

[page 45]

Article V ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES*

Section 1. A student, to be eligible for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of a member school, must be enrolled in that school and must meet all the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations, of the NJSIAA.

CL 1 Students being home-schooled (by parents or other parties) are not eligible because they are not enrolled. Properly enrolled students on Home Instruction provided by the Board of Education are eligible if the student satisfies Section 4.E.

Section 2. Amateur-Athlete – An amateur-athlete is one who participates in athletics solely for the physical, mental, social and educational benefits derived from such participation. The amateur-athlete treats all athletic activities in which he/she participates as an avocational endeavor. One who takes or has taken pay, or has accepted the promise of pay, in any form, for participation in athletics or has directly or indirectly used his/her athletic skill for pay in any form shall not be considered an amateur and will not be eligible for high school interscholastic athletics in the State of New Jersey.

The following are the basic interpretations of the principles involved in the amateur code which may lead to the loss of an athlete's eligibility:

A. Participation in any athletic activity under an assumed name. Being guilty of any act of fraud, subterfuge, or other sharp practice relative to this principle.

B. Accepting pay or material remuneration for a display of athletic ability.

C. Any student who signs or has ever signed a contract to play professional athletics (whether for a money consideration or not); plays or has ever played on any professional team in any sport; receives or has ever received directly or indirectly, a salary or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization or any of his/her expenses for reporting to or visiting a professional team is no longer an amateur as defined by this code.

[page 46]

D. A Student-Athlete may participate as an individual, or as a member of a team against professional athletes, or as a member of a team on which there are some professionals who are not currently under contract with a professional team and are not receiving payment for their participation; but he/she may not participate on a professional team.

E. A Student-Athlete may work as a counselor in a summer camp, lifeguard, swimming pool attendant and swimming instructor for children without affecting his/her eligibility under the terms of this principle; he/she may work in a tennis or golf shop provided he/she does not give instruction for compensation, and he/she may obtain employment with a recreation department, his/her duties to include some officiating and coaching responsibilities; however, he/she may not be employed as an athletic coach.

F. If a Student-Athlete's appearance on radio or television is related in any way to his/her athletic ability or prestige, the athlete may not under any circumstances receive remuneration for his/her appearance. Under such circumstances, however, an athlete may appear on a sponsored radio or television program or have his/her name appear in newsprint ads or in player of the week, month

or year advertisement promoting products provided he/she does not endorse or imply endorsement of any commercial product.

G. Individual interscholastic awards and similar mementos to Student- Athletes should be limited to those approved by the local Board of Education, in keeping with traditional high school requirements which are basically symbolical in nature, i.e., letters, sweaters, jackets, pins, trophies, other similar type awards, and rings or watches which are properly inscribed. No other award of any monetary value may be granted to any athletes without prior approval by the Board of Education and NJSIAA.

H. No awards shall be given to an athlete by anyone other than his/her own Board of Education, unless prior approval of the NJSIAA and the Board of Education is obtained.

I. A student-athlete may accept a monetary award under the United States Olympic Committee's "Operation Gold" program without compromising his/her eligibility for NJSIAA competition. Operation Gold awards athletes for top-place finishes in a sport's most competitive international competition of the year.

J. A student-athlete who participates in non-NJSIAA sponsored events may receive reasonable travel, meal, and lodging expenses.

Section 3. Reinstatement of Amateur Eligibility – The Executive Committee of the NJSIAA is the only body that may reinstate a Student-Athlete of a member school to eligibility status under the provisions of the organization's Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations. In cases where the Executive Committee has determined that a Student-Athlete inadvertently participated in an activity that has caused his/her loss of eligibility, the Executive Committee may reinstate

[page 47]

said athlete after a period of not less than one year. An application for reinstatement must be made in writing by the high school Principal to the Executive Committee and shall include all data pertinent to the case.

Section 4. Eligibility Requirements – Eligibility rules herewith stated shall apply to all freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity teams involved in interscholastic athletic competition.

Eligibility Lists. Member schools must submit one (1) affidavit of eligibility to the Executive Director of the NJSIAA annually, by October 1. This form, signed by the Principal, will certify that any and all students competing on the interscholastic level for that school meet all eligibility requirements of the NJSIAA. This affidavit should be based on carefully compiled eligibility lists which are on file in each member school and in the event of any question, are available upon request by other member schools and/or appropriate NJSIAA officials. Sample available on NJSIAA website.

CL 1 This record must be compiled prior to the student's participation in the first interschool scrimmage or game in that sport and kept on file in the Principal's office.

The eligibility record must include the (a) name of the students, (b) date of birth, (c) place of birth (city or county and state), (d) documentary proof of age (birth certificate, baptismal certificate, insurance policy or school record), (e) date of first enrollment in 9th grade, and (f) school from which student transferred, if such transfer was effected during the current or just past school year, (g) credits passed previous year

(first semester eligibility) or previous semester (second semester eligibility), and (h) participation prior to entry into the 9th grade.

A. Eligibility Certification – Upon the request of the Executive Director, schools must furnish him with eligibility lists for their various teams, containing such information as he may deem necessary for establishing the eligibility of the players named on the list.

B. Eligibility Responsibility – The Principal of a school is responsible for the observance of the eligibility rules contained in this Article and for the entire program of his member school.

CL 1 It is local option for schools to permit ineligible students to practice while ineligible for games and scrimmages. Such practices will count to satisfy the six (6) days practice rule. The above is applicable provided the school meets the medical examination and parental permission as required by the State Board of Education.

C. Age – An athlete becomes ineligible for high school athletics if he/she attains the age of nineteen prior to September 1. However, any athlete attaining age nineteen on or after September 1 shall be eligible for the ensuing school year. A birth certificate, issued at the time of birth, is the normal proof of age; in the absence of this, other proofs may be used. The records used will be baptismal records or the earliest school records.

[page 48]

CL 1 Junior High/9th Grade regulations provide that a student becomes ineligible for 9th grade athletics if they reach age sixteen (16) prior to September 1 of that school year. However, said students may participate above the 9th grade athletic level based upon a waiver as set forth in CL 4 noted below.

CL 2 The following evidence of proof of age can be used when the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state of birth reports no records exist:

- a. Birth certificate.*
- b. Affidavit of attending physician.*
- c. Documentary evidence, such as family record of birth in Bible, certificate of arrival in the United States, or a passport.*
- d. Public school records, school, state or national census records.*
- e. Baptismal certificate.*

CL 3 This requirement will not be waived for the sole reason that a student was born day(s), week(s), or month(s) just prior to September 1.

CL 4 In order to assure the opportunity for eight consecutive semesters of interscholastic eligibility, member schools may request waivers to permit students who are enrolled in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades and who are otherwise academically eligible, to participate on the junior varsity or varsity teams where such students will be sixteen (16) years of age or older upon entrance into the 9th grade prior to September 1st. Guidance Departments/School Administrators of elementary schools should provide the Athletic Director with ages of all students so they can be assured of four (4) years of eligibility prior to becoming ineligible at age nineteen.

D. Athletic Recruitment – **Athletic recruitment is prohibited.**

- 1. Athletic recruitment is contrary to the purposes and objectives of high school sports. Prohibiting athletic recruitment helps to keep athletics in its proper place and subordinate to academics; protects student-athletes from those having interests that might not be consistent with the interests of the student-athletes;**

and maintains competitive equity on a level playing field among member schools.

- 2. Athletic recruitment is defined as any effort to proselytize, pressure, urge or entice a student to enroll in or transfer to a school for athletic purposes. It is a violation for a member school to engage in athletic recruitment or for a student-athlete to enroll in or transfer to a school as a result of athletic recruitment. Athletic recruitment includes, but is not limited to:**

- a. Using mail, letters, brochures, or news media to compare high schools and to point out the athletic assets of the sender;**

- b. Engaging in proselytizing interviews, initiated by school personnel or associates;**

[page 49]

- c. Offering athletic scholarships, free tuition or other monetary assistance, either from the school directly or indirectly through some affiliated body or individual, to induce a student to attend the school for athletic reasons.**

- 3. A member school shall be responsible for athletic recruitment by anyone associated with the school or acting at the direction of the school, including but not limited to administration, staff, coaches, students, parents, booster clubs, or any organization having a connection with the school.**

- 4. Any evidence of recruiting by a member school shall subject the school to a hearing before the Controversies Committee. A school that is found to have violated the athletic recruitment rule shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Art. X.**

- 5. Any evidence of a student-athletic enrolling in or transferring to a school as a result of athletic recruitment shall subject the student-athletic to a prompt termination of eligibility by the Eligibility Appeals Committee. A student-athlete who is found to have violated the athletic recruitment rule shall be subject to a one year period of ineligibility in all sports, except that the student-athlete may return to his/her original school without penalty.**

E. Credits

- 1 To be eligible for athletic competition during the first semester (September 1 to January 31) of the 10th grade or higher, or the second year of attendance in the secondary school or beyond, a pupil must have passed 25% of the credits (27.5) required by the State of New Jersey for graduation (110), during the immediately preceding academic year.**

- 2 To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester (Feb. 1 to June 30) of the 9th grade or higher, a pupil must have passed the equivalent of 12 1/2% of the credits (13.75) required by New Jersey for graduation (110) at the close of the preceding semester (Jan. 31). Full-year courses shall be equated as one-half of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.**

CL 1 The NJSIAA does not establish grading policies or standards for granting credits. The local school's Board of Education has the exclusive authority to address such matters within the parameters of the State Board of Education guidelines. Therefore, the

NJSIAA will not waive, either the standards set by a member school or the minimum standards set forth in Article V, Section 4.E except as provided in Section 4.F (1).

CL 2 The credit status of a transferred student, determined by the previous school, may not be changed by the present school.

CL 3 There is no provision for make-up work for credits for second semester.

[page 50]

CL 4 Waivers will not be considered for a senior who does not attain 13.75 credits and who fails a subject in his/her first semester, unless that senior is passing all subjects in the subsequent marking period.

- (3) The above paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to incoming students from grammar school (8th grade).
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph 1 and 2 above, a pupil who is eligible at the beginning of a sports season shall be allowed to finish that season.

CL 1 According to regulations of the New Jersey State Board of Education, credit must be assigned equally to all secondary school courses. Thus, courses which at one time were considered "minor," e.g., physical education, art, music, industrial arts, etc., must be included in the determination of academic requirements.

CL 2 Graduation Requirements – The provisions of Article V, Section 4.E (1) and (2) of the Bylaws will not be waived even though a school allows a student to carry only those courses necessary to meet minimal graduation diploma credit requirements.

- a. *If a student has received a diploma, he/she is ineligible. However, he/she may continue to represent his/her school until the official end of that semester—either January 31 or June 30.*
- b. *If a student has left school, but re-enrolls, he/she will be eligible thirty (30) calendar days from the date of re-enrollment.*
- c. *If a student has continued enrollment while absent from school, he/she will be eligible provided he/she is enrolled in and attends at least one course.*

CL 3 It is recognized that students may accelerate their academic programs during their first three years of secondary schooling. Consequently, such students may be eligible in the second semester of their senior year even when they carry less than 121/2% of the State minimum (13.75 credits) during the first semester provided they are meeting their school district's graduation requirements and are passing all courses in which they are enrolled at the start of the first semester. Seniors who withdraw from courses with a passing grade (wp) will be eligible provided they are carrying sufficient credits for graduation purposes.

CL 4 When a student does not fail a course and/or withdraws passing and is unable to pass the required credits for reasons not under the control of the student, or the school, a waiver shall be granted. A student who enters from an out-of-state school or a foreign country, who has passed all courses in which the student is enrolled, meets the requirements of this Section.

CL 5 Students receiving credits for courses at their previous school may use those credits to satisfy the credit requirements for athletic eligibility even though the present school does not grant credit for same. Such a situation is acceptable only on an immediate basis at the time of the transfer. The student subsequently becomes subject to the requirements of the present school.

[page 51]

CL 6 An athlete, whose education is interrupted after his/her entrance into the 9th grade (4 or 6 yr. high school) or 10th grade (3 yr. high school) and who does not pass the required courses as provided for in Article V, Section 4.E (1) and (2) of the Bylaws at the end of the semester, upon being readmitted at the beginning of the next semester, is ineligible for failure to meet the requirements of this section.

Exceptions to this rule are returned servicemen/servicewomen who have been honorably discharged and cases of unavoidable absence due to illness. Substance abuse is not considered as unavoidable absence due to illness; when illegal substance is the reason for not passing the required credits, a waiver will not be granted.

CL 7 An athlete who is ineligible under Article V, Section 4.E (1), may become eligible for the remainder of the winter sports season on February 1 if he/she meets the requirements of Article V, Section 4.E (2).

CL 8 Any summer work for makeup purposes for failed courses, completed and approved by the school before the sixth school day, in the Fall semester, may be used for eligibility purposes.

CL 9 A student who becomes ineligible on account of scholarship at the end of a semester is ineligible for the entire following semester. However, a student eligible to represent his/her school in Winter Sports may continue to do so until the end of that season.

CL 10 A passing grade for a semester can only be used once for eligibility purposes. A student who has a semester's passing grade in a subject may not repeat that subject during a later semester and use it for eligibility purposes.

F. Handicapped/Classified Students

- (1) Course Waiver – All handicapped/classified students, as defined by the New Jersey State Department of Education, defined as Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-(IDEA), shall comply with the athletic eligibility rules and regulations of the NJSIAA (with the exception of Section 4.E of this Article V re: Credits), and in addition the student must have evidence of the following:

- a. Parents, or guardians, must give consent for such competitive experience.
- b. The Child Study Team must certify that the student successfully completed the I.E.P. in the previous year/semester commensurate with the student's ability. Final approval for participation must be given by the Principal.

CL 1 A student who is initially classified after failing to have satisfied the provisions of Section 4.E Credits (27.5 or 13.75) cannot regain eligibility until the Child Study Team has monitored that classified student for a semester.

CL 2 Courses cannot be waived for ADA or 504 students.

- c. The medical inspector of the school district must certify that the youth has physical ability to compete equally with other participants.

[page 52]

- (2) Definition – Since handicapped or “disabled” children (as defined in this section) are not subject to Section 4.E of this Article V, the academic credit rule, it is important that schools understand what children may be eligible.

- a. Any handicapped child must be in a program approved by the State Department of Education for handicapped children.

- b. Any handicapped child must be classified as such by an examiner approved by the State Department of Education.
- c. Any handicapped child must be approved by the local Child Study Team to attend regular high school classes, home instruction, or he/she must be a member of a class in which he/she spends the greater part of each school day with other children under a teacher holding a certificate to teach.
- d. All handicapped students, assigned to another school by the Board of Education, Division of Youth & Family Services and the courts and classified by the Child Study Team, will be eligible to compete on the interscholastic athletic teams of the school district in which the student resides, providing such receiving school does not sponsor an interscholastic athletic program in that sport, and so long as such students meet all other applicable NJSIAA eligibility requirements.

CL 1 Exception: *In County Special Services School Districts, e.g., Bergen County where the district is not an adjunct school of the local public school district and where all schools are under the authority of the same Superintendent of Schools, all students are eligible to participate in the interscholastic athletic programs of that County's vocational high school(s) unless they are approved to participate at the public high school where they reside and are processed as provided for in Section 4.F (2)e. and 4.G-CL 3.*

- e. A handicapped student is permitted to participate in the interscholastic program of the school where the student is enrolled or the school where the student resides, when extenuating circumstances are present. A waiver shall be granted, upon review by the NJSIAA Executive Director or designee when agreed to by the principals of the involved schools.

G. Enrollment

- (1) Late Enrollment – A student who enters school after the first Monday in October shall not be eligible to represent that school until after the lapse of thirty (30) calendar days from date of his/her first entrance.

NOTE: The term “entrance” as used in this section and elsewhere in these Bylaws, means registration plus actual attendance at a school.

CL 1 *Late enrollment refers to a student who does not enroll at any school at the beginning of the school year.*

CL 2 *A short period enrollment at any school will not be treated as entrance to that school and/or subsequent transfer will*

[page 53]

be recognized as uninterrupted enrollment at the original school absent any appeal from the previous school.

- (2) Initial Enrollment – At the beginning of his/her secondary school career a student is free to choose any secondary school he/she may legally attend, (9th grade in a 4- or 6-year high school or 10th grade in a 3-year high school).

NOTE: After this initial enrollment a student is subject to the transfer provision as provided for in Section 4.K (2) of this Article.

CL 1 *A high school student is a regularly enrolled student as defined by the Department of Education.*

CL 2 ***Voc-Tech/Public Academy Shared Time** – When a student is carried on the Official Register and attends some classes at a school, but also attends additional classes at another school, he/she is eligible for interscholastic athletics at the school where he/she is carried on the Official Register. If a student is carried on both Official Registers, the student may choose the school at which he/she wishes to participate in all sports on a full school-year basis.*

CL 3 ***Voc-Tech/Public Academy Full Time** – If a Vocational/Technical High School Public Academy does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students desires to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her sending school upon agreement of both Principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Vocational/Technical High School Public Academy.*

CL 4 ***Voc-Tech/Public Academy** – When a student-athlete elects to transfer to or from a Vocational/Technical High School to or from the district school where the student resides the student is eligible immediately provided such assignment is by the Board of Education of the district where the student resides and the student satisfies all other eligibility regulations.*

CL 5 ***Charter School** – If a secondary Charter School does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students wishes to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her school of residence upon agreement of both principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Charter School.*

CL 6 ***Choice School** – A choice student who attends a Choice School, pursuant to regulations adopted by the New Jersey Department of Education, shall be immediately eligible to participate in sports at the Choice School provided a Transfer Form is executed by both the Choice School and the Residential School, in the manner set forth in Article V, Section 4.K(2) of the NJSIAA Bylaws.*

*Any subsequent change of schools, without a parental change of address, will require the student to be ineligible to participate in any sport for which he or she obtained varsity status for **365** days, as provided by Article V, Section 4.K(2).*

CL 7 ***Disabled Students:** A pupil who is disabled and who is placed by the parents or guardians at their own expense in a non-*

[page 54]

public school for treatment of the disability shall be eligible to participate in the interscholastic athletic program of the student's resident school district, provided the student otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of the program and the student's participation has written approval of the board of education of the school district where the program is located.

H. Post-Graduates – No post-graduate student shall be eligible for high school competition. When a student graduates from a school (days or weeks) before the official end of the semester that student may continue to represent his/her school until the official end of that semester – either January 31 or June 30. A student becomes ineligible for high school athletics when the class in which he/she originally enrolled is graduated.

CL 1 *A League/Conference or County may grant a waiver (as provided for in the Rules & Regulations, Rule 2, Specific Sport Regulations, Note 3) to permit teams or individuals from the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools to participate if such Student-Athletes are in the first year of post-high school matriculation.*

I. Pre-High School Students – Students in any 9th grade are eligible for teams in the Senior High School in that district at the discretion of the administrators and the Board of Education in that district. Students in any 6th, 7th, or 8th grades of any school (Jr. High or Sr. High) who play on 9th grade or so-called freshman or sophomore, junior varsity and varsity teams will be ineligible at the conclusion of eight consecutive semesters of such participation. Junior High School 9th grade teams may play against 9th grade teams from 4-year or 6-year high schools.

CL 1 Article V, Section 4.I is applicable to all 9th grades including those which are under the supervision and control of an administrative head (Principal) separate and apart from the administrative head (Principal) of the Senior High School. All 9th grade students in an 8-4, 6-6 or 6-3-3, or other administrative plan may participate on a junior varsity or varsity team without jeopardizing their eligibility to participate on a 9th grade team in that sport; however, when 9th grade students are under a separate administrative head than that of the Senior High School such agreement must be affirmed, in writing, to the NJSIAA over the signature of both administrative heads.

Any 9th grade Student-Athlete who participates on a junior varsity or varsity team or any team at the high school level will be subject to the eligibility provisions of the Bylaws, Article V, 4.G (2). This means that such 9th grade students will be subject to the transfer provisions of Article V, Section 4.K.

[page 55]

CL 2 Students below the 9th grade are not permitted to practice with students of grade nine (9) through twelve (12), neither may they “suit up” with those teams for games or scrimmages involving grades nine (9) through twelve (12) unless a waiver has been granted (to ensure eight (8) consecutive semesters of participation). Student will be considered to have begun his/her eight semesters of eligibility on a sport specific basis pursuant to Article V, Section 4.I.

CL 3 All games in which 6th, 7th and 8th grade students participate will cause forfeiture of said games under this Section unless a waiver has been granted.

CL 4 Students in 6th, 7th or 8th grades who will reach age sixteen (16) prior to September 1 while properly enrolled in a member school may request a waiver of the Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.I, Pre-High School Student, to have an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics for four (4) years prior to becoming ineligible.

J. Semester of Eligibility

1. No student shall be eligible for high school athletics after the expiration of eight consecutive semesters following his/her entrance into the 9th grade. A student becomes ineligible for high school athletics when the class in which he/she was originally enrolled has graduated.
2. **This rule shall not apply to classified students who are ungraded. Classified students who are ungraded will have eight consecutive semesters of eligibility beginning with the first semester of participation in interscholastic athletics at the freshman, junior varsity, or varsity level.**

3. This rule shall not apply to an honorably discharged serviceman/servicewoman, in which case the Executive Committee may make any adjustments of this rule as it may deem equitable.
4. Students below the 9th grade who participate on a high school team will be ineligible at the conclusion of eight consecutive semesters, **beginning with the student's initial pre-9th grade participation.**

CL 1 In order to assure the opportunity for eight consecutive semesters of interscholastic eligibility, member schools may request waivers to permit students who are enrolled in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades and who are otherwise academically eligible, to participate on the junior varsity or varsity teams where such students will be sixteen (16) years of age or older upon entrance into the 9th grade prior to September 1st. Guidance Departments/School Administrators of elementary schools should provide the Athletic Director with ages of all students so they can be assured of four (4) years of eligibility prior to becoming ineligible at age nineteen.

[page 55]

CL 2 Guidance Departments should provide the Athletic Director with ages of all classified students so they can be assured of four (4) years of eligibility prior to becoming ineligible at age nineteen.

K. Transfers – After his/her initial enrollment in a secondary school, as provided for in Article V, Section 4.G (2) of the Bylaws, a student-athlete is subject to the following transfer rules:

- (1) A student-athlete who transfers from one secondary school to another because of a bona fide change of residence by his/her parents or guardians, or through assignment by the Board of Education, becomes eligible to represent his/her new school immediately upon entrance unless recruitment or transfer for athletic advantage is proven and provided all other eligibility regulations are satisfied. A student who becomes emancipated shall be deemed not to have made a bona fide change of residence. In order for a student to be immediately eligible, both the former and present school must complete a transfer form affirmatively stating that the transfer is a bona fide change of residence and that there was no athletic recruitment or a transfer for athletic advantage. The parent or guardian will be required to complete an affidavit with proof of present residence to the school. The form will be filed with the NJSIAA and the affidavit maintained by the present school for inspection by the NJSIAA, if necessary. Definition: A bona fide change of residence takes place when the parent/guardian moves with the student from one public high school district to another public high school district. The term “guardian” refers to that person who has control over the person and property of a child as established by the order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

CL 1 Residential placement by the Division of Youth and Family Services or by the Courts is treated as a change of residence by the parents except in cases involving juvenile or criminal court proceedings.

CL 2 In cases where a student resides with one parent and elects to change residence for transfer to another secondary school where the other parent resides, said student will be declared eligible immediately since this is considered a parental change of residence provided the parents do not reside in the same public high school district.

However, subsequent retransfers to the school previously attended may be considered a transfer for athletic advantage, which may result in a loss of eligibility.

CL 3 Immediate eligibility will be granted when a Board of Education or a non-public school has a non-tuition policy for students whose parents/guardians are employees of the District or non-public school provided a Transfer Form is filed and such a transfer takes place at the first opportunity to do so with the provision that a subsequent transfer or a transfer after the initial opportunity for enrollment has passed will be subject to Section 4.K (2) i.e., the one

[page 57]

[season] year wait rule; or 2. When the previous school terminates their secondary school academic program.

CL 4 When a previous school brings forth a complaint as provided for in 4.D or K (5) recruitment or (6) transfer for athletic advantage, eligibility will not commence under K (1) until the Eligibility Appeals Committee reaches a decision.

(2) Transfers

- a. A student-athlete in grades 10, 11 or 12 transferring from one secondary school to another, without a bona fide change of residence by that student's parent or guardian, shall be ineligible to participate for a period of three hundred sixty-five (365) calendar days in any sport in which the student has previously participated on any high school level. The 365 day ineligible period will begin when the student enrolls and attends classes at the new school.
- b. A student who transfers during his/her 9th grade year, or before September 1 of his/her 10th grade year, without a bona fide change of residence, shall be immediately eligible; however, if that student has participated in a sport at a varsity level, then he/she shall be ineligible to compete in that sport at the new school at any level for 30 days from the first day of competition in that sport.**
- c. To prevent possible recruitment or transfer for athletic advantage, a Transfer Form must be executed by the two involved schools and filed with the NJSIAA before any interscholastic participation.
- d. A student who transfers during the second half of a sports season, regardless of whether the transfer was the result of a bona fide change of residence, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school. The Executive Director of the NJSIAA will annually publish the dates that will define the halfway point of each sports season.**
- e. The one year wait for students in grades 10, 11 or 12 set forth in this section may be waived by the Eligibility Appeals Committee on the basis of demonstrable hardship. A hardship is defined as an unforeseeable, unavoidable, and uncorrectable act, condition or event that causes the imposition of a severe and non-athletic burden upon the student or his/her family. A hardship waiver can be granted only by the Eligibility Appeals Committee and only after sufficient documentation to support the hardship claim has been submitted. A hardship waiver will not be granted if a student transfers during the same time period as a former coach transfers to or from the same school.

CL 1 If either school cannot verify that the transfer was compelled by demonstrable hardship, then the parent or guardian can appeal to the NJSIAA Eligibility Appeals Committee for a waiver. If

[page 58]

the student-athlete is transferring from and to the same schools as his or her coach at the previous school, no hardship waiver will be granted.

CL 2 For purposes of this section, a school's regular schedule shall begin with the first interscholastic varsity contest played in that respective sport by the involved school (other than scrimmages).

CL 3 Notwithstanding the provisions of (1) and (2) of Section 4.K, a student may be declared ineligible for violations of the recruiting or transfer for athletic advantage regulation.

*CL 4 The Transfer Form must be processed whenever a student-athlete transfers from one secondary school to another **with or** without a bona fide change of residence having been made by his/her parents/guardians unless the transfer is by Board of Education assignments or by other conditions of 4.K.(1).*

In cases where a student-athlete resides with one parent and elects to change residence for transfer to another secondary school where the other parent resides, said student will be declared eligible immediately since this is considered a parental change of residence provided the parents do not reside in the same public high school district. However, subsequent retransfers to the school previously attended may be considered a transfer for athletic advantage, which may result in a loss of eligibility.

CL 5 Date of entrance means registration plus actual class attendance

CL 6 In order for a freshman to qualify for the reduced period of ineligibility for thirty (30) days rather than one year in a sport he or she participated in, registration at the new school must take place by September 1 of the sophomore year.

CL 7 Voc-Tech/Public Academy Shared Time – When a student-athlete is carried on the Official Register and attends some classes at a school, but also attends additional classes at another school, the student is eligible for interscholastic athletics at the school where he/she is carried on the Official Register. If a student is carried on both Official Registers, the student may choose the school at which he/she wishes to participate in all sports on a full school year basis. If the student wishes to change the school where he/she participates during his/her eight semesters of athletic eligibility, the student will be subject to the transfer restrictions contained in Art. V, Section 4.K (1) and (2)

CL 8 Voc-Tech/Public Academy – Full-Time – When a student-athlete elects to transfer to or from a Vocational-Technical High School to or from the district school where the student resides the student is subject to the transfer restrictions contained in Article V, Section 4.K(1) and (2). If a Vocational-Technical High School Public Academy does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students desires to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her sending school upon agreement of both Principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Vocational-Technical High School Public Academy.

CL 9 Charter School – Transfers to and from Charter Schools will be subject to the restrictions contained in Article V, Section 4.K(1) and (2). If a secondary Charter School does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students wishes to participate, that student may participate

[page 59]

in that sport at his/her school of residence upon agreement of both Principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Charter School.

CL 10 Choice School – A choice student who attends a Choice School, pursuant to regulations adopted by the New Jersey Department of Education, shall be subject to the transfer restrictions contained in Article V, Section 4.K(1) and (2).

CL 11 For purposes of this section, participation in a sport is defined as playing in any interscholastic contest at any level. Playing in practices or scrimmages does not constitute participation.

(3) A student whose parents move to another school district maintaining a secondary school of equal grade or higher shall remain eligible to represent his/her present school provided he/she remains properly enrolled; any subsequent transfer will be subject to **Article V, Section 4.K(2)**.

(4) The fact that a student is expelled from one high school because of academic or disciplinary reasons may not exempt him/her from any of the transfer provisions of this section.

(5) Any evidence of a transfer for athletic advantage shall subject the athlete to a prompt determination of eligibility by the Eligibility Appeals Committee and may subject the school and the athlete to appropriate disciplinary proceedings as set forth in Article X herein. A transfer for athletic advantage is defined as, but not limited to:

- a. Seeking a superior athletic team;
- b. Seeking relief due to a conflict with the philosophy or action of an administrator, teacher or coach relating to sports;
- c. Seeking a team consistent with the student's athletic abilities; or
- d. Seeking a means to nullify punitive action by the previous school;
- e. Seeking to be coached by the coach at the new school.

L. Administrative Responsibility – The Association must rely upon the voluntary compliance by its member schools in enforcing the eligibility standards set forth in this article. TOWARD THAT END, THE PRINCIPAL IN EACH MEMBER SCHOOL HAS THE AFFIRMATIVE OBLIGATION TO REPORT TO THE NJSIAA, ANY VIOLATIONS OF THESE STANDARDS. THE FACT THAT A SCHOOL HAS DISCLOSED THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN ELIGIBILITY VIOLATION WILL NOT RELIEVE THE AFFECTED SCHOOL OF SANCTIONS THAT MAY BE IMPOSED AGAINST IT, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE X OF THESE BYLAWS, INCLUDING THE FORFEITURE OF GAMES OR EVENTS. HOWEVER, THE FAILURE TO DISCLOSE AN ELIGIBILITY VIOLATION MAY BE GROUNDS FOR IMPOSING ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS UPON THE OFFENDING SCHOOL.

CL 1 Although the penalty of forfeiture for the use of an ineligible player is mandatory and unappealable to the Executive Committee, the school may appeal the determination of eligibility provided such request for waiver occurs prior to the participation by the Student-Athlete.

[page 60]

CL 2 Participation by an ineligible player in any game during the regular season results in forfeiture of said game. If such forfeit(s) would have caused the school's failure to qualify for the tournament or if an ineligible player participates in a tournament game, said SCHOOL will be disqualified from the tournament immediately, unless the

championship has been concluded, and their last opponent will advance in their place. Schools eliminated prior to the last opponent will not re-enter tournament competition.

Article VI CONTRACTS

Section 1. The Principal of the school is responsible to the State Association for all matters pertaining to the athletic relation of his/her school, and all contracts must be signed by the Principal.

Section 2. All athletic contests between schools shall be regulated by written contract, setting forth the details of time, place, finances, officials, or other agreed upon provisions.

CL 1 “Principal” refers to high school principal, superintendent of schools, or headmaster in this and all sections of the NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations.

CL 2 Schedules approved by Leagues or Conferences will constitute contractual obligations for the purposes of this article.

CL 3 All athletic contests between schools must be approved by the District Board of Education.

CL 4 It is recommended that written contracts be executed for all scrimmages.

CL 5 Absence of a written contract, or as provided here, declares nonexistence of an obligation by either party.

Article VII PROTESTS

Section 1. Protests against alleged violations of contracts, violations of the accepted standards of good sportsmanship, or the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association, should be reported in writing and posted by the Principals of the participating schools or the game officials to the Executive Committee, through the Executive Director, within one hundred twenty (120) hours of the time of such violation, with a copy to the alleged violator. Protests based upon an official's judgement or misinterpretation (*misapplication*) of the playing rules will not be honored.

CL 1 The one hundred twenty (120) hour provision will be satisfied, if the school's Principal notifies the League or Conference expected to report a violation of good sportsmanship or any violation within 120 hours as required by Article IX, Section 4, and other Articles and Sections contained in the Constitution or Bylaws, cannot

[page 61]

use the failure of such disclosure as an excuse to prevent the NJSIAA Executive Committee or Controversies Committee from taking jurisdiction of such a matter as provided by Section 4 of Article VII.

CL 2 “Protests based upon an official's judgement or misinterpretation (misapplication) of the playing rules will not be honored” does not preclude a League or

Conference from addressing same; however, the NJSIAA will not honor such protests for non-conference games/meets, neither will the NJSIAA hear appeals to a League or Conference decision based upon an official's judgement or misinterpretation (misapplication) of the playing rules.

Section 2. There shall be a committee consisting of the Executive Director, the President, and a member of the Executive Committee who shall meet at the call of the Executive Director to hear any disputes and grant interim relief pending a decision on the matter by the Eligibility Committee, Controversies Committee or Executive Committee.

Any relief granted will expire at the end of the next Executive Committee meeting unless extended by resolution of the Executive Committee. The President and Executive Committee member, if they act in such capacity, shall be disqualified from discussion and voting on such matter before the Executive Committee.

Section 3. No protests against alleged violations of contracts shall be entertained in the absence of a duly executed contract made in accordance with Sections 1 and 2 of Article VI of the Bylaws.

Section 4. The Executive Committee may initiate proceedings on its own motion or may in its discretion refer the matter to the Controversies Committee.

Article VIII

CONTEST RULES – CHAMPIONSHIPS – OFFICIALS

Section 1. In all tournaments and meets conducted by this Association each member school must compete in its own group and section classification, unless fewer than eight (8) schools qualify. In that case, the Executive Committee may combine one or more groups. When the Committee eliminates sectional championships because of an insufficient number of schools qualifying, the State Group Championships will be conducted on a statewide quartile basis or State Championships may be conducted without regard to Groups or Division.

Federated members shall not be eligible for NJSIAA tournament competition

CL 1 When submitting records for tournament qualification, schools listing forfeit wins/losses must attach an explanation for same.

CL 2 When fewer than eight (8) schools qualify in a group and section, the Executive Committee may combine one or more groups/divisions because of insufficient competition without regard to Public/Non-public classification.

[page 62]

Section 2. All contests involving member schools must be played according to the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations. This applies to all sports for which rules are formulated by that Association.

CL 1 The NJSIAA does not permit "exhibition" (non-scoring) participation in any sport. Therefore, any reference to "exhibition" events, bouts and the like (e.g., in the National Federation Swimming Rules) are not permitted.

Section 3. All baseball, basketball, field hockey, fencing, football, gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, volleyball, and wrestling officials working in any NJSIAA interschool varsity baseball, basketball, field hockey, fencing, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, or volleyball game, gymnastics or swimming meet, or wrestling match, must be registered with the Association and listed in the Directory of approved officials published by the NJSIAA.

CL 1 – Fencing

2008-2009 – Fencing officials must be registered with the USFA or NJSIAA for all NJSIAA tournament competition.

2009-2010 – Fencing officials must be registered with the NJSIAA for all NJSIAA tournament competition.

2010-2011 – Fencing officials must be registered with the NJSIAA for all interscholastic competition.

CL 2 – Tennis

*Officials for all tournament rounds must be registered with a local chapter.
Only registered officials may be used for regular season matches when schools see fit to hire same.*

Section 4. The Executive Committee may approve the certification of officials and/or officials' chapters in all sports; and the minimum requirements for testing, training and evaluating all officials. (See pages 115-116 for NJSIAA minimum requirements for approval of officials' chapters and minimum requirements for registration of officials.)

Article IX SPORTSMANSHIP

Section 1. Statement of Administrative Responsibility:

Member schools are expected to conduct their relations with each other at all levels of competition in a spirit of good sportsmanship in keeping with the objectives we have set for ourselves. Everyone involved has the obligation to clearly see his/her influence and act accordingly.

The Association acknowledges that the school administration is responsible for the athletic program, including the making of broad and specific policies relating to sportsmanship and the conduct of activities in the schools. The school

[page 63]

Principal, for example, as the administrative head of his/her school, has the responsibility for establishing the principles of good sportsmanship in the minds of the entire school family. He/she realizes that the kind of sportsmanship that is practiced or displayed by the representatives of his/her school will reflect to its credit or otherwise.

The Principal, therefore, is the final authority responsible for all athletic activity of his/her school at whatever level of competition in which that school is engaged. In recognition of this authority and responsibility, the following general recommendations are suggested by the Association as a guide to school administrators with respect to sportsmanship policy.

Section 2. General Guideline Recommendations:

A. Each school administration shall establish broad and specific policies and procedures relating to sportsmanship and to identify responsibilities of administrators, coaches and students to ensure their observance.

B. Each school administration shall insist that personnel set good examples of deportment and sportsmanship and to correct those individuals at fault at a time convenient and in a manner adequate for the situation. Reporting of the action taken, in writing, to the NJSIAA by the Principal is mandatory.

C. Each school administration shall utilize all appropriate occasions and means to emphasize desirable deportment and sportsmanship of all coaches, students and other personnel.

D. The supervision of trips and “away” contests shall be such as to assure that the conduct of school representatives brings credit to themselves, their school and their sport. To this end, the Association advocates the full promotion of cooperative “host-guest” relationships between and among schools entering into athletic competition.

E. Hazing – Continuing the focus on sportsmanship, citizenship and leadership, the NJSIAA encourages member schools to establish local policies, procedures and regulations pertaining to incidents of “Hazing.”

F. COACHES MUST BE CAUTIONED NOT TO REFUSE TO PLAY OR TO COMPLETE A GAME/MEET. SUCH DECISIONS ARE WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE GAME/MEET OFFICIALS ONCE GAME/MEET HAS STARTED, OR REST WITH HOME MANAGEMENT AND/OR TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR IF THE GAME/MEET HAS NOT STARTED.

Penalty – Any school whose coach violates Section 2.F shall be placed on probation by the Association for not less than one year from the date of violation, and shall not receive championship recognition from this Association in that sport, or enter any championship games, matches, meets or tournament sponsored by the Association in that sport unless the NJSIAA deems sufficient administrative action has been taken against the coach. Conditions of probation are outlined in the Bylaws, Article X, Section 2.A, Probation. In addition, the coach will be fined a minimum of \$300.00.

[page 64]

Section 3. Association Responsibility:

The Association recognizes and appreciates that the influence and responsibility of the school administration with regard to good sportsmanship extends to all levels of competition. However, it must also be seen that the NJSIAA has been vested with the responsibility to ensure that all contests under its jurisdiction are conducted satisfactorily. In exercising its responsibility as it applies to the principles of good sportsmanship, the Association will be guided by the following rule:

SPORTSMANSHIP RULE/POLICY

HIGH STANDARDS OF COURTESY, FAIR PLAY AND SPORTSMANSHIP MUST BE FEATURED AT ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS.

(While this rule is a general statement and one which may be difficult to reduce to objective standards in terms of enforcement, it is the heart of the entire Association program. Good sportsmanship, respect for rules, respect for others, and fair play, are basically the motives through which an interscholastic athletic program is justified and defended.)

It shall be the responsibility of each member school to insure that all individuals employed by or directly associated with the athletic program, including its Student-Athletes, comport themselves in a sportsmanlike manner when representing their school, especially at interscholastic events.

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall subject the individual to disciplinary action. The member school with which the individual is associated may also be subject to disciplinary action if it is found that the member school's policies, actions, or failure to act, substantially contributed to the individual's conduct.

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include but not be limited to the following:

- a. Any person (athletic department, staff member, Student-Athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who strikes or physically abuses an official, opposing coach, player, or spectator.
- b. Any person (athletic department, staff member, Student-Athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
- c. Any person (athletic department, staff member, Student-Athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who uses obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action towards officials, opponents, or spectators.
- d. Any school or athletic staff member who is publicly critical of a game official, opponents and/or opposing coaches/players.
- e. The administration of a member school will be responsible for the unsportsmanlike conduct of that school's fans or spectators.
- f. In addition to the NJSIAA disciplinary action, any violations of our sportsmanship rule, including, but not limited to disqualifications in the area of racial, ethnic, gender bias, will result in the NJSIAA contacting and working directly with the Conference and Community Agency (Human Rights/Civil Rights Group) which focuses in on this important aspect of social behavior as it relates to athletics.

[page 65]

CL 1 Schools are not permitted to conduct pre-meet/game activities of an intimidating nature, e.g., the use of fog machines, the blaring of sirens or loud music/unusual sound effects, strobe/unusual lighting effects, or similar type activities.

Section 4. Executive Authority:

A. The Association vests authority in its President and Executive Director to investigate and take appropriate action on any reported flagrant violation of the sportsmanship rule occurring during the regular season or NJSIAA tournament competitions.

B. Reported violations shall be resolved in a manner sufficient to correct the problem, and may range from a written statement of the findings by the Executive Director to the school administration, to appropriate disciplinary action.

C. Any report of a violation of good sportsmanship occurring during an NJSIAA sponsored event, must be submitted in writing and posted within one hundred twenty (120) hours of the incident to the Executive Director of the Association with a copy to the alleged violator and/or his/her school.

Section 5. General Prohibition Against Performance Enhancing Drugs.

It shall be considered a violation of the Sportsmanship Rule for any student-athlete to possess, ingest or otherwise use any of the substances on the list of banned substances, without written prescription by a fully-licensed physician, as recognized by the American Medical Association, to treat a medical condition. Violations found as a result of NJSIAA testing shall be penalized in accordance with this policy. Violations found as a result of a member school's testing shall be penalized in accordance with the school's policy. **The NJSIAA policy shall consist of this general prohibition, the NJSIAA Steriod Testing Procedures, the NJSIAA Steriod Testing Protocol, and the NJSIAA Banned Drug Classes.**

Article X PENALTIES

PENALTIES SHALL BE ASSESSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR THE CONTROVERSIES COMMITTEE FOR INFRACTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS OR RULES AND SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:

Section 1. To assure that member schools make certain that all Student-Athletes comply with eligibility standards or that they obtain appropriate waivers where necessary prior to competition, the following forfeiture penalties will be imposed. If the ineligible student participated in a TEAM SPORT, then that team will forfeit any games that it has won, irrespective of how long the ineligible student participated in that contest. This is so because it is impossible to calculate the impact made on a team contest by one or more individual players. In cases where the ineligible player participated in an INDIVIDUAL SPORT, then the team will only forfeit the events in which that player participated, since the

[page 66]

impact of individual players can be calculated with some certainty. This penalty is mandatory and will not be subject to any appeal to the Executive Committee.

CL 1 Although the penalty of forfeiture for the use of an ineligible player is mandatory and unappealable to the Executive Committee, the school may appeal the determination of eligibility.

Section 2. After conducting a hearing and subject to an appeal to the Executive Committee, as set forth in Article XIII of the Bylaws, the Controversies Committee may impose the penalties set forth in this Section.

A. Probation – A probationary period not to exceed two years may be imposed, which may include a requirement that a member school submit appropriate reports to the Association, certifying that the violations are not continuing. The Controversies Committee may determine that an offending school may not participate in championship contests in the sport in which the violation occurred.

B. Forfeit of Games – Under such terms and conditions as the Controversies Committee shall provide.

C. Forfeit of Championship Rights – A school may be required to forfeit championship rights as determined by the Controversies Committee.

D. Suspension of Coaches and Players – In addition to any disqualifications imposed for unsportsmanlike and flagrant verbal or physical misconduct during an interscholastic contest a coach or player may be suspended for a violation of the Constitution and Bylaws or Rules of this Association, or for violations of the rules of good sportsmanship or the rules of a particular game.

E. Fines – Member schools, Principals, Athletic Directors, and/or coaches may be fined by the Controversies Committee in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 per party. Member schools may also be required to pay any property damages caused by their improper behavior and for the transcript and court stenographer costs of the Controversies Committee hearing, which would be payable within sixty (60) days.

Section 3. Major Fines and Expulsion. The Controversies Committee may recommend for approval by the Executive Committee, the imposition of major fines against member schools, principals, athletic directors and coaches exceeding \$1,000.00 per party for serious violations of the Bylaws or Rules of the Association and/or the expulsion of member schools and/or coaches for serious violations of the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of the Association after a hearing or review on appeal by the Executive Committee, pursuant to Article XIII of the Bylaws.