



## Quick Reference to Department of Education and IHSAA Rules & Policies

Produced by The Iowa High School Athletic Association for Superintendents,  
Principals, Athletic Directors & Guidance Counselors  
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You are a vital link to the IHSAA's efforts to protect the eligibility of students. Information contained in this document will acquaint you with the Department of Education and IHSAA's basic eligibility rules and regulations. In addition to the Department and IHSAA standards, your school may have other standards that apply. Any questions you have concerning the basic standards should be reviewed with your administrative team. If a concern still exists, please contact the IHSAA office for clarification. The complete text of the articles of incorporation, bylaws, and regulations is published in the IHSAA Handbook mailed to you each August and is posted on the IHSAA Website: [www.iahssa.org](http://www.iahssa.org). Contact the IHSAA office if there is any doubt as to the student eligibility provisions.

**Please refer to the IHSAA By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation, and Handbook for more specific details.**

### All-Star Rule 36.1

**Definitions. Whenever the following terms are used, they shall refer to the following definitions:**

"All-star" means a secondary student from a high school interscholastic athletic team whose outstanding performance is the basis for the student's selection to compete individually in an all-star contest, or on an all-star high school team to compete with other all-stars from several other high school teams against another all-star team in a contest created for an all-star contest. An "all-star" shall not include a 12th grade student whose interscholastic athletic season for the sport in question has concluded. [NOTE, however, that Bylaw 14.6 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) (as revised 7/30/10 states that a "student-athlete shall be denied the first year of intercollegiate athletics competition if, following completion of high-school eligibility in the student-athlete's sport and prior to the student-athlete's high-school graduation, the student-athlete competes in more than two all-star football contests or two all-star basketball contests.)]

"All star contest" means an event for which admission is charged at which all-stars compete during the school year against other all-stars, either individually or as all-star teams. "All-star contests" shall not include non-invitational events for which students audition or try-out or the auditions [are] try-outs themselves.

### Sportsmanship 36.14(2)

It is the clear obligation of contestants in all interscholastic competitions to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship and ethics of competition. The governing organization shall have authority to penalize any contestant in violation of this obligation. Any person affiliated with a school involved in a contest is responsible to conduct their actions in such a manner as to represent the high ideals and principles of their school. The same is expected of the athletes to demonstrate only the finest sportsmanship. The adherence to good sportsmanship and good conduct by all personnel is the responsibility of each member school. The coach has the responsibility of having the team appear for and complete the contest, and then return the team to its home school.

**COACH EJECTION POLICY:** Any coach at any level, grades 7-12 who is ejected from an IHSAA sanctioned sport is required to take the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching elective course entitled "Teaching and Modeling Behavior." This course must be viewed prior to being able to return and coach an interscholastic contest and the certificate of completion must be sent to the IHSAA office. This mandate is in addition to missing the next playing date at the level of competition he/she was ejected from all all games in the interim. The cost of the course will be the responsibility of the individual coach.

**STUDENT-ATHLETE EJECTION POLICY:** Any student-athlete at any level grades 7-12 who is ejected from an IHSAA sanctioned sport will be required to take the NFHS Coach Education/Certification Program elective course "Sportsmanship- It's Up to You." The course must be viewed prior to being able to return and participate in an interscholastic contest and the certificate of course completion must be sent to the IHSAA office. This mandate is in addition to missing the next regularly scheduled game/meet which is defined as the next scheduled, rescheduled, or contracted date. There is no cost for this course.

### Awards Rule 36.14(3)

- a. Awards from a secondary school or registered organization. A student will be permitted to receive from the student's school, another secondary school, a registered organization, or the host of an event sanctioned by a registered organization, for participation in an interscholastic athletic program, an award whose value cannot exceed \$50.
- b. Awards for participation in school programs from an individual or organization other than a secondary school or registered organization. No student shall receive any award from an individual or outside organization, for high school participation while enrolled in high school, except that nothing in this subrule shall preclude the giving of a complimentary dinner by local individuals, organizations, or groups, with approval of the superintendent, to members of the local high school athletic squad. No student shall accept any trip or excursion of any kind by any individual, organization, or group outside the student's own school or the governing organization, with the exception of bona fide recruiting trips that meet NCAA requirements. Nothing in this subrule shall preclude or prevent the awarding and the acceptance of an inexpensive, unmounted, unframed paper certificate of recognition as an award, or an inexpensive table favor which is given to everyone attending a banquet.
- c. Awards for participation in nonschool programs. If a student participates in an outside school activity, the student may receive any award provided that the award does not violate the amateur award rule of the amateur sanctioning body for that sport. In the absence of an applicable amateur award rule, the student may not receive any award the value of which exceeds \$50.
- d. Absolute prohibition on cash. At no time may any student accept an award of cash.
- e. Compliance. The superintendent or designee shall be held responsible for compliance with this subrule. Questions or interpretation regarding medals or awards shall be referred to the executive board.

### Local Eligibility and Student Conduct Rules 36.15(1)

Local boards of education may impose additional eligibility requirements not in conflict with these rules. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent a local school board from declaring a student ineligible to participate in interscholastic competition by reason of the student's violation of rules adopted by the school pursuant to Iowa Code Sections 279.8 and 279.9. A member of associate member school shall not allow any student, including any transfer student, to compete until such time as the school has reasonably reliable proof that the student is eligible to compete for the member or associate member school under these rules.

"Compete" means participating in an interscholastic contest or competition, and includes dressing in full team uniform for the interscholastic contest or competition, as well as participating in pre-game warm-up exercises with team members.

"Compete" does not include any managerial, recordkeeping, or other non-competitor functions performed by a student on behalf of a member or associate member school.

### Scholarship Rules 36.15(2)

- a. All contestants must be enrolled and in good standing in a school that is a member or associate member in good standing of the organization sponsoring the event.
- b. All contestants must be under 20 years of age.
- c. All contestants shall be enrolled students of the school in good standing. They shall receive credit in at least four subjects, each of one period or “hour” or the equivalent thereof, at all times. To qualify under this rule, a “subject” must meet the requirements of 281—Chapter 12. Coursework taken from a postsecondary institution and for which a school district or accredited nonpublic school grants academic credit toward high school graduation shall be used in determining eligibility. No student shall be denied eligibility if the student’s school program deviates from the traditional two-semester school year.
  - (1) Each contestant shall be passing all coursework for which credit is given and shall be making adequate progress toward graduation requirements at the end of each grading period. Grading period, graduation requirements, and any interim periods of ineligibility are determined by local policy. For purposes of this subrule, “grading period” shall mean the period of time at the end of which a student in grades 9 through 12 receives a final grade and course credit is awarded for passing grades.
  - (2) If at the end of any grading period a contestant is given a failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded, the contestant is ineligible to dress for and compete in the next occurring interscholastic athletic contests and competitions in which the contestant is a contestant for 30 consecutive calendar days.
- d. A student with a disability who has an individualized education program shall not be denied eligibility on the basis of scholarship if the student is making adequate progress, as determined by school officials, towards the goals and objectives on the student’s individualized education program.
- e. A student who meets all other qualifications may be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for a maximum of eight consecutive semesters upon entering the ninth grade for the first time. However, a student who engages in athletics during the summer following eighth grade is also eligible to compete during the summer following twelfth grade. Extenuating circumstances, such as health, may be the basis for an appeal to the executive board which may extend the eligibility of a student when the executive board finds that the interests of the student and interscholastic athletics will be benefited.
- f. All member schools shall provide appropriate interventions and necessary academic supports for students who fail or who are at risk to fail, and shall report to the department regarding those interventions on the comprehensive school improvement plan.
- g. A student is academically eligible upon entering the ninth grade.
- h. A student is not eligible to participate in an interscholastic sport if the student has, in that same sport, participated in a contest with or against, or trained with, a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), or other collegiate governing organization’s sanctioned team. A student may not participate with or against high school graduates if the graduates represent a collegiate institution or if the event is sanctioned or sponsored by a collegiate institution. Nothing in this subrule shall preclude a student from participating in a one-time tryout with or against members of a college team with permission from the member school’s administration and the respective collegiate institution’s athletic administration.
- i. No student shall be eligible to participate in any given interscholastic athletic sport if the student has engaged in that sport professionally.
- j. The local superintendent of schools, with the approval of the local board of education, may give permission to a dropout student to participate in athletics upon return to school if the student is otherwise eligible under these rules.
- k. Remediation of a failing grade by way of summer school or other means shall not affect the student’s ineligibility. All failing grades shall be reported to any school to which the student transfers.
  - A student who is eligible at the close of a semester is academically eligible until the beginning of the subsequent semester.
  - The student is eligible at 12:01 AM on the 31st day of ineligibility.
  - A mid-year graduate’s eligibility ceases following date of graduation. (Summer baseball is an extension of 2nd semester for eligibility purposes.)

### Transfer Rule 36.15(3)

A student who transfers from a school in another state or country or from one member or associate member school to another member or associate member school, shall be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletics for a period of 90 consecutive school days, as defined in 281-Subrule 12.1(256), exclusive of summer enrollment, unless one of the exceptions listed in paragraph 36.15(3) “a” applies. The period of ineligibility applies only to varsity level contests and competitions. (“Varsity” means the highest level of competition offered by one school or school district against the highest level of competition offered by an opposing school or school district.) The student will become eligible at 4:00 PM on the 90th day. In ruling upon the eligibility of transfer students, the executive board shall consider the factors motivating student changes in residency. Unless otherwise provided in these rules, a student intending to establish residency must show that the student is physically present in the district for the purpose of making a home and not solely for school or athletic purposes.

- a. **Exceptions.** The Executive Officer or Executive Board shall consider and apply the following exceptions in formally or informally ruling upon the eligibility of a transfer student and may make eligibility contingent upon proof that the student has been in attendance in the new school for at least ten school days:
  - (1) Upon contemporaneous change in parental residence, a student is immediately eligible if the student transfers to the new district of residence or to an accredited nonpublic member or associate member school located in the new school district of residence. In addition, if with a contemporaneous change in parental residence, the student had attended an accredited nonpublic member or associate member school immediately prior to the change in parental residence, the student may have immediate eligibility if the student transfers to another accredited nonpublic member or associate member school.
  - (2) If the student is attending in a school district as a result of a whole-grade sharing agreement between the student’s resident district and the new school district of attendance, the student is immediately eligible.
  - (3) A student who has attended high school in a district other than where the student’s parent(s) resides, and who subsequently returns to live with the student’s parent(s) becomes immediately eligible in the parent’s resident district.
  - (4) Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 256.46, a student whose residence changes due to any of the following circumstances is immediately eligible provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements in these rules and those set by the school of attendance:
    1. Adoption.
    2. Placement in foster or shelter care.
    3. Participation in a foreign exchange program recognized by the school of attendance.
    4. Placement in a juvenile correction facility.
    5. Participation in a substance abuse program.
    6. Participation in a mental health program.
    7. Court decree that the student is a ward of the state or of the court.

8. The child is living with one of the child's parents as a result of divorce, separation, death, or other change in the child's parents' marital relationship, or pursuant to other court-ordered decree or order of custody.
- (5) A transfer student who attends in a member or associate member school or school that is a party to a cooperative student participation agreement, as defined in rule 36.20(280), with the member or associate member school the student previously attended is immediately eligible in the new district to compete in those interscholastic athletic activities covered by the cooperative agreement.
  - (6) Any student whose parents change district of residence but who remains in the original district without interruption in attendance continues to be eligible in the member or associate member school of attendance.
  - (7) A special education student whose attendance center changes due to a change in placement agreed to by the district of residence is eligible in either the resident district or the district of attendance, but not both.
  - (8) In any transfer situation not provided for elsewhere in this chapter, the Executive Board shall exercise its administrative authority to make any eligibility ruling which it deems to be fair and reasonable. The Executive Board shall consider the motivating factors for the student transfer. The determination shall be made in writing with the reasons for the determination clearly delineated.
- b. In ruling upon the transfer of students who have been emancipated by marriage or have reached the age of majority, the Executive Board shall consider all circumstances with regard to the transfer to determine if it is principally for school or athletic purposes, in which case participation shall not be approved.
  - c. A student who participates in the name of a member or associate member school during the summer following eighth grade is ineligible to participate in the name of another member or associate member school in the first 90 consecutive school days of ninth grade unless a change of residence has occurred after the student began participating in the summer.
  - d. A school district that has more than one high school in its district shall set its own eligibility policies regarding intradistrict transfers.

#### **Open Enrollment Transfer Rule 36.15(4)**

A student in grades 9 through 12 whose transfer of schools had occurred due to a request for open enrollment by the student's parent or guardian is ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletics, during the first 90 school days of transfer except that a student may participate immediately if the student is entering grade 9 for the first time and did not participate in an interscholastic athletic competition for another school during the summer immediately following eighth grade. The period of ineligibility applies only to varsity level contests and competitions. ("Varsity" means the highest level of competition offered by one school or school district against the highest level of competition offered by an opposing school or school district.) The student will become eligible at 4:00 PM on the 90th day. This period of ineligibility does not apply if the student:

- a. Participates in an athletic activity in the receiving district that is not available in the district of residence; or
- b. Participates in an athletic activity for which the resident and receiving districts have a cooperative student participation agreement pursuant to Rule 36.20(280); or
- c. Has paid tuition for one or more years to the receiving school district prior to making application for and being granted open enrollment; or
- d. Has attended in the receiving district for one or more years prior to making application for and being granted open enrollment under a sharing or mutual agreement between the resident and receiving districts; or
- e. Has been participating in open enrollment and whose parents/guardians move out of their district of residence but exercise either the option of remaining in the original open enrollment district or enrolling in the new district of residence. If the pupil has established athletic eligibility under open enrollment, it is continued despite the parent's or guardian's change in residence; or
- f. Has not been participating in open enrollment, but utilizes open enrollment to remain in the original district of residence following a change of residence of the student's parent(s). If the pupil has established athletic eligibility, it is continued despite the parent's or guardian's change in residence; or
- g. Obtains open enrollment due to the dissolution and merger of the former district of residence under Iowa Code Subsection 256.11(12); or
- h. Obtains open enrollment due to the pupil's district of residence entering into a whole-grade sharing agreement on or after July 1, 1990, including the grade in which the pupil would be enrolled at the start of the whole-grade sharing agreement; or
- i. Participates in open enrollment and the parent/guardian is an active member of the armed forces and resides in permanent housing on government property provided by a branch of the armed services.

#### **Eligibility for Other Enrollment Options (Home School/Non-Accredited/Nonpublic) 36.15(5)**

- a. Shared-time students. A nonpublic school student who is enrolled only part-time in the public school district of the student's residence under a "shared-time" provision or for driver education is not eligible to compete in interscholastic athletics in the public school district.
- b. Dual enrollment. A student who receives competent private instruction, not in an accredited nonpublic or public school, may seek dual enrollment in the public school of the student's resident district and is eligible to compete in interscholastic athletic competition in the resident school district provided the student meets the eligibility requirements of these rules and those set by the public school of attendance.  
If a student seeking such dual enrollment is enrolled in an associate member school of the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union or Iowa High School Athletic Association, the student is eligible for and may participate in interscholastic athletic competition only for the associate member school or a school with which the associate member school is in a cooperative sharing agreement. (Eligibility in such case is governed by 281 IAC 36.1(280).) Any ineligibility imposed under this chapter shall begin with the first day of participation under dual enrollment. Any period of ineligibility applies only to varsity level contests and competitions. ("Varsity" means the highest level of competition offered by one school or school district against the highest level of competition offered by an opposing school or school district.)
- c. Competent private instruction. A student who receives competent private instruction and is not dual-enrolled in a public school, may participate in and be eligible for interscholastic athletics at an accredited nonpublic school if the student is accepted by that school and the student meets the eligibility requirements of this chapter and those set by the accredited nonpublic school where the student participates. Application shall be made to the accredited nonpublic school on a form provided by the Department of Education.  
If a student seeking such participation is enrolled in an associate member school of the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union or Iowa High School Athletic Association, the student is eligible for and may participate in interscholastic athletic competition only for the associate member school or a school with which the associate member school is in a cooperative sharing agreement. (Eligibility in such case is governed by 281 IAC 36.1(280).) Any ineligibility imposed under this chapter shall begin with the first day of participation with the accredited nonpublic school. Any period of ineligibility applies only to varsity level contests and competitions. ("Varsity" means the highest level of competition offered by one school or school district against the highest level of competition offered by an opposing school or school district.)

#### **Use of School Equipment & Transportation**

School transportation may be leased or rented from the school for use in non-school competition involving junior high or high school students as per the guidelines listed below:

Iowa Code 285.10 (9) and (10) permits a school to lease busses for the purpose of transporting students in such situations. When school transportation is used for camps, clinics or non-school games, the local board shall charge and collect an amount sufficient to reimburse all costs of furnishing

the bus and driver. In addition, if a school district leases a bus for this purpose, section 43.10(10)5 of the School Rules of Iowa must be complied with. This reads as follows: 43.10(5) School buses may be used by an organization of, or sponsoring activities for, senior citizens, children, handicapped, and other persons and groups, and for transportation of persons other than pupils to activities in which the pupils from the school are participants of or are attending the activity for which the school is a sponsor under the following conditions:

- a. The "school bus" signs shall be covered and the flashing warning lamps and stop arm are made inoperable when the bus is being used in a non-school sponsored activity.
- b. Transportation outside the state of Iowa shall not be provided without approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission.
- c. For adult groups, no more than two persons shall occupy a thirty-nine inch seat. Standees shall not be permitted.
- d. A chaperone shall accompany each bus to assist the passengers in the boarding and disembarking from the bus and to aid them in case of injury or illness.
- e. The driver of the bus shall be approved by the local board of education and must possess a chauffeur's license and a school bus driver's permit.
- f. The driver of the bus shall observe the maximum speed limits for school buses at all times.

The Department of Education states, "Certainly we would agree that a district increases its liability exposure when it leases its buses for the purpose of transporting students to summer camps or for nonschool competition, but the law quite clearly gives them the authority to do so. We would certainly agree that the district should contact their insurance company before entering into any type of agreement to lease a bus."

#### **Tips About Use of District Property for Non-District Activities Athletic Equipment (e.g., catcher's mask, football pads)**

When a student voluntarily chooses to attend a specialized camp and the host of the camp does not provide safety equipment, the student often asks to use equipment owned by the district. The district must charge a fair rental to the student. This avoids any appearance that the camp is school-related and also emphasizes to the student, the student's family, and the community at large that the district is aware that district property is not property of students; it belongs to the taxpayers, and the district is being a good steward of the property by charging a fair rental value.

#### **Camp, Clinic and Non-School Participation Regulations**

It is strongly recommended athletic directors have a preseason meeting with all coaches to clarify the rules. The coaches should then have a preseason meeting with players to explain the limitations under the rules.

#### **36.15(6) Summer camps and clinics and coaching contacts out of season.**

- School personnel, whether employed or volunteers, of a member or associate member school shall not coach that school's student athletes during the school year in a sport for which the school personnel are currently under contract or are volunteers, outside the period from the official first day of practice through the finals of tournament play. Provided, however, school personnel may coach a senior student from the coach's school in an all-star contest once the senior student's interscholastic athletic season for that sport has concluded. In addition, volunteer or compensated coaching personnel shall not require students to participate in any activities outside the season of that coach's sport as a condition of participation in the coach's sport during its season.
- A summer team or individual camp or clinic held at a member or associate member school facility shall not conflict with sports in season. Coaching activities between June 1 and the first day of fall sports practices shall not conflict with sports in season.
- Penalty. A school whose volunteer or compensated coaching personnel violate this rule is ineligible to participate in a governing organization-sponsored event in that sport for one year with the violator(s) coaching.

#### **36.15(7) Nonschool team participation.**

- The local school board shall by policy determine whether or not participation in non-school athletic events during the same season is permitted and provide penalties for students who may be in violation of the board's policy.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 256.46, 280.13 and 282.18.

#### **Practice Facility Policy**

Iowa High School Athletic Association member schools may use practice facilities, other than their regular school facilities, with no prior approval from the IHSAA as long as the following criteria are met:

- a. Member schools holding practice at a practice facility other than their regular school practice facility, one time per week or more, must have a written agreement between the member school and the member school where the practice will be held or the organization operating the practice facility.
- b. Member schools holding practice at a practice facility other than their regular practice facility, on an occasional or emergency basis, must have local school administration approval before each practice session.
- c. Only a school's bona-fide coaches may provide instruction during practice regardless of where practice takes place.
- d. Member schools may not practice with another member school except in scrimmage situations. [Note the scrimmage rule for each sport as posted in the regular season handbook.
- e. No school practice shall take place at an IHSAA state tournament venue, unless otherwise indicated in that sport's specific post-season manual. Schools traveling to a state tournament or not returning home between rounds of the state tournament may NOT practice at the site where the state tournament is being held, unless the IHSAA has arranged for practice times for all schools involved. (Please refer to the fall and spring post-season manuals for information on golf as it pertains to practice rounds at the sectional, district and state meet sites.)

#### **NCAA Core Course Requirements**

These are the core course requirements for prospective student-athletes at NCAA Division I & II Institutions. Complete information about all NCAA academic eligibility requirements can be found at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) and specific questions should be directed to the NCAA Eligibility Center at 1-877-262-1492.

#### **Division I - 16 Core-Courses Rule**

4 years of English  
3 years of Mathematics (Algebra I, or higher)  
2 years of Natural/Physical Science (1 year of lab if offered by high school)  
1 year of add'l. English, Math, Natural/Physical Science  
2 years of Social Science  
4 years of add'l. courses (from any area above, Foreign Language or Nondoctrinal Religion/Philosophy)  
Earn a minimum 2.0 GPA in 16 core courses  
Beginning August 1, 2016 Division I student-athletes must have a minimum 2.3 GPA in core courses  
Ten (10) core courses completed before the seventh semester; seven (7) of the 10 must be in English, math or natural/physical science

#### **Division II - 16 Core Courses**

3 years of English  
2 years of Mathematics (Algebra I, or higher)  
2 years of Natural/Physical Science (1 year of lab if offered by high school)  
3 years of add'l. English, Math, Natural/Physical Science  
2 years of Social Science  
4 years of add'l. courses (from any area above, Foreign Language or Nondoctrinal Religion/Philosophy)  
Earn a minimum 2.0 GPA in 16 core courses