate
 - 2) Speech Activities including One Act Play - when a school schedules a season of interscholastic contests.
 - A. **First Violation Penalty**

The student shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, whichever is greater, of a season in which the student is a participant.
 - B. **Second Violation Penalty**

The student shall lose eligibility for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant.
 - C. **Third or Subsequent Violation Penalty**
 - 1) The student shall lose eligibility for the next 12 consecutive interscholastic contests or four weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant.
 - 2) A student who chooses to become a participant in a treatment program may become eligible for participation after a minimum period of six weeks after entering treatment if all of the following conditions are met:
 - a) The student is assessed as chemically dependent,
 - b) enters treatment voluntarily, and
 - c) the director of the treatment center certifies that the student has successfully completed the treatment program.
 - d) The treatment option cannot be used for the first or second violation.

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Successful completion of a chemical dependency treatment program will satisfy only the most recent violation. Any other violations for which the penalty has not been satisfied must still be served in full.

D. Applying the Penalty

- 1) Penalties shall be progressive beginning with the student's first violation and continuing throughout the student's high school career. Penalties shall be served consecutively.
- 2) Violation Confirmation Definition: The violation shall be confirmed when the administrator responsible for the athletics/activities program has informed the student that the student has violated a bylaw and is now under the penalty. The notification shall be verbal and also in writing.
- 3) Counting Weeks:
 - a) The weeks shall begin on the date that the violation is confirmed by the school administrator and extend for the required number of calendar days.
 - b) For the purpose of this bylaw, a week is seven calendar days. The week starts the date the violation is confirmed and the student/student's parents or guardians are notified.
 - c) At the beginning of the season, practice and conditioning weeks are counted.
 - d) The student must participate in and complete the entire season in which the penalty has been applied for the penalty to count. As examples: a student cannot begin participation in a program at the start of the season, serve the penalty and then quit after the suspension has been served; nor can a student join a program after the season has begun, and serve the penalty.
- 4) A student who is under penalty for a violation of a League bylaw may not join a second sport in the same season in order to fulfill a penalty.
- 5) Practices, jamborees, inter-school scrimmages and previews are not interscholastic contests and may not be counted, however, the student is eligible to participate.
- 6) A student who participates in both Category I and Category II activities shall serve the penalty prescribed for that violation in both Category I and Category II activities in which the student participates.
- 7) Denial Disqualification: A student shall be disqualified from all inter-scholastic athletics for nine additional weeks beyond the student's original period of ineligibility when the student denies violation of the rule, is allowed to participate and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.

3. Penalties for Category II Activities

Definition - Category II Activities: Those League-sponsored activities in which a member school does not have a schedule of interscholastic contests, exclusive of League-sponsored tournaments.

Fine Arts Activities

- 1) Speech activities including One Act Play when a school schedules no interscholastic contests and participates only in the League-sponsored tournament series.
- 2) Music Activities.
- 3) Visual Arts Activities.

Each member school shall develop penalties which it will apply to the participants in these activities. A copy of the member school's policy shall be filed in the principal's office.

BYLAW 205.00 INTERPRETATIONS – CATEGORIES OF ACTIVITIES

1. Q. Why are the League-sponsored activities divided into two categories?

A. The structure of each activity determines the consequences for bylaws violations:

Category I: all athletic activities and those speech and debate activities WHICH HAVE A REGULAR SEASON of interscholastic contests prior to the League-sponsored tournament.

Category II: those music and speech activities WHICH HAVE NO REGULAR SEASON of interscholastic contests prior to the League-sponsored tournaments.

2. Q. What is the basic difference between Category I and II bylaws?

A. In Category I, a standard statewide penalty is prescribed, and in Category II, each member school shall prescribe the penalties which it will apply in those fine arts activities.

3. Q. Can a member school change the standard penalties prescribed for the Category I activities?

A. The League requires its member schools to adopt the bylaws as stated however, a school may adopt other local policies, provided the prescribed penalties are NOT LESSEMED, i.e., the school could not change the penalty for the first violation to be less than loss of eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, or the next six contests for the second violation, etc.

4. Q. Do the statewide bylaws cover the summer vacation period?

A. Yes. The League's bylaws apply year-round.

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BYLAW 205.00 INTERPRETATIONS – CATEGORIES OF ACTIVITIES (continued)

5. Q. For Category II, is a member school required to develop and apply penalties to students who participate in music and speech?
- A. Yes. The basic bylaw for participants in all League-sponsored activities is that they shall not use mood-altering chemicals. Under their local bylaws, the school can elect to include a variety of locally sponsored activities as well as League-sponsored events for fine arts.
6. Q. Can consequences for Category II activities be applied to Category I activities?
- A. No. A student must meet the consequences of both Categories.
7. Q. How does a student who participates in two activities serve a chemical penalty/suspension?
- A. The suspension is served in the activity which takes the longest to complete the chemical suspension.

BYLAW 205.00 INTERPRETATIONS – FIRST VIOLATION IN A STUDENT’S CAREER

8. Q. The penalty for the first violation requires that: “a student shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater.” When do you begin counting the weeks?
- A. If currently participating, you start counting the weeks the day the violation has been confirmed. Otherwise, the student serves the penalty the next time they participate.
9. Q. For the first violation, could some athletes miss more than two contests during the two weeks?
- A. Yes, the penalty requires a minimum loss of two contests or two weeks, whichever is greater. During the two weeks of a season, some sports schedule more than two contests and the student is ineligible for all contests scheduled during those weeks.

BYLAW 205.00 INTERPRETATIONS – SECOND, THIRD AND ADDITIONAL VIOLATION(S) IN A STUDENT’S CAREER

10. Q. A student commits a first violation by using tobacco. The student’s next offense is using alcohol. What is the penalty?
- A. It is a second violation, i.e., the first violation for use of tobacco and the second violation was for use of alcohol.
11. Q. In the 10th grade, a student uses tobacco, in the 11th grade, the student uses alcohol; and in the 12th grade, the student uses a controlled substance. What are the penalties?
- A. The penalties are progressive beginning with the student’s first violation and continuing throughout the student’s high school career. The school records would indicate that the student’s first violation and loss of two contests and two weeks occurred in the 10th grade, the second violation and loss of three weeks and/or six contests occurred in the 11th grade, and the third violation and loss of four weeks and/or 12 contests occurred in the 12th grade. Penalties shall be served consecutively. (Penalties for subsequent offenses shall be served following completion of the service of the penalty for prior offenses.)
12. Q. Can an ineligible student be in uniform on the bench or sideline?
- A. No.

BYLAW 205.00 INTERPRETATIONS – ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS

13. Q. Does the provision remain for students to be certified for reinstatement in League activities following their participation in a chemical treatment program?
- A. Yes. The special provision for reinstatement may be applied if after a third violation, a student on her/his own volition becomes a participant in a treatment program or if a student confides in his/her coach or other faculty member and requests help to get involved in a treatment program.
14. Q. A student has no previous violations on record, but realizes she has problems with chemicals. The student is encouraged and supported by her parents to seek treatment. The student becomes part of an outpatient program. While still a member of this program, the basketball season begins. Is the student eligible?
- A. The student is eligible because no specific violation was confirmed and no penalty was administered. If the student admits to a specific violation or a reported violation is confirmed, the student would be ineligible for the period prescribed for the first/second or third violation.

BYLAW 205.00 INTERPRETATIONS – CHEMICAL USE BY STUDENT PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE ACTIVITIES OR FOLLOWING A LAPSE IN PARTICIPATION

15. Q. Do Bylaw 205 suspensions expire at the end of the academic year?
- A. No. The unserved suspension carries over from sport season to sport season and to each new school year until it is served.
16. Q. If a student signs an eligibility form as a 10th grader and does not participate in 11th grade, would a violation in 11th grade apply?
- A. Yes. After the student signs the first eligibility form, the rules apply throughout the student’s high school career.

BYLAW 206.00**GOOD STANDING AND GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Cross Reference: Fair Hearing Procedure 1. D.

1. Good Standing

In order to be eligible for regular season and League tournament competition a student must be in good standing.

Definition: The term “Good Standing” shall mean that the student is eligible under of all the conditions and eligibility requirements of that school as well as the eligibility requirements of the Minnesota State High School League.

2. Student Code of Responsibilities

Participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege which is accompanied by responsibility. As a student participating in League sponsored activities, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

- A. I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.
- B. I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions.
- C. I will respect the rights and property of others.
- D. I will respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.
- E. I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.

3. Penalty

A student who is dismissed from school or who violates the Student Code of Responsibilities is not in good standing and is ineligible for a period of time as determined by the school principal acting on the authority of the local board of education. The League specifically recognizes that certain conduct requires penalties that may exceed those penalties typically imposed for first violations. For example, when a student is suspended from school the student is not in good standing and cannot begin to serve the participation penalty until the student has completed the suspension from school and is returned to good standing.

4. Student/Coach Ejection From a Contest

A. Notification to School Administration: Coaches are responsible to inform their school administration regarding any ejection of a coach or student in their sport.

B. Penalties:1) Student

- a) During the Regular Season: A student-athlete who is ejected from a game/meet, shall not participate in a game/meet for the remainder of that day. The student is also suspended from the next scheduled, rescheduled, or contracted game/meet at that level of competition and all games/meets in the interim at other levels of competition.
- b) The second and subsequent violations carry a four regularly scheduled game/meet ineligibility penalty.
- c) During the League Tournament Series (Subsection, Section and State Tournament): A student athlete who is ejected from a game, meet or individual competition shall not participate in a game, meet or individual round of competition for the remainder of that day. The student is also suspended from the next scheduled round of team or individual competition in that tournament series.
- d) Student Relationship to Team During Suspension: A player who is under suspension for an ejection may travel with the team and be in the locker room and on the sideline but may not be in uniform while under suspension
- e) If penalties are imposed at the end of the sport season or League tournament series and no contest remains, the penalty is carried over in that particular sport until the next school year. In the case of a senior, the penalty will continue to the next sport season.

2) Coach

- a) During the Regular Season: Anytime a coach is ejected from a game/meet, the coach shall not coach the remainder of that day. The coach is also suspended from the next scheduled, rescheduled, or contracted date at that level of competition and all games/meets in the interim at other levels of competition.
- b) The second and subsequent violations carry a four regularly scheduled game/meet ineligibility penalty.
- c) During the League Tournament Series (Sub-section, Section and State Tournament): A coach who is ejected from a game/meet shall not coach the remainder of that day. The coach is also suspended from coaching the next scheduled round of team or individual competition in that tournament series. The penalty will be carried over into the next season for that sport.
- d) Coach Relationship to Team During Suspension: A coach who is under suspension for an ejection may not:
 - (1) have access to the locker room prior to the game, during half-time, or following the game;
 - (2) be seated in an area proximal to the team bench;
 - (3) ride the team bus to or from the contest; or

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- (4) serve in any official capacity as a coach, statistician, supervisor, etc. until the suspension has been served.

C. Appeal:

A basketball coach may appeal the penalty only when he/she is disqualified for technical fouls and his/her actions did not contribute to the disqualification. The appeal will be heard by the local school administration. A complete report must be sent to the League for review.

- 5. **Approved Attire for Awards Presentations:** Students participating in all League awards presentations must be in school-approved attire.
- 6. **Eligibility During League Tournaments (Subsection, Section and State):** A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies and League bylaws to be in uniform, occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual/team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.

BYLAW 207.00

NATIONAL TEAMS AND OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL SPORT ATHLETES

Cross Reference: Bylaw 203 (Athletic Camps & Clinics)

Cross Reference: Bylaw 208 (Non-school Competition and Training—Team and Individual Sports)

[Applications are on the League website under the “Resources / Eligibility” tab]

- 1. **Participation on a National Team or in an Olympic Development Program:** During the school year, students who participate for their school in a sport may participate through training, try-out or competition on a National Team or in a United States Olympic Development Program provided the student receives an individual invitation from either the United States National Governing Body on the national level for that sport or from the United States Olympic Committee.

A. **National Team Definition:** A National Team is a team selected by the national governing body (NGB) of the sport on a national qualification basis either through a defined selective process or actual tryouts for the purpose of international competition which requires the entries to officially represent the respective nations, although it is not necessary there be team scoring by nation. The Minnesota State High School League may permit participation by high school students on bona fide national teams which represent the United States.

B. Criteria for Approval for Participation on a National Team:

- 1) The national team meets the definition stated above.
- 2) The student makes application to the high school principal or designee at least 30 days prior to the national team participation.
- 3) The principal or designee:
 - a) approves prior arrangements for the student to complete missed academic lessons, assignments and tests; and,
 - b) approves the absence by the student from a school-sponsored or state high school sponsored athletic event(s) involving a team in that sport.

C. **Olympic Development Program Definition:** An Olympic Development Program is defined as a training program or competition which is conducted or sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee, or directly funded and conducted by the United States Olympic committee member national governing body (NGB) on a national level, or specifically authorized by a national governing body involving only athletes previously identified by the NGB as having potential for future participation in regional, national or international competition in that sport.

Official National Governing Bodies

Baseball.....	USA Baseball	Softball	Amateur Softball Association
Basketball	USA Basketball	Swimming.....	U.S. Swimming, Inc.
Diving	United States Diving, Inc.	Synchronized Swimming.....	U.S. Synchronized Swimming, Inc.
Golf.....	U.S. Golf Association	Tennis	U.S. Tennis Association
Gymnastics	USA Gymnastics	Track and Field	USA Track & Field
Ice Hockey	USA Hockey	Volleyball	U.S. Volleyball Association
Skiing.....	U.S. Skiing	Wrestling.....	USA Wrestling
Soccer.....	U.S. Soccer Federation		

D. Criteria for Approval for Participation in an Olympic Development Program:

- 1) The development program meets the definition stated above.
- 2) The student makes application to the high school principal or designee at least 30 days prior to the Olympic development program participation.
- 3) The principal or designee:
 - a) approves prior arrangements for the student to complete missed academic lessons, assignments and tests; and,

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- b) approves the absences by the student from a school-sponsored athletic event(s) involving a team in that sport.
 - 4) Swimmers seeking approval for participation during the school season in Junior National Competition must have a record of times for events that are within 3% of the cutoff time.
2. **Participation in Elite National Camp/Tournament:** Athletes who are invited to participate in Elite National camps or Elite National tournaments which are not sponsored by that sport's National Governing Body may make application 30 days in advance of the event to the League for approval.
3. **Penalties**
- A. **First Violation:** The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, of that season, whichever is greater.
 - B. **Second Violation:** The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater.
 - C. **Third or Subsequent Violations:** The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next 12 consecutive interscholastic contests or four weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater.
 - D. **Applying the Penalty:**
 - 1) If there are fewer events remaining in that sport season than are required to satisfy the penalty, the loss of eligibility will continue into the next season in that sport.
 - 2) A senior who violates the bylaws at the end of a sport season will serve the complete suspension in the next sport season in which the student participates.
 - E. **Progressive Penalties:** Penalties shall be progressive beginning with the first violation and continuing through the student's high school career. Penalties shall be served consecutively.

BYLAW 208.00 NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION AND TRAINING (TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL SPORTS)

1. **During the High School Season:**

Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10.C Definition (End of Season)

- A. A student who is a member of a high school team may not participate as an individual competitor or as a member of a non-school team in the same sport during the high school season. **Participation Definition:** Participation is defined as practice, training, scrimmaging, tryouts and competing. **Exceptions:**
 - 1) Baseball, softball and skiing.
 - 2) A student who is cut or who elects to drop from the squad shall be permitted to play on a non-school team in that sport.
 - 3) Non-school training during the high school season for athletes who qualify as individual competitors to the state tournament (Cross Country Running, Girls' Gymnastics, Golf, Skiing, Swimming, Synchronized Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field, and Wrestling):
 - a) Lessons/Training: During the League high school season athletes may take lessons from professionals and other non-school coaches without limit as to where, when or who may provide the training. Athletes may not miss a high school practice, game, or meet to take a lesson or train for a non-school event. Athletes may take lessons/train with a non-school team/club during the high school season in the same sport;
 - b) Competition: Athletes may compete in non-school events/competitions that do not match the events in which athletes currently compete in high school competition.
 - B. Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate on a non-school team or as an individual competitor in that sport.
 - C. A student may receive training through private lessons from a person who is not a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport.
 - D. Fees 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.
2. **During the School Year, Prior To and Following the High School Sports Season:**
- A. A student may participate as an individual competitor or as a member of a non-school team provided that the student's participation is voluntary and not influenced or directed 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.
 - B. Students may not use any type of high school uniform.
 - C. A student may not 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. Power skating and indoor soccer are included in this limitation.
 - D. A student may receive coaching or training including private lessons from a person who is not a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport.

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- E. Fees and expenses for non-school coaching, training or private lessons must be provided by the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) unless approved by the Board of Directors.
 - F. **Participation in Captains Practice:** Captains Practice is primarily for the purpose of physical conditioning organized and conducted by the students. Students may participate in Captains Practice provided that salaried or non-salaried school personnel are not involved in any capacity. It is the responsibility of school officials to become aware of the preseason activities in their school district and to ensure that the spirit and intent of the League rules are observed.
 - G. **Participation in Open Gym:** Open gym refers to the use of school facilities for recreational activities. Students may participate in open gym if all of the following conditions are met:
 - 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.
3. **Summer Vacation Period:**
Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10.1 (Definitions - Summer)
- A. Students may participate in camps, clinics/non-school teams, provided that these summer activities are voluntary and they are not influenced or directed to participate 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.
 - B. A student may not use any type of high school uniform. Balls and goalie equipment may be issued for summer use. A student may rent personal protective equipment from the school, i.e. helmets and shoulder pads, for summer use only.
 - 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.
 - D. 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.
4. **Summer Coaching Waiver:**
- A. 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 Girls' Softball, the summer waiver period also includes a one-week no-contact period in July the week of July Fourth. During the no-contact period salaried and non-salaried coaches may not:
 - 1) Have any contact with members of their high school program
 - 2) Travel with members of their high school program
 - 3) Supervise members of their high school program in an open gym, strength and conditioning program of any sport specific training session, or
 - 4) Schedule any activity including leadership or team building programs.

There is no appeal or waiver for the no-contact period. 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.

See a 10-Year Schedule of Coaches No-Contact Periods in Board Policy on Page 47
 - B. **Summer Camp/Clinic Waiver:**
 Member schools shall have authority to approve a coaching waiver for camps and or clinics beginning on June 1 and ending on July 31. With the exception of Baseball and Girls' Softball, the summer waiver period also includes a one-week no-contact period in July the week of July Fourth. There is no appeal or waiver for the no-contact period.
 - C. **Procedure for Granting Summer Coaching or Summer Camp/Clinic Waivers:**
 The designated school representative of the member high school shall document, in writing and keep on file in the school:
 - 1) A letter of verification from the coach indicating an agreement to coach the students;
 - 2) The official League Summer Waiver Request – Coach form that is available on the League website
 (Home Page > Resources > Eligibility)

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5. Auditions for College Teams:

Students/Athletes who have been members of a varsity, junior varsity, B-squad or sophomore team are eligible to participate in tryouts or auditions for college or university scholarships and remain fully eligible to participate in that sport.

6. Penalties: Students in violation of the non-school competition and training rules during the high school season, during the school year prior to and following the high school season, and during the summer vacation period are subject to the following penalties.

- A. **First Violation:** The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, of that season, whichever is greater.
- B. **Second Violation:** The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater.
- C. **Third or Subsequent Violations:** The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next 12 consecutive interscholastic contests or four weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater.
- D. **Applying the Penalty:**
 - 1) If there are fewer events remaining in that sport season than are required to satisfy the penalty, the loss of eligibility will continue into the next season in that sport.
 - 2) A senior who violates the bylaws at the end of a sport season will serve the complete suspension in the next sport season in which the student participates.
- E. Penalties shall be progressive beginning with the first violation and continuing through the student's high school career. A student who is under penalty for violation of a League bylaw may not join a second sport in the same season in order to fulfill a penalty. Penalties shall be served consecutively.

7. Definitions:

- A. **High School Team or Squad:** These terms are synonymous and include all students who place themselves under the supervision, control and instructions of the coach assigned to that sport. Competition may be sponsored by a member school of the League at such levels as varsity, B-squad, junior varsity or sophomore.
- B. **Participation:** Membership on a team and listed on the school's Master Eligibility List.
- C. **End of Season:**
Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10.C (Definitions – End of Season)
 - 1) Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress:
 - a) The season shall end when the student or the student's team has been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series.
 - b) Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate as an individual or as a member of a non-school team in that sport.
 - 2) School Team Practice and Competition:
 The "end of season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.
 - a) Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series, until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.
 - b) Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.
- D. **Summer:** 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.
- E. **Non-School Team:** A non-school team is defined as any group of players who receive coaching, training, uniforms or equipment or who participate in a practice/meet/game/contest/tryouts or a tournament.
- F. **Coaching, Training and Lessons:** Training shall be defined as receiving instruction in the techniques and skills of a particular sport.
- G. **Spontaneous Recreation:** Spontaneous, recreational activities are not included in the definition of non-school teams. Such activities could include: school-sponsored intramural teams, high school class teams for the purpose of inter-class tournaments, parent-student recreation teams or faculty-student games.
- H. **Season:** The season shall begin with the first official date practice is allowed and end with the individual's or team's elimination from further participation in a League tournament series.

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- I. **Football Practice:** Practice is defined as the period of time a participant engages in coach-supervised, school approved, sport or conditioning-related physical activity, including stretching, running, conditioning or physical training in the skills and fundamentals. Team meetings and video sessions do not count as practice for the purpose of this policy.
- J. **Football Contact Practice:** Contact practice is defined as practice during which there is contact of a physical nature between players in the act of blocking and/or tackling. Contact with sleds or dummies, as well as minimum risk, close range contact, used to teach form blocking, form tackling and shed techniques is not considered to be physical contact.
- K. **Football Recovery Period:** Recovery period is defined as the time between the end of one practice or walk-thru and the beginning of the next practice or walk-thru. During these times athletes should rest in a cool environment (65-80 degrees F), with no sport or conditioning-related activity permitted. Team meetings and video may be part of this recovery period if conducted in a cool environment.

BOARD POLICY DEFINITIONS FOR SUMMER FOOTBALL PRACTICE RESTRICTIONS

1. **Introduction:** While there is much more to learn about safety and risk management for football, there is a growing body of knowledge in regard to safety and steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of injury and the long term, negative effect, on participants. Acclimatization to heat, equipment and contact is important, as are limitations on the amount of head impact exposures. Rest is also important for both conditioning and brain safety. The following policy has been developed with the intent to keep student athletes safe, while allowing coaches the opportunity to use the summer waiver period to teach football techniques and fundamentals that will assist their players in playing the game safely.
2. **Policy:** The intent of practices in the summer is for the development of individual skills and techniques, with limited contact and physical conditioning. When scheduling and conducting practices, consideration must be given for the weather conditions (heat index).
 - A. **Contact Practice:**
 - (i) Only allowed after a minimum of:
 - One day of practice with only helmets and mouth guards, followed by:
 - Two days of practice with shoulder pads and helmets, followed by:
 - One day of practice with full pads.
 - (ii) These four days do not need to be consecutive, but, if more than three consecutive days pass without a practice as defined above, a new four day acclimatization period is required before a contact practice can be held.
 - (iii) After this initial acclimatization period, practices do not need to be consecutive days, but if more than **four** consecutive days pass without a practice a new four day acclimatization period is required before a contact practice can be held. Re-acclimatization is not necessary if there are not contact practices and practices do not include heavy conditioning.
 - B. **Number of Practices:** During the Summer Coaching Waiver period (June and July) an individual or team may not participate in more than **eleven days of practice** as defined above, with no more than **four** practices may be a "Contact Practice" (as defined above). Days and practices at a team camp count toward these limits.
 - C. **Length of Practice:**
 - (i) During the summer waiver period, a practice, as defined above, is:
 - Restricted to **2 hours** or less for each individual player.*
 - A second practice or training session of **2 hours** or less may be held in the same day, but there must be at least a **2 hour** recovery period between practices.
 - No more than one practice per day may be a "Contact Practice."
 - A contact practice may not be conducted on consecutive days
 - If two practices are held in one day, only one practice may be held the next day if practices are conducted on consecutive days.
 - Up to one additional hour per day can be spent in video sessions and/or team meetings.
 - A student may not participate in more than a total of 5 hours of practice, team meetings, video sessions, or other type of training in one day.

* Individuals or teams may conduct a single practice up to four hours in length if the following criteria is met:

 - Full pads are not worn for more than 30 minutes; shoulder pads and helmets not more than 2 hours
 - There is a minimum of 30 minutes of recovery for any practice that is longer than 2 hours (this must be done in segments of at least 10 minutes (3 breaks of 10 minutes each or 2 breaks of 15 minutes each)
 - No Thud or Live Action
 - No heavy conditioning
 - Focus is on teaching skills and fundamentals

Note: At team camps, run by colleges or universities, with two or three consecutive days of practice, players may participate in two practices per day (with two hour recovery period) and a total of 4 practices with contact ("thud" or "live action"). These practices count towards the summer limitations for days and number of contact practices. A third practice (after a recovery period) may be held for walk-thru and/or 7 on 7. During the third practice no pads other than helmets, no contact, and no heavy conditioning.

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- (ii) 7 on 7 – can be conducted (with no pads or with helmets only) with no physical contact. 7 on 7 practices count toward the eleven day limit, and both practices and competitions will count toward the two practice per day limit. Days on which there is 7 on 7 competitions only (organized leagues or tournaments with teams from other schools) do not count toward the eleven day limit.

3. **Definitions:**

- A. **Practice** is defined as the period of time a participant engages in coach-supervised, school approved, sport or conditioning-related physical activity, including stretching, running, conditioning or physical training in the skills and fundamentals. Strength training and team meetings or video sessions **do not count** as a practice for the purpose of this policy.
- B. **Levels of Contact** as defined by USA Football. Levels of Contact focuses on varying intensity levels throughout practices, to build player confidence, ensure their safety and prevent both physical and mental exhaustion. Six intensity levels are used to introduce players to practice drills which position them to master the fundamentals and increase skill development.
- (i) **AIR:** Intensity = 0 Players run a drill unopposed without contact.
- (ii) **BAGS:** Intensity = 1 Drill is run against a bag or another soft-contact surface.
- (iii) **CONTROL:** Intensity = 2 Drill is run at assigned speed until the moment of contact; one player is pre-determined the 'winner' by the coach. Contact remains above the waist and players stay on their feet when involved with contact.
- (iv) **RESTRICTED CONTACT:** Intensity = 3 Teaching safe & proper techniques (block, shed, tackle) involving shoulder pads, and wearing helmets for protection. Contact above the hips only with hands, shoulders and chest. Keep the head out! Use quick whistle; no gang-tackling or cut blocking/tackling. Players stay on their feet when involved with contact.
- (v) **THUD:** Intensity = 4 Drill is run at assigned speed through the moment of contact; no pre-determined "winner." Contact remains above the waist, players stay on their feet and a quick whistle ends the drill.
- (vi) **LIVE ACTION:** Intensity = 5 Drill or scrimmage is run in game-like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground.
- C. **Contact Practice** is defined as a practice during which drills and/or team work includes "Thud" or "Live Action," as described above. There are no restrictions on "Air;" "Bags;" "Control;" and "Restricted Contact." The Contact portion of this practice may not exceed 30 minutes.
- D. **Recovery Period** is defined as the time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice. During this time athletes shall rest in a cool environment (60-80 degrees F) with no sport or conditioning-related activity permitted. Team meetings and video may be part of this recovery period if conducted in a cool environment.
4. **Penalty:** Penalties will be dependent upon the seriousness of the offense and can include, but are not limited to: censorship of the Head Coach, suspension of the coach or other staff members from coaching one or more games, or suspension from the post-season.

BYLAW 208.00 INTERPRETATIONS

1. **Q. May a student on a cross country or track team compete in a 1/2 marathon, marathon, fun run, road race, or a race for a cause, e.g., Race for the Cure, during the season?**
- A. Yes, provided that the distance run in the competition is different in length than high school cross country running or track events. Swimmers would likewise be able to compete in non-school competition in events significantly different in length than high school swimming events.
2. **Q. Can high school coaches participate as a player on a non-school league team or in games during open gym with students they coach on their high school team?**
- A. No. It is the philosophy of the Minnesota State High School League that students should have the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities prior to and following the high school sports season provided that these activities are voluntary and not influenced or directed by a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's high school coaching staff. The presence of the student's high school coach as a participant violates the intent of the rule which seeks to prevent school personnel from exerting undue influence on students to participate on non-school teams or attend open gym.
3. **Q. I am the head coach of the high school wrestling program and a member of my high school wrestling team is going to compete at a national tournament in April. Can I coach him at the tournament?**
- A. The provisions of MSHSL Bylaw 208—Non-School Competition and training are quite clear. You cannot coach members of our high school team outside of the season, except during the summer waiver period.
4. **Q. During summer waiver practices, can a player from another school practice with our players? For example, if a cousin is visiting here for the summer, can he practice?**
- A. There is no such thing as summer waiver practices. Remember, the summer waiver gives your coach permission to have coaching access to his or her student athletes. It is not a school function, it is not your school team, and your school has no responsibility. Your coach is an independent contractor—not acting in his/her official capacity as a high school representing the school.

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BYLAW 208.00 INTERPRETATIONS

- 5. Q. Is it permissible for a student to participate on a non-school sponsored team and on a school team at the same time?**
 A. Yes. A student may participate on a non-school sponsored team and a school sponsored team at the same time provided the non-school team is not in the same sport. Exceptions: Baseball, Girls' Softball, Skiing.
- 6. Q. May non-school teams use school facilities/equipment?**
 A. In as much as these are non-school teams, schools may not provide school facilities or equipment. However, schools may lease/rent facilities/non-personal equipment (volleyball standards, wrestling mats, personal protection equipment such as helmets and shoulder pads, etc.) as they would for any other non-school group or organization in accordance with the school's non-school facility use policy. School uniforms may not be used by non-school teams. This also includes the use of school transportation. Non-school teams must lease/rent the school vehicles.
- 7. Q. May students who have been members of a school athletic squad attend specialized sport camps and or clinics during the school year?**
 A. Yes. A student who has been a member of a varsity, B-squad, junior varsity, or sophomore team in a given sport may attend a school, camp or clinic in that sport during the school year provided the student receives approval from the high school principal and the student's high school coach in that sport does not own, organize or coach the clinic.
- 8. Q. What may a coach do and not do before and after the high school season with his/her high school athletes?**
 A. **MAY DO**
- 1) Provide camp and non-school team information to athletes if approved for a summer waiver and authorized by your athletic director to do so.
 - 2) Coaches approved for summer coaching may provide coaching during the prescribed time period.
 Ref. Bylaw 208, Summer Coaching Waiver.
- MAY NOT DO**
- During the school year, prior to and following the sport season and outside of the approved summer coaching waiver period:**
- 1) May not provide coaching, instruction, training, etc. to any member of their high school team, B-squad, J.V. or varsity other than during the season or under the summer waiver.
 - 2) May not influence or direct a player's non-school play. This includes:
 - a) Directing athletes to play in a league or attend a camp or clinic.
 - b) Place athletes on a roster; develop or organize a team roster; draft players for a team; select, secure, evaluate or otherwise influence the placement of athletes on a team for leagues, tournaments, camps or clinics other than those athletes approved for the summer coaching waiver.
 - 3) May not direct or unduly influence an athlete to participate in open gym, captain's practice, or non-school teams, leagues or camps.
 - 4) May not organize, supervise, direct or otherwise be involved in the organization of captain's practice.

BYLAW 209.00

SEXUAL/RACIAL/RELIGIOUS HARASSMENT/VIOLENCE AND HAZING IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED ATHLETIC AND FINE ARTS ACTIVITIES

Cross Reference: Bylaw 206 (Good Standing and General Eligibility Requirements)

1. A student shall not engage in sexual, racial or religious harassment or sexual, racial, religious violence or hazing during the school year or any portion of an activity season which occurs prior to the start of the school year or after the close of the school year.
2. Sexual, Racial, Religious Harassment and Hazing Violations
 - A. Penalty for Category I Activities:
 - 1) **First Violation:**
 The student shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater.
 - 2) **Second Violation:**
 The student shall lose eligibility for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant.
 - 3) **Third or Subsequent Violations:**
 The student shall lose eligibility for the next 12 consecutive interscholastic contests or four weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant.

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4) **Progressive Penalties:**

Penalties for sexual harassment violations shall be progressive beginning with the first violation and continuing throughout the student's high school career. Penalties shall be served consecutively.

B. Penalty for Category II Activities: Sexual, Racial, Religious Harassment and or Hazing Violations.

Each member school shall develop penalties which it will apply to the participants in these activities. A current copy of the member school's policy shall be kept on file in the member school.

3. Sexual, Racial, Religious Violence and or Hazing Violations:

Cross Reference: Bylaw 206 Good Standing and General Eligibility Requirements

Penalty for Category I and II Activities:

The student shall lose eligibility for the next 12 calendar months.

Definitions:

1. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which is prohibited by Section 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000e, et seq., and Minnesota Statutes Sections 363A, the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

A. Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature.

B. Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to:

- 1) verbal, written/graphic harassment or abuse;
- 2) subtle pressure for sexual activity;
- 3) inappropriate patting or pinching;
- 4) intentional brushing against the individual's body;
- 5) demanding sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or educational status;
- 6) demanding sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment or educational status;
- 7) any unwelcome touching of a sexual nature.

2. Sexual contact is a physical act committed with sexual or aggressive intent. Sexual contact involves the touching of another person's intimate parts or forcing another to touch one's intimate parts, either above or below one's clothing, and includes, but is not limited to:

- A. touching, patting, grabbing, or pinching another person's intimate parts, either same sex or opposite sex;
- B. coercing or forcing sexual contact on another;
- C. coercing or forcing sexual penetration on another;
- D. threatening to force sexual contact or penetration on another.

Intimate parts include the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast of a human being. Sexual penetration means sexual intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, anal intercourse, or any intrusion however slight into the genital or anal openings of an individual's body.

3. Racial harassment consists of physical or verbal conduct relating to an individual's race when the conduct:

- A. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment;
- B. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
- C. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

4. Racial violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, race.

5. Religious harassment consists of physical or verbal conduct which is related to an individual's religion when the conduct:

- A. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment;
- B. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
- C. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

6. Religious violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, religion.

7. Hazing:

A. "Hazing" means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose.

- 1) No student, teacher, administrator, coach, volunteer, official or employee of a school shall plan, direct, encourage, aid or engage in hazing.

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- 2) No teacher, administrator, coach, volunteer, official or employee of a school shall permit, condone or tolerate hazing.
 - 3) Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
 - 4) This policy applies to behavior that occurs on or off school property and during and after school hours.
 - 5) A person who engages in an act that violates League policy or law in order to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act.
 - 6) The school district will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, official, or employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.
- B. Hazing may include but is not limited to:
- 1) Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking or placing a harmful substance on the body;
 - 2) Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
 - 3) Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health of the student;
 - 4) Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school;
 - 5) Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.
- C. "Student organization" means a group, club or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.
- D. Reporting Procedures
- 1) Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy.
 - 2) The building principal is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any person may report hazing directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent.
 - 3) Teachers, administrators, officials, volunteers, and employees of the school district shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events which might include hazing. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall inform the building principal immediately.
 - 4) Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignment.
- E. Reprisal
- The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, coach, official or employee of the school district who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged hazing or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation, or against any person who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

School Actions and Responsibilities

1. **Responsibilities under M.S. 121A.03, subd.2** Any person who believes that she or he has been the victim of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or any third person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute sexual harassment or sexual violence by a student participant in League-sponsored activities should report the alleged acts immediately to a responsible school district official or directly to the Human Rights Officer designated by that district's policy.
2. **Investigation Process** The School District Human Rights Officer, upon receipt of a report or complaint alleging sexual harassment or sexual violence shall immediately authorize an investigation. The investigating party shall provide a written report to the Superintendent of Schools and the District Human Rights Officer or other designated official within the time frame required by the school district policies.
3. **School District Action and Consequences** Any School District action taken pursuant to this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota Statutes and School District policies.

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- A. Upon determination that the complaint is valid, the School District will take such disciplinary action as it deems necessary and appropriate to end sexual harassment and sexual violence and prevent its recurrence.
- B. The results of the investigation will be reported in writing to the complainant and the student(s) named in the complaint by the School District. The report will document the disciplinary action taken as a result of the complaint, eligibility affected by the disciplinary action and the date when the student will return to good standing and be eligible to participate in League-sponsored activities.
- C. The student(s), their parent/guardian will be informed of their due process for the loss of eligibility.
- D. Complaints, investigations and resolutions will be handled as discreetly as possible, with information being shared with those having a need to know and in accordance with the legal obligations of the member school.

200 BYLAWS INTERPRETATIONS – GENERAL

1. **Q. Can a student practice during a period of ineligibility?**
A. Yes. Practice is encouraged for the student to maintain conditioning and contact with the team and coach.
2. **Q. Are students ineligible during appeal of the ineligibility ruling by the school?**
A. Yes. They are ineligible during the appeal process.
3. **Q. Must a student remain out for the activity to receive credit for contests missed?**
A. Yes. If a student is cut from the team or quits, the consequences remain until the next season of participation.
4. **Q. Do practice and conditioning weeks at the beginning of the season count?**
A. Yes. When a violation occurs prior to the opening of the season, count the first two weeks of the season. For a first violation, the student's eligibility returns on the third Monday of the season or the day after the second contest, whichever is longer.
5. **Q. During the period of ineligibility, can a student participate in jamborees, inter-school scrimmages and previews?**
A. Yes. Jamborees, inter-school scrimmages and previews are not interscholastic contests and the student is eligible to participate.
6. **Q. When can a contest be counted if contests are changed by weather or other factors?**
A. A postponed or cancelled contest cannot be applied to the penalty.
7. **Q. After a third violation, must a student be assessed as chemically dependent to be eligible for reinstatement in League activities after completing a treatment program?**
A. Yes. The student must be assessed as chemically dependent, and become a participant in a treatment program. After a minimum period of six weeks after entering the program, the student may be certified for reinstatement by the director or counselor of the treatment program. Receiving counseling for chemical abuse does not qualify for reinstatement under this provision.

200 BYLAWS INTERPRETATIONS – DEFINITIONS AND COUNTING CONTESTS

8. **Q. What is the meaning of the phrase, "next consecutive interscholastic contests"?**
A. Following confirmation of the violation, the student would lose eligibility to participate in the next contests which occur in a CONSECUTIVE CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE. The contests cannot be selected.
9. **Q. When a student participates on both "A" and "B" squad teams, how do you count the number of contests?**
A. A student who participates on the varsity and junior varsity teams loses eligibility at the highest level of competition (i.e. varsity) and all other lower levels of competition until the penalty is satisfied. A student could not be moved from one squad to the other for the purpose of counting contests.
10. **Q. How are multiple contests counted?**
A. Count violations as scheduled for that sport. For example:
 - 1) Double-headers count as two contests;
 - 2) Volleyball or wrestling - for tournaments which are listed as one contest, count one contest;
 - 3) If triple-headers, count as three, etc.
 - 4) Each game of a tournament scheduled in girls' basketball, boys' basketball, hockey, baseball, and softball should count as a game toward fulfilling the penalty.

200 BYLAWS INTERPRETATION – LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

11. **Q. A team or individual advances to a League-sponsored tournament. How are the loss of contests tabulated?**
A. Each contest scheduled for a team within the League-sponsored tournament would count as one contest. Each match or round of individual competition would count as one contest.

200.00 BYLAWS: STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

BOARD POLICIES

re BYLAW 208.4: SUMMER COACHING WAIVER NO-CONTACT PERIOD

*The Summer Waiver No-Contact Period dates consistently run Saturday through Friday, except when July 4th occurs on a Friday (*Use Monday as the start for the years when July 4th occurs on a Friday. This protects the integrity of the holiday weekend). There is no appeal or waiver for the no-contact period. The approved dates are:*

- 2019 June 29 – July 5 (Saturday – Friday)
- 2020 July 4 – July 10 (Saturday – Friday)
- 2021 July 3 – July 9 (Saturday – Friday)
- 2022 July 2 – July 8 (Saturday – Friday)
- 2023 July 1 – July 7 (Saturday – Friday)
- 2024 June 29 – July 5 (Saturday – Friday)
- 2025 June 30 – July 6 (Monday – Sunday)*
- 2026 July 4 – July 10 (Saturday – Friday)
- 2027 July 3 – July 9 (Saturday – Friday)
- 2028 July 1 – July 7 (Saturday – Friday)