



# — COACHES —

**Help Protect the WIAA Eligibility of Your Athletes!**

**Head Coaches — Share This With Your Assistants**

Here are **SOME** examples —

## 1. AMATEUR STATUS

Don't let your athletes get things like free hamburgers ... don't let them receive compensation for having their picture taken or their name used in connection with a business ... don't let them get merchandise of any kind as an award for out-of-school (or in-school) competition ... tell them never to participate in any sports event with a name other than their own. Don't let them be identified as an athlete in the endorsement of a product or service.

## 2. NONSCHOOL ACTIVITY

Don't let your athletes participate in any kind of nonschool competition or activity (even as an individual) during their school season of that sport ... don't let them get involved in something that looks like next season's school team practicing out-of-season, except that they may voluntarily assemble themselves in the summertime without coach/school involvement ... don't be involved with them out-of-season in an instructional (coaching) manner except during the "contact window" as approved for your sport ... don't let athletes ride with you to a nonschool event where they are competing ... don't drive them to camps or clinics, unless it is during the approved "contact window" for your sport.

## 3. SCHOLARSHIP

Remind your athletes that they must meet school and DPI requirements defining a full-time student and have received no more than one failing grade (including incompletes) in the most recent grade-reporting period. A student who becomes academically ineligible may regain eligibility on the 16th scheduled school day, by meeting the academic standard following a period of 15 scheduled school days and nights of ineligibility. Fall season academic suspensions may be 21 calendar days or 1/3 of season – see WIAA Handbook.

## 4. ATTENDANCE

Remind your athletes that they are eligible only during the first eight semesters after they become freshmen, or first six semesters after becoming sophomores ... remind them they may never have more than four seasons in the same sport.

## 5. RESIDENCE

Remind your athletes that, except for unusual situations, their parents (both of them) must live in your school district, in their primary residence, in order for them to play ... remind them that reaching the age of 18 doesn't allow them to go to school anywhere they want ... remind them, if their parents are separated or divorced, they cannot move from one parent to another and still be eligible unless their situation is approved by the WIAA office in advance of competing at your school. Nonpublic school students must reside full time with their parents in their primary residence. Contact the WIAA regarding the eligibility of tuition paying students and open enrolled students.

### **MAKE NO ASSUMPTIONS**

Assume all transfer (new) students are not eligible until everything has been checked by your school administration and the WIAA office.

## 6. OTHERS

Remind your athletes they must pay their own way to a camp or clinic and to check with you if someone offers them a reduced fee, or no fee at all ... remind them about your training rules (in season and out) ... remind them they must get a physical at least every other school year.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER SITUATIONS. THESE ARE GIVEN ONLY AS EXAMPLES. IF THERE IS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT ANY WIAA RULE, CHECK WITH YOUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OR PRINCIPAL.