

traditional school age, from an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics.

4. Due to the increased risk of injury to opponents in collision sports such as football, boys' lacrosse, and wrestling; contact sports such as basketball, field hockey, girls' lacrosse, and soccer; and to baseball and softball hitters when facing a pitcher over the age of 19, particular scrutiny should be applied by the District Committee to requests for waiver in these sports.

5. Any waiver granted may be given only for a particular sport and for a particular season. While a student may receive up to three waivers in a particular school year (for a fall, winter, and spring sport), no student may receive a waiver for any season or sport in any subsequent school year.

ARTICLE II

AMATEUR STATUS AND AWARDS

Section 1. Amateur Status Required.

To be eligible to participate in an Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, and/or Contest, a student must be an amateur in the sport involved. An amateur student is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the educational, physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived thereof.

Where the official rules for a sport provided for under ARTICLE XVIII of these By-Laws establish requirements for amateur status, such requirements shall govern to the extent inconsistent with this ARTICLE II.

Section 2. Loss of Amateur Status.

A student loses amateur status in an interscholastic sport whenever:

A. The student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), receives compensation, other Consideration, or an award not permitted under Section 3 hereof, for or related to the student's athletic ability, participation, performance, services, or training in a sport.

B. The student receives Consideration for becoming a member of an athletic organization or school.

C. The student plays on a professional team or as an individual professional athlete in that sport.

D. The student signs a contract whereby the student agrees to compete in any athletic competition for Consideration. It is not a violation for a high school student to attend, and participate in a professional try-out camp, provided that (1) no compensation or expenses are paid to the student; (2) the try-out lasts no longer than forty-eight hours; and (3) if in the sport of baseball, the student's participation is otherwise in conformity with the National Federation Major-Minor League Agreement.

E. The student sells or pawns the student's athletic achievement awards.

Section 3. Permissible Awards.

A. **Member Schools:** A student may accept, from the student's school, or a school-affiliated booster club, items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification, upon completion of a season of participation on a Team and/or for earning the official school letter or award.

B. **Sponsors of Athletic Events:** A student may accept, from the sponsor or sponsors of an athletic event or group of athletic events, items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification, if the student participated in the athletic event and/or earned an award for an athletic event or events. The fair market value of items provided to any such student may not exceed \$500. Such sponsor or sponsors may also pay the expenses for a student to participate in educational programs, tours, and field trips provided by the sponsor or sponsors in connection with the athletic event or events.

C. **Media and Other Public Recognition:** A student may accept, from a non-profit service organization approved by the Principal of the student's school, or the news media, items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification in recognition of the student's athletic ability or performance, and present the same at a time appropriate to such recognition. The fair market value of items provided to any such student may not exceed \$500.

D. **Banquets:** Students may also attend, without charge of admission, athletic banquets sponsored by the institutions listed above in this Section 3.

E. **Participation expenses:** A student may accept, from a school, and/or the sponsor of an athletic event or group of athletic events, the reasonable and necessary expenses for transportation, lodging, and/or meals incurred by the student and/or the student's Team for participation in an athletic event or events. A school affiliated booster club may pay the reasonable and necessary expenses for their school students to attend a camp or clinic.

F. **Participation Fees:** Schools charging fees for students to participate in interscholastic athletics may reduce or waive such fees under the following circumstances: (1) the Principal may approve a reduction or waiver of the fee for an individual student who demonstrates financial need; (2) the Principal may accept a donation of all or part of the fee from a school-affiliated booster club for an individual student who demonstrates financial need; and/or (3) the Principal may accept donations from any party which are to be applied pro rata to all students participating in interscholastic athletics or to all students on a particular Team. Under no circumstance can any reduction or waiver be tied into the athletic ability of such students.

G. **Donations of Athletic Equipment and/or Product and/or Payments to Schools:** Nothing in this Section should be deemed to prohibit a donor of athletic equipment and/or product and/or the sponsor of any athletic event or group of athletic events from providing to a school any Consideration, provided that such Consideration is not made with the assurance or understanding that all or some of such Consideration is to be then conveyed by the school to any individual student-athletes.

H. **College Recruiting:** A student may accept from an institution of higher education which the student visits in connection with the student's prospective or possible attendance there as a college student, reasonable expenses necessitated by such visit, and free admission to home athletic events of such institution which occur during such visit.

I. **Operation Gold:** Consistent with NFHS policy, a student may accept monies under this program, which provides monetary rewards to athletes who place in the Olympic Games and/or World Championships in designated sports.

Section 4. How Amateur Status Can Be Regained.

A student who has lost amateur status may be reinstated by the suspending body after a period of one year from the date of suspension, providing that the student refrains from all activity prohibited by Section 2 hereof during that year.

A student who has lost amateur status pursuant to Section 2A and/or B hereof may be reinstated by the suspending body effective upon the student's return to the provider of the Consideration item or items which caused such loss of amateur status.

INTERPRETATIONS

May 22, 1953, as amended July 28, 2005.

A student-manager of an amateur baseball team, who receives Consideration, is not considered a player unless the student actually participates in a game played by that amateur baseball Team.