

# BYLAWS FOR ALL ACTIVITIES—ARTICLE 2

## 2.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1.1 **Student Eligibility.** Only those students meeting the eligibility requirements as established in the Constitution, Bylaws, or Approved Rulings are permitted to represent a member school in interscholastic competition in those activities which are under the jurisdiction of the Nebraska School Activities Association.

### APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 2.1.1

*Reference:*

- 2.1.1 *The administrative staff of each high school is responsible for determining the eligibility of each of its students participating in activities.*
- a. *Schools must check the following for each high school transfer student:*
- 1) *If the student attended school the previous semester.*
  - 2) *If the student has been or will be in school for the first eleven days of the present semester.*
  - 3) *If the student's age meets eligibility requirements.*
  - 4) *If the student passed and received at least twenty hours the previous semester.*
  - 5) *If the number of semesters of high school membership is less than eight semesters.*
  - 6) *If the legal domicile of both of the student's natural parents is within the school district.*
  - 7) *If the student has attended another high school within your school district.*
- b. *Schools must check the following for each student who is enrolling in high school and attended junior high the immediate preceding semester:*
- 1) *If the student's age meets eligibility requirements.*
  - 2) *If the student has exceeded eight semesters of school membership or four seasons of participation*
  - 3) *If the student has participated in non-school competition during the season of the sport.*
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- 2.1.2 **Administrative Responsibility.** The superintendent or his/her designate of each member school shall be responsible for the activities program of the school and accountable to the Association for the conduct of such programs. It shall be the duty of this person to administer and enforce all eligibility rules. Included in these responsibilities are the following:
- a. To administer and enforce all eligibility rules.
  - b. Educate and guide the school's staff who are associated with activities and the students who participate in activities in the rules of eligibility which govern members of the Association.
  - c. For the failure to discharge such responsibilities, member schools shall be subject to penalties as set out in Paragraph 2.11 of the NSAA Bylaws.
- 2.1.3 **Consent of Parent and Student.** A student shall become eligible for practice and competition in each activity that is under the jurisdiction of the Nebraska School Activities Association when a certificate of consent, signed by the student and one of his/her parents or guardian, is on file with the principal. The certificate of consent shall contain an acknowledgement that the major rules and regulations governing the student's eligibility to participate in interscholastic activities have been disclosed to the student and his/her parent or guardian.
- 2.1.3.1 Prior to permitting a student's participation in interscholastic competition, the superintendent or designate of each school shall file a report with the NSAA office, verifying that each Certificate of Consent has been properly signed and each student has been informed of NSAA rules.
- 2.1.4 **Certificate of Eligibility.** Prior to the first date permitted for interschool competition in each activity, each member school shall submit to the Executive Director of the Nebraska School Activities Association a certified list of students eligible to participate in each activity.

### APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 2.1.4

*Reference:*

- 2.1.4
1. *A team may refuse to engage in the contest if the participation/eligibility entries have not been entered into the NSAA on-line database.*
  2. *A non-public school and public school, or two or more public schools, or two or more non-public schools, cannot combine their members to make up one team to play scheduled contests, unless they have followed the rules of cooperative sponsorship.*

3. *The participation list is required for ALL participants in the activity. Only those participants marked as being eligible may participate in varsity contests.*
  4. *All schools shall enter the student participation and eligibility lists on-line into the NSAA's secured database prior to the first date permitted for interschool competition in each activity.*
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- 2.1.4.1 In case an addition is made to the list during the season of that activity, the school shall notify the NSAA office before using the added student in competition.
- 2.1.4.2 Schools shall certify that students who become ineligible for any contest because of failure to comply with any Association eligibility rule will not be allowed to participate.

## 2.2 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- 2.2.1 **Participants.** Individuals who are bona fide students of a member high school and have not graduated from any high school or its equivalent, and students of a middle level school that is a part of a member high school's system who compete or practice with a member high school team may be permitted to participate in activities of the Nebraska School Activities Association.

### APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 2.2.1

Reference:

2.2.1

1. *To be a participant in any NSAA activity at either the varsity or non-varsity levels of competition, an individual must be a bona fide student of a member high school. Exempt-school or home-school students, unless enrolled in a minimum of twenty credit hours of schoolwork in the member high school, are not eligible to represent a member school in NSAA activities, regardless of the level of participation or competition.*
2. *If a school's internal grade grouping, as reported to the State Department of Education, designates the ninth grade as a part of the high school, the students enrolled in the ninth grade shall abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Nebraska School Activities Association.*
  - a. *If a ninth grade student who is enrolled in a junior high school is promoted to participate on a senior high school team or competes against a team composed of senior high school students, this student(s) must abide by all NSAA regulations during the season of the sport, such as opening and closing dates of the NSAA sports seasons, being restricted from competing with or against seventh or eighth grade students, NSAA game/match and individual limitations, participation in non-school competition, and the organized practice rule.*
  - b. *A ninth grade student, whether part of the high school or junior high school, may compete on or against any team composed of ninth graders only, regardless of the school's organization.*
  - c. *Once a junior high school student becomes a member of a high school team, the student has established his/her eligibility at that high school.*
3. *If a student reaches age 15 prior to August 1 and is in the seventh or eighth grade, the student may move to the next level of competition offered in his/her school and will be ineligible for seventh-eighth grade competition.*
4. *If a student is carrying over fifty percent of his/her work in the eighth grade, the student is not to be considered as being a high school student, provided the local authorities did not carry the student on their high school attendance records. If the student is carrying fifty percent or more of his or her work in the ninth grade, the student should be considered a ninth grade student.*

2.2.1.1 Once a student participates in an activity under the aforementioned arrangements, the student shall be governed by all rules of the NSAA.

2.2.2 **Semester Limitation.** A student shall become ineligible after eight semesters of school membership beginning with his/her initial enrollment in grade nine.

### APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 2.2.2

Reference:

2.2.2 *Students who have become ineligible because of excessive semesters of membership or because of excessive seasons of 2.2 participation in a particular sport are ineligible for interscholastic contests including the non-varsity competition.*

*Membership by a student in a school not a member of the Association counts against the student when that school subsequently becomes a member or when the student transfers to a member school.*

2.2.2.1 Membership in any school or schools for thirty or more school days during a semester is considered a semester of school membership.

2.2.2.2 The records of the school or schools in which the student was a member shall be used to determine the total number of days of school membership.

- 2.2.2.3 Semesters are not charged consecutively. If a student is not enrolled in school, the student is not charged with a semester of membership. When he or she re-enrolls in school, however, it takes one semester, for which the student is charged, to regain eligibility.
- 2.2.3 **Season Limitations.** No student shall be permitted to participate in more than four seasons of any one activity at the high school level. After initial enrollment in grade ten, no student shall be permitted to participate in more than three seasons of any one activity. Competing in any part of an interscholastic contest shall count as a season of participation in that activity.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 2.2.3**

*Reference:*

- 2.2.3 *Participation by a student in a high school interschool contest shall count as a semester of membership as well as a season of participation.*
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- 2.2.4 **High School Graduates.** A graduate from a four-year high school or its equivalent is no longer considered a student for interscholastic activity purposes even though the student enters another high school and is classed there as a fourth-year or even a third-year pupil and is a candidate for graduation.
- Mid-Year Graduates.** At the end of the first semester, a student who becomes ineligible to play through graduation but who is eligible to play until the end of the semester, shall be eligible up to and including Saturday night of the week the semester is completed.
  - Graduation Prior to State Contest.** A student who is eligible to compete throughout the regular season in an activity, but who graduates or completes eight semesters of high school attendance before the state tournament in that activity shall be eligible to compete in such tournament or meet provided the tournament or meet is held before the next semester starts.
- 2.2.5 **Second Semester Eligibility.** A student who becomes eligible the second semester shall be eligible the first day of the second semester, provided his/her name has been included on an eligibility list sent to the NSAA office before the contests.
- Students who will become eligible the second semester may be included on an eligibility list sent during the first semester, provided a note indicates the date on which they will become eligible.

## **2.3 AGE**

- 2.3.1 **Age Limitation.** No student shall be eligible for interschool competition who has attained the age of nineteen years except as follows: A student who becomes nineteen years of age on or after August 1 shall be eligible on the basis of age until the end of the current school year.
- 2.3.2 A student in grade seven or eight who reaches age 15 prior to August 1 may participate on a senior high school team.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.3.1**

*Reference:*

- 2.3.1
- Students who have become ineligible because of age are ineligible for all interscholastic contests including non-varsity team competition.*
  - The oldest age given on any annual report shall be accepted as the student's age unless a birth certificate certified by the Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Capitol, Lincoln, or the Bureau of Vital Statistics of any other state, can be produced to the contrary.*
  - The Age Limitation Bylaw 2.3.1 is an objective standard; a student must meet the age limitation set forth in Bylaw 2.3.1 to be eligible for participation and competition. The only consideration for a waiver of the age eligibility rule shall be to determine if a discrepancy exists in the student's reported Date of Birth that, upon further examination and evidence, would result in the establishment of the correct Date of Birth. [See, Pottgen v. MSHSAA, 40 F. 3d. 926 (8th Cir. 1994).]*

## **2.4 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT**

- 2.4.1 A student must have enrolled in some high school on or before the eleventh school day of the semester in which the contest takes place to be eligible for varsity interscholastic competition.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.4.1**

*Reference:*

- 2.4.1 *If a student enrolls in one school any time within the first two weeks after that school has opened and subsequently transfers to another school during that semester, the latter school may accept the student's original enrollment as meeting the enrollment requirements.*
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- 2.4.2 After initial enrollment at a school, a student must be regular in attendance in accordance with the officially adopted attendance policy of that school.

- 2.4.3 The above requirements may be waived if a student is prevented from enrolling or being regular in attendance because of personal illness or quarantine and satisfactory cause of such late registration is presented to the Executive Director.

## 2.5 SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS

- 2.5.1 **Current Semester.** To be eligible, the student must be continuously enrolled in at least twenty credit hours of instruction per semester at the school the student represents in interscholastic competition. Students enrolled in college classes at an accredited institution should be allowed to use those classes in meeting the 20-hour eligibility requirements. No student should be allowed to use more than two classes from an accredited institution in one semester. Proof of enrollment and payment of fees should be provided to the Athletic Director to verify they are registered and enrolled for the class(es).

### APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.5.1

Reference:

- 2.5.1 *Each individual school may determine its own current semester scholastic requirement for eligibility to compete in interschool activities. The requirements may be more stringent than the State Association's, but in no case shall the requirements be less restrictive.*

- 2.5.2 **Preceding Semester.** To be eligible, a student shall have credit on the school records for twenty credit hours of school work for the immediate preceding semester.

### APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.5.2

Reference:

- 2.5.2 *The twenty credit hours shall be such as will ordinarily be considered as advancing the student towards graduation.*

- 2.5.2.1 The term "preceding semester" means the semester immediately preceding the semester in which the student wishes to participate in activities.

- 2.5.2.2 The preceding semester rule is not to apply to students who are entering high school for the first time and have not competed or practiced with a high school team.

- 2.5.3 **Opportunity to Fulfill Scholastic Deficiency.** A student who does not earn twenty credit hours during the spring semester may make up not to exceed ten credit hours during the summer in an accredited program. Such work must be completed and the grades recorded on the school records prior to September 1 or the opening day of school, whichever comes first, in order for that student to be eligible for varsity interscholastic participation the fall semester.

- 2.5.3.1 If incomplete grades are the determining factor in whether a student has the required number of credit hours the preceding semester, the student remains ineligible until the incomplete is replaced by passing grades and the incomplete grades are on the records of the school.

- 2.5.4 **Year Around School.** Eligibility requirements may be adjusted for a one-year period by the Board of Control in order to permit students to participate in activities in schools that are experimenting with the twelve-month school year.

## 2.6 DOMICILE ELIGIBILITY

- 2.6.1 **Domicile.** Domicile shall be defined as the place where the parents have established their home. This means that the family regularly eats and sleeps in a specific place of lodging. It is the place where the student and his/her parents are habitually present and to which, when departing, they intend to return.

- 2.6.1.1 It shall not be considered a change of domicile if the parents have moved to a new home but do not intend to make it their permanent home, have not given up their former home, or have not sold their personal property or moved it to a new domicile, unless complete information is presented at a hearing before the Board of Control and a ruling has been given that a bona fide change of domicile has been made.

- 2.6.1.2 **Boundaries of Non-Public Schools.** For the purposes of determining domicile, the boundaries of a non-public school shall be the same as those of the public school district in which the non-public school is located.

- 2.6.2 **Parents.** The term parents shall mean the student's natural parents or adoptive parents, or foster parents if student(s) is placed in a foster home after becoming a ward of the state, courts or welfare agency, or legal guardian if parental rights of custody of both parents have been terminated by death, incompetency or unsuitability.

- 2.6.2.1 In order for a guardian to be recognized as a legal parent, there must be properly certified documentation from a court of competent jurisdiction indicating the date of appointment, powers conferred and whether the guardian was appointed due to death, incompetency, or unsuitability of the natural parents.

- 2.6.2.2 If the parents are divorced or legally separated, the parent who has been awarded custody of the child as documented by certified copy of an order by a court of competent jurisdiction, is the legal parent. If joint custody was awarded, the parent the child chooses to live with immediately following the divorce shall be defined as the legal parent.

- 2.6.2.3 If the parents are required to live apart because of circumstances beyond the control of the parents, but the marriage has not been dissolved and a separation decree has not been entered, the Board of Control, upon application, may grant a hardship waiver and determine that the domicile of the student will be that of the parent with whom the student is living. Once a student makes a choice of the parent with whom he/she wishes to reside, the parent chosen shall be interpreted as the legal parent.
- 2.6.3 **Selection of School for Activity Eligibility.** When a student enters a high school for the first time after promotion from grade eight of a two-year junior high school, or a sixth, seventh, and eighth grade middle school, or from grade nine of a seventh, eighth, and ninth grade junior high school, he/she may enter the high school of his/her choice and be eligible immediately if eligible in all other respects. Any subsequent transfer to another high school, unless there has been a change in domicile by his/her legal parents, or the student returns to his/her home school district, shall render the student ineligible for varsity competition for ninety school days.
- 2.6.3.1 The term "home school district" shall mean the school district in which the student's legal parent's domicile is located.
- 2.6.3.2 Once a student selects and attends a high school, that school is where the student's eligibility shall be established.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.6.3**

#### *Reference:*

#### 2.6.3

1. *After a student completes junior high school and there is more than one high school located in the school district where his/her parents have their domicile, the student is eligible for varsity competition at one of the high schools located within the school district. Once the student selects the high school, that school is where the student's eligibility shall be credited.*
2. *A student who is ineligible because of his/her parents' failing to meet the domicile requirement shall become eligible after attending the high school he/she wishes to represent in varsity competition after ninety school days.*

- 2.6.4 **Student Promoted to Play on High School Team.** If a student in grades seven, eight or nine participates in interschool competition on a high school team at any level of competition, he/she has established his/her eligibility at the high school he/she has represented in such competition. Any subsequent transfer to another high school, unless there has been a change in domicile by his/her legal parents, shall render the student ineligible for varsity competition for ninety school days.
- 2.6.4.1 A student in grade seven or eight who participates at a high school in music only is not considered to have established his/her eligibility for future participation at a high school.
- 2.6.5 **School Consolidating or Redistricting.** If a student's parent(s) have a domicile located in a school district that does not have a high school and the student has attended high school for one year or more when the school district in which the parent(s) live is consolidated with a high school district other than the one in which the student has been in attendance, such student shall select one of the two high schools and be immediately eligible for interscholastic competition.
- 2.6.6 **Dual Enrollment.** A student enrolled in two member high schools at the same time is eligible only at the high school located in the school district where his/her domicile is located.
- 2.6.6.1 If both member high schools are located in his/her home school district, the student is eligible at the member high school where he/she is continuously enrolled in twenty credit hours.
- 2.6.6.2 If continuously enrolled in twenty credit hours in each member high school and both member high schools are located in his/her home district, the student must select one of the high schools as his/her home school and confine participation in interscholastic activities to that school.
- 2.6.6.3 If a resident school district draws up either a letter of agreement or contracts with the Nebraska School for the Visually Handicapped, this schools may be considered the home school district for the purpose of interscholastic competition.
- 2.6.7 **Learning Centers.** The following applies to any student who is enrolled in a learning center and desires to participate in interschool activities:
- 2.6.7.1 The learning center must be located within the school district served and must be a part of the school district's system.
- 2.6.7.2 The member high school which the student previously attended, elected to attend, or was assigned to attend is the school the student must represent in interschool competition, for it shall be considered the student's designated home school.
- 2.6.7.3 Any change of a student's designated high school shall be governed by the domicile and transfer rule.
- 2.6.7.4 The student must meet all NSAA eligibility requirements.

- 2.6.7.5 The name of the student and the member high school he/she is to represent must be sent to the NSAA office.
- 2.6.8 **Students with Learning Disabilities-Contracted.** When a school is unable to offer classes for a student with learning disabilities and must contract with a neighboring school district or service unit for such educational programs, the student may be eligible for interscholastic competition in his/her home school or in the neighboring school district in which instruction is being received.
- 2.6.8.1 Once the student makes a choice of schools, he/she has established his/her eligibility at that school.
- 2.6.9 **Parents Change Domicile to Different School District.** Any student whose parents reside in a school district that has a high school, shall become ineligible to represent that high school for varsity interscholastic competition for ninety school days upon the change of domicile by the parent(s) from that school to another school district that has a high school except:
- 2.6.9.1 If this domicile is changed during the school year, the student is eligible for the remainder of that school year in the school district from which the parents moved.
- 2.6.9.2 If this domicile is changed during the summer months that immediately precede the school year and the student is in grade twelve and has attended the high school for two or more years, the student may be eligible for that school year in the school district from which the parents moved.
- 2.6.9.3 If a student elects to remain at the high school where he/she initially enrolled after being promoted from grade eight of a middle or junior high school, or grade nine of a junior high school, he/she is eligible at that school, or is eligible at a high school located within the school district in which the parents established their domicile.
- 2.6.10 **Parents Change Domicile Within a School District.** If a student's parents change domiciles within a school district that has more than one high school, the student has the following choices:
- 2.6.10.1 The student may remain at the school being attended at the time of the parents' domicile change and remain eligible. If a student remains at the original school and attends this school at the start of the next school year, the student is considered to have tied his/her eligibility to the original school. Any subsequent transfer without the accompanying change of domicile by his/her parents would result in a loss of eligibility for varsity competition for a period of ninety school days.
- 2.6.10.2 The student may transfer to another school in the district and be eligible immediately from a domicile standpoint. This transfer may occur at any time between the date of the parents change of domicile in the school district until the start of the next school year. Once the student transfers to another school within the district, he/she is considered to have domicile eligibility for varsity competition.
- 2.6.10.3 A school system with more than one high school may have its own domicile requirements and attendance areas. These may be more stringent than the NSAA's, but in no case shall they be less restrictive.
- 2.6.11 **Change of Domicile Due to a Student Becoming a Ward of State, Courts or Welfare Agency.** A student who is required to change domicile because of placement by the state, courts or welfare agency in a home, special school or institution is eligible immediately if eligible in all other respects.

## 2.7 TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY

- 2.7.1 **Change of School for Academic Advantage.** A change of school for academic advantages does not create eligibility, even though the school may be non-accredited and the school to which the student transfers is accredited.
- 2.7.2 **Member School Closes and/or a New School is Formed.** The following applies:
- 2.7.2.1 Any student who transfers from a closing school prior to the completion of the school year without a change in his/her parents' domicile will lose eligibility at the school to which he/she transferred for a period of ninety school days.
- 2.7.2.2 Students who are enrolled at a closing school throughout the school year shall have immediate eligibility for interscholastic participation representing the new school. This applies to domicile requirements only and does not waive the scholastic requirement, eight-semester rule, or any Association eligibility requirement.
- 2.7.2.3 Students enrolled at a closing school throughout the school year who elect to attend a high school other than the new school at the commencement of the new school year may be eligible at any high school located within the school district where his/her parents' domicile is located.
- 2.7.2.4 The student's parents and the school he/she wishes to attend must submit a request to the NSAA Executive Director for a waiver of the domicile rule when a student who has been attending non-public school that is closing elects not to attend the new school and the school district where his/her parents have their domicile does not have a high school sponsored by the same faith and the student wishes to continue to attend a non-public high school that is located in another district.
- 2.7.2.5 A student who is enrolled in any high school other than the closing school during the school year and who transfers to the new school the next year shall, without a change of domicile by his/her parents, shall be ineligible for varsity interscholastic competition for ninety school days.
- 2.7.2.6 After a student makes his/her choice and attendance commences at the beginning of the school year, the student becomes ineligible for a period of ninety school days in any other school to which he/she may transfer.

- 2.7.3 **Transfer by Student to a Member High School in Another School District.** Any student who transfers to a high school located in a school district other than the district in which his/her parent's domicile is located shall be ineligible for varsity competition for ninety school days. An exception to this ineligibility would be if the student transferred from one school in a cooperative agreement to another school in that same cooperative agreement. The domicile eligibility would be waived for such a transfer student to participate in the designated activity covered by that cooperative agreement.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.7.3**

*Reference:*

- 2.7.3 *If a student who has attended private or parochial school for two or more consecutive years wishes to continue his or her education in a private or parochial high school and there is no private or parochial high school located in the school district where his or her parents have their domicile, the student may attend a private or parochial high school in another school district and be eligible for interscholastic competition. Once a student enrolls and attends the private or parochial school, that school shall be where his/her eligibility is established. Any subsequent transfer to a high school other than to a high school located in the school district where the student's parents have their domicile shall render the student ineligible for ninety school days.*

- 2.7.4 **Transfer by Student to a Different High School in Multi-High School District.** If a student living within a school district in which two or more member high schools are located, transfers from one high school to another within the same district without an accompanying change of domicile by his/her parents, the student shall become ineligible for interscholastic varsity competition for a period of ninety school days.

- 2.7.4.1 If such student returns to his/her original high school before a ninety school day period of enrollment at the high school to which he/she transferred, the student shall be eligible at the original high school.

- 2.7.4.2 If the student remains in the school to which he/she transferred for a period of ninety school days or more, and returns to his/her original school, the student is ineligible for varsity competition for a period of ninety school days.

- 2.7.5 **Foreign Exchange Students.** The ninety school day ineligibility requirement may be waived for foreign exchange students who transfer to a member high school provided application for a waiver is made on the Foreign Exchange Student Waiver Form and approval is granted by the Executive Director. The following policy will be used in determining if a waiver will be granted:

- 2.7.5.1 Foreign student must be a member of a recognized Foreign Exchange Program.

- 2.7.5.2 Foreign student must possess a J-1 Visa.

- 2.7.5.3 Eligibility for a Foreign Exchange student will be granted for a maximum of two consecutive semesters, regardless of subsequent change in visa, residency, or guardianship. The two consecutive semesters period begins with the student's initial enrollment in any high school in the United States.

- 2.7.5.4 Student must meet all other eligibility requirements.

- 2.7.5.5 A waiver will not be granted if sufficient evidence exists to indicate that noncompliance to the rule in question was motivated by the school's or student's effort to circumvent a rule, or gain an advantage in interschool competition, or the student's purpose for enrolling is for activity participation.

- 2.7.6 **Home School Transfers.**  
The following shall apply in determining the eligibility for a student who has previously attended a home school and transfers to become a bona fide student at a member high school:

- 2.7.6.1 The home school, which the student previously attended, must have received acknowledgement from the Nebraska State Department of Education that the school conformed to the required statutes.

- 2.7.6.2 The student must be accepted by the member high school and placed in a grade level that will classify the individual as a high school student (grades nine, ten, eleven or twelve).

- 2.7.6.3 If a student has been promoted from the eighth grade at a home school and is attending a member high school for the first time as a ninth grade student, he/she may select his/her high school and be eligible.

- 2.7.6.4 If the student is transferring from a home school and is accepted at a member high school as a tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade student, he/she is considered a transfer student and shall be ineligible for varsity competition for ninety school days unless the home school is located in the same school district as the high school to which the student is transferring.

- 2.7.6.5 If the student enters a member school as a tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade student, he/she shall have received, or be granted, twenty credit hours for the immediate preceding semester. The twenty credit hours must be accepted and entered on the records of the student as partial fulfillment of the school's graduation requirements.

- 2.7.6.6 Students who enrolled in grades nine, ten, eleven, or twelve at a home school and who transfer to a member high school, shall be credited with the number of semesters of high school membership in which they were a member of the home school. These students shall not exceed eight semesters of school membership beginning with the initial enrollment in grade nine or the equivalent of grade nine.

- 2.7.6.7 Students transferring from a home school to a member high school must meet the requirements of

## Section 2.2.

2.7.7 **Enrollment Option Transfers.** An exception to NSAA Bylaws will be considered for Enrollment Option students who have transferred to a member high school that is located in a school district other than the district where the student's parents' domicile is located in accordance with the Enrollment Option statutes.

2.7.7.1 Those students who have their Enrollment Option applications signed, filed and approved prior to March 15 shall be eligible immediately in the fall.

2.7.7.2 Those students who do not have their Enrollment Option applications signed, filed and approved prior to March 15 shall be ineligible for 90 school days, with such transfers being subject to hardship waiver guidelines.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.7**

## Reference:

2.7 *If a student fails to meet any of the transfer requirements, he/she shall be eligible after attending the school he/she wishes to represent in varsity competition after ninety school days.*

2.7.8 **School-to-School Transfers.** Eligibility will be considered for transfer students who have transferred from one member high school to another member high school when there is not a change of domicile by the parents. This would apply to students who transfer: (1) from public school to private school; (2) from private school to public school; (3) from private school to private school; (4) from public school to public school; (5) from out-of-state schools, and (6) transfers from school to school within a multi-school district.

2.7.8.1 Those students who have their transfer papers signed and filed on or before March 15 shall be eligible immediately in the fall, providing the school into which the student transfers notifies the NSAA of the transfer in writing with a postmark no later than March 15. Once the transfer papers have been signed, filed and the NSAA has been notified, the student could complete that year of eligibility in the school the student was leaving. The student would, however, become ineligible for ninety (90) school days the next fall if the student were to change his/her mind and decided not to transfer.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.7.8.1**

## Reference:

2.7.8.1 *Students who complete transfer requirements on or before March 15 and whose names are submitted to the NSAA by March 15 as transfer students shall be immediately eligible in the fall at the school to which they transfer. If the student were to later change his/her mind and not transfer, that student would be ineligible for 90 school days at the school in which he/she attends. If such student were to transfer to the new school, but later decides to return to his/her former district before 90 school days have elapsed, such student will be ineligible in the former district for 90 school days, with the ineligibility period commencing at the start of the fall semester. Or, in the case of the student who transfers and attends the new school before the start of the semester but whose name is submitted on the March 15 transfer list, such student would be ineligible for 90 school days commencing at the same time the student began attending the transfer school.*

2.7.8.2 Those students who do not have their transfer applications signed and filed on or before March 15, and whose transfer has not been reported to the NSAA in writing, postmarked no later than March 15, shall be ineligible for 90 school days, with such transfers being subject to hardship waiver guidelines.

2.7.8.3 Such transfer students may transfer under this rule one time during their high school years, unless there is a change of domicile by the legal parent. Such students who transfer a subsequent time without a change of domicile by the legal parent shall be ineligible for varsity competition for ninety school days.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.7.8.3**

## Reference:

2.7.8.3 *Unless there is a bona fide change of domicile by the legal parent, a student may transfer only one time to a different school under the March 15 transfer deadline.*

*A student who transfers under the March 15 transfer provisions and who later decides to return to his/her former district before 90 school days have elapsed shall continue to be ineligible in the former district for 90 school days, with the ineligibility period commencing at the start of the fall semester. The ineligibility shall continue, regardless of the parent's domicile change within the resident district.*

## **2.8 UNDUE INFLUENCE**

2.8.1 The use of undue influence by anyone causing a student in one school to transfer to another school or attend a school for activity participation purposes shall render that student ineligible. The length of ineligibility shall be determined by the Board of Control.

2.8.2 The Board of Control shall determine what shall constitute undue influence. Undue influence shall always include but not be limited to the following:

2.8.2.1 Offer or acceptance of money, room, board, clothing or other valuable considerations to a student.

- 2.8.2.2 Offer or acceptance of a home or living quarters with any person affiliated with the school. (Extenuating circumstances will be considered if presented to the Board of Control for review).
- 2.8.2.3 Offer or acceptance of any school privilege not available to other pupils.
- 2.8.2.4 Free or reduced rent for parents.
- 2.8.2.5 Payment of the moving expenses of the parents.
- 2.8.2.6 Offer or acceptance of employment for the parents in order to entice the family to move to a certain community so as to gain the services of a child in the school's activity program.
- 2.8.2.7 Any attempt by a representative of a school or any individual or group outside the school to recruit a student(s) in order to gain his/her services in the school's activity program.

## 2.9 EXCEPTION TO ELIGIBILITY RULES

- 2.9.1 Refer to Paragraph 1.10.3 for procedure to follow when requesting a waiver of any eligibility rule.

## 2.10 CONDUCT

- 2.10.1 **Conduct During Interscholastic Competition.** Students, participants, and staff members representing member schools in interscholastic competition are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.
  - 2.10.1.1 Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include physical or verbal assault upon any participant, game official, or spectator, or any acts that may endanger the personal safety of individuals involved, or acts that hinder the normal progress of a contest or lead to the restriction or discontinuance of a contest.
  - 2.10.1.2 If a student, participant, and/or staff member representing a member school in interschool competition acts in a manner constituting unsportsmanlike behavior during such competition, the member school and/or individuals shall be subject to penalties as set out in Section 2.11.
  - 2.10.1.3 If any participant or staff member while representing a member school in an Association-sponsored district tournament, playoff, or state contest acts in a manner constituting unsportsmanlike conduct, the individual is subject to penalties as set out in Section 2.11.

## 2.11 PENALTIES

- 2.11.1 **School Violations.** For violation by a member school of any of the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, or rules adopted by the Representative Assembly or approved by the member schools or the Board of Control, the Board of Control or Executive Director may impose, but not be limited to, one or more of the following penalties:
  - 2.11.1.2 Issue a private or public reprimand to the school.
  - 2.11.1.3 Recommend that the responsible school official receive a private or public reprimand.
  - 2.11.1.4 Enforce the forfeiture of one or more contests in team or individual sports.
  - 2.11.1.5 Enforce the forfeiture of points scored by students in individual competition.
  - 2.11.1.6 A student or staff member may be reprimanded, placed on probation, or suspended from participation for one or more contests.
  - 2.11.1.7 Recommend that the school declare the guilty student ineligible for up to ninety school days or the remainder of the school year.
  - 2.11.1.8 Place the school on probation for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
  - 2.11.1.9 Suspend a school for part or all of the season of an activity.
  - 2.11.1.10 Expel the school from Association membership for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
- 2.11.2 **Student Violations.** If a student violates any of the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, or Approved Rulings during the course of an Association-sponsored district contest, playoff, or state contest, the Board of Control or Executive Director may suspend the student from further competition for any portion or all of the remainder of the subdistrict, district, playoff, or state contests.
- 2.11.3 **Participant Ejections from Athletic Contests.** Any participant ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next athletic contest at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to the other penalties the NSAA or the school may assess.
- 2.11.4 **Coach Ejections from Athletic Contests.** Any coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible to coach the next athletic contest at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to the other penalties the NSAA or the school may assess.
- 2.11.5 **Investigation.** Prior to the assessment of any penalty, the Executive Director will gather data in order to establish intent, fault, and the effect an ineligible participant had on any interschool contest. These factors shall be weighed in determining the severity of the penalty assessed. The Executive Director's decision may be appealed to the Board of Control.
- 2.11.6 **Institution Control.** If the said violation is brought to the attention of the Board of Control as a result of self-policing by the offending school, the Board of Control shall issue the highest of commendations to the administration of the school for its efforts in enforcing the Constitution.

## APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.11

Reference:

- 2.11 *In addition to the above penalties, other penalties may be enforced which are listed in the Bylaws and/or Approved Rulings accompanying activities elsewhere in this Yearbook.*

## 2.12 COACHES AND SPONSORS

- 2.12.1 **School's Responsibility.** The entire management of a school's activity program must be under the control of school authorities, and any team competing in interschool competition must be under the direction of a member of the school's faculty.
- 2.12.1.1 When a team or individuals from a school compete in interschool competition, the team or individuals must be accompanied by the head coach, or assistant coach as defined by the rules, or a school administrator, or certificated faculty member.
- 2.12.2 **Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or Sponsor.** In order to serve as a head or assistant coach or sponsor of any activity sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association, the individual must possess a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate or Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate and have a written contract of employment as a coach or sponsor with the school in which he/she is to perform these duties.
- 2.12.2.1 Individuals who possess a Provisional Trades Certificate and/or Special Services Certificate endorsed in coaching may be employed by a school district as a head or assistant coach in NSAA sponsored activities.
- 2.12.2.2 The head coach/sponsor, assistant coach/sponsor, or certificated faculty member has the following responsibilities:
1. Supervise the individuals or team representing the school in the competition.
  2. Serve as the school's spokesperson in all administrative matters, controversial situations, obtaining medical assistance, talking with representatives of the media and any discussion with contest officials or judges.
  3. In basketball, the only individual who is permitted to use the coach's box or approach the scorer's table for a correctable error situation.
  4. Be seated on the team bench or within the team area during basketball, volleyball, baseball, football, soccer, and softball contests.
  5. Accept awards presented to the school and/or coach.

## APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 2.12.2.2

Reference:

- 2.12.2.2 *All head coaches are required to attend an NSAA Rules Meeting annually before the season begins. Failure to do so will result in possible suspension penalties. From time to time, there may be extreme situations that require a head coach to miss a required NSAA Rules Meeting. Head coaches should contact the NSAA in advance of the rules meetings to seek possible approval to be excused from such attendance.*

*Absence from the required rules meeting will result in the following sanctions:*

### **First Offense in Three-Year Period**

*The head coach will be suspended from coaching in any competition in that activity until*

- (1) the head coach attends a make-up rules meeting, if available; or*  
*(2) the head coach successfully completes the open book test for officials of that activity (70% or higher); and the school's administration verifies that the coach has read all the supporting NSAA, National Federation, and safety information.*

*During this regular season suspension period, the head coach may continue to coach the team at practices.*

### **Second and Subsequent Offenses in Three-Year Period**

*The head coach will be suspended from coaching in all NSAA end-of-season play (subdistricts, districts, playoffs, and state competition).*

*The head coach will be suspended from coaching in regular season competition in that activity until*

- (1) the head coach attends a make-up rules meeting, if available; or*  
*(2) the head coach successfully completes the open book test for officials of that activity (70% or higher); and the school's administration verifies that the coach has read all the supporting NSAA, National Federation, and safety information.*

*During this regular season suspension period, the head coach may continue to coach the team at practices.*

- 2.12.3 **Coaches' Aides.** Schools may contract non-certificated personnel to assist with their activities programs, but such personnel shall be coaches' aides.
- 2.12.3.1 The individuals must have a job description.

- 2.12.3.2 The individual shall not initiate nor change instruction given by the head coach and must carry out specific directions given by the head coach.
- 2.12.3.3 The individual may assist in starting, executing, and completing the specific plan of the learning experience as defined and directed by the head coach.
- 2.12.3.4 The aide should be specifically prepared for duties assigned, to include the handling of emergency situations that arise in the course of his/her work.
- 2.12.3.5 Coach's aides are not to be given the sole responsibility of directing or supervising students during practice. The head coach should be in the immediate practice area.
- 2.12.3.6 When traveling to and from and participating in interschool competition, the team or individuals are to be accompanied by the head coach/sponsor, assistant coach/sponsor, or in case of an emergency, a certificated faculty member.

## 2.13 CLASSIFICATION

- 2.13.1 **Authority.** The Board of Control shall have the authority to divide the members into classes, determine the number of classes and place the member schools into these classes for competition in each activity sponsored by this Association.
- 2.13.1.2 The Board of Control may adjust the classification of schools in unusual situations (such as consolidation, formation of a new school, gain or loss of a school district), provided such information is made known before the first allowable date for fall sports competition each year.
- 2.13.2 **Basis for Classification.** A school's classification shall be based on its total enrollment.
- 2.13.2.1 A school's total enrollment shall be the total boy and girl enrollment in grades nine, ten, and eleven according to the enrollment figures submitted to the State Department of Education on the last Friday in September of the preceding school year.
- 2.13.2.2 If, in a particular activity, the schools are classified for a two-year period, the total enrollment shall be the figures from the State Department of Education on the last Friday in September of the year which immediately precedes the two-year classification period.
- 2.13.2.3 In schools which have grades ten, eleven and twelve only and have multi-junior high schools within the system, the ninth grade enrollment shall be determined by taking the average of the grades ten and eleven enrollment. This average is then added to the grades ten and eleven enrollment to give the total enrollment in grades nine, ten and eleven.
- 2.13.2.4 The total enrollment figures shall be doubled for unisex schools for those activities which are athletic. Numbers will not be doubled in those non-athletic activities where competition is co-ed, i.e., mixed. This would include such activities as debate, speech, play production, journalism, and music.
- 2.13.3 **Classification Period.** In all activities except football, the classification period shall not exceed one year. In football, the classification period shall not exceed two years.
- 2.13.4 **Cooperative Sponsorship.** With the approval of the Board of Control, students from member high schools may be combined for interscholastic activity competition and field a common participating group.
- 2.13.4.1 When forming a common participating group, no more than four member schools may be combined to compete in single class sports and no more than three member schools may be combined to compete in all other activities sponsored by the Association.
- 2.13.4.2 The classification for competition shall be based on the combined enrollment of grades nine, ten, and eleven of the schools involved.
- 2.13.4.3 If the enrollment, when combined, places the cooperative program in a classification higher than that of any of the combined schools, the cooperative program will be placed in the higher class, but the classification of other schools will remain the same.
- 2.13.4.4 The guidelines, as published in the Approved Rulings of this Section, shall be used by the Board of Control in determining if a request for a Cooperative Sponsorship will be approved.
- 2.13.4.5 Applications for new Cooperative Sponsorship must be made jointly by the Boards of Education of the involved schools.
- 2.13.4.6 Requests for the renewal of programs which have been approved previously may be submitted by the Superintendent or his/her designate.
- 2.13.4.7 The requests for new programs or renewals shall be submitted by the following dates:
  - 1. June 1 for Cooperative Programs which will be implemented during the following Fall Sports Season.
  - 2. September 1 for Cooperative Programs which will be implemented during the following Winter Sports Season.
  - 3. January 1 for Cooperative Programs which will be implemented during the following Spring Sports Season.

## APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.13.4

### Reference:

#### 2.13.4 Purpose:

*The philosophy of the Nebraska School Activities Association is to provide an opportunity for high school students to participate in a variety of activities.*

*Through cooperative sponsorship, the opportunity for student participation will be maintained, or increased, by permitting students who do not have a program available in their school to go to another school for activity participation. The problem of declining enrollment, the inherent financial ramifications of supporting the cost of the program, the lack of facilities and equipment, and the problem of providing a quality coaching staff when the number of teaching positions are reduced, make cooperative sponsorship desirable.*

*Schools will not be permitted to use cooperative sponsorship to gain an advantage over other member schools.*

#### *Guidelines:*

1. *No more than three member schools (four, in single class sports) shall be permitted to combine and compete.*
2. *The schools must be in the same geographical area, and the school districts must be contiguous or located in the same school district. If a Class I school district is located between school districts which have high schools, so that their boundaries do not touch, and the high school districts wish to cooperatively sponsor an activity, the contiguous requirement may be waived.*
3. *If a school contacts all contiguous school districts and has been turned down by all, the school can then contact the schools which border the contiguous school districts who have turned down the school searching for an agreement to co-op. This process shall continue until a school is able to obtain a school that will enter into a cooperative agreement.*
4. *The cooperative sponsorship agreement must be for a minimum of two years. The cooperative agreement may be voided at any time by mutual agreement of both schools and approval by the Board of Control. No other cooperative agreement in the same activity may be made with another school until the original two-year period elapses.*
5. *The cooperative agreement will be for each activity. A school may have a cooperative agreement with one school in a particular activity and with another school in another activity.*
6. *Where there is an absence of an effective program in one school, a cooperative program may be established, provided a need is shown to the Board of Control. Examples which may constitute need are: (a) insufficient numbers; (b) lack of staff; and (c) lack of facilities.*
7. *In multi-school districts, the central administration must designate the schools which may request permission to cooperatively sponsor activities in a particular activity.*
8. *If a school in one district wishes to join with a school in a multi-school district in a cooperatively sponsored activity, the school must join with the nearest high school in the multi-school district which offers the activity.*
9. *If a school previously has offered a program in an activity and there has been no significant decrease in high school enrollment, the school would not be permitted to participate in a cooperative program.*
10. *If a school has previously played eleven-man football and has sufficient interest and enrollment for eight-man football, the school would not be permitted to cooperatively sponsor football with another school. If schools previously playing six-man football agree to cooperatively sponsor football, the cooperative team may play six-man football if the combined enrollment does not exceed forty. If the combined enrollment exceeds forty, the schools must play eight-man football, or, if the schools previously played eight-man football and agree to cooperatively sponsor football, the cooperative team may play eight-man football if the combined enrollment does not exceed 83. If the combined enrollment exceeds 83, the cooperative team must play eleven-man football.*
11. *Each school is required to pay a registration fee for each activity in which the school participates. The amount of such fees will be set by the Board of Control.*

## 2.14 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION

- 2.14.1 In accordance with Federal and State Laws and the interpretation of these laws, the Association through its membership shall support equal opportunities for all students regardless of race, gender, national origin, or disability.

## 2.15 AWARDS TO STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS

- 2.15.1 **School's Responsibility.** The school shall have the control and supervision of the giving and receiving of awards to students.

- 2.15.2 **Awards to Students.** Awards shall be kept within reasonable bounds.
- 2.15.2.1 For each activity season sponsored by the NSAA in which a student participates, he/she may accept a symbolic or merchandise award which does not exceed the full retail value as set by the Board of Control.
- 2.15.2.2 Awards to individuals for activity participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any negotiable instrument are not allowed.
- 2.15.3 **Awards to Schools.** No school shall accept a cash or merchandise award for participation in any interscholastic contest in activities sponsored by the NSAA except that organizations sponsoring such contest may underwrite the cost of the participants not to exceed their total expenses, and provided that all contesting schools are subsidized on an equal basis.

### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.15.1-2.15.3**

*Reference:*

- 2.15.2.1 *The current full retail value of the symbolic or merchandise awards as set by the Board of Control is \$50.*
- 2.15.2 *Individual sports are activities in which one person may participate and have the possibility of winning the contest.*
- 2.15.2.2 *Designation of a school's letter winner as a recipient of a discount in the price of athletic equipment shall not be allowed.*
- 2.15.2.2 *Students may participate for remuneration in the non-athletic activities.*
- 2.15.2.2 *Combination sports are activities in which there is a recognized individual champion and a recognized team champion made up of a specified number of people. The combination sports are boys and girls golf, and boys and girls cross country.*
- 2.15.3 *Team sports are activities in which there is no provision for an individual championship, and it is mandatory that a certain number of people be associated together before they are allowed to participate for the purpose of winning the contest.*