

Frequently

Asked

Questions

*Including
Steps
to
Eligibility*



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GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q. One of our student athletes just had an outstanding performance. I believe she may have broken a NYSPHSAA record. How do I submit her name to be included in the records listed on the website www.nysphsaa.org?

Please go to the website, www.nysphsaa.org and click on RECORDS. You will then be directed to a page that includes the RECORD REPORTING FORMS and the record books for the NYSPHSAA and NFHS. Please click on the REPORTING FORMS and that will direct you to the forms that you will need to submit the record.

Q. I have heard that the classification cut off numbers have been changed for the 2010 – 2011 school year. Is it true, and if so what are the new numbers?

The NYSPHSAA annually reviews the classification numbers to determine if a change is warranted. At the December 2009 Executive Committee meeting, the cut off numbers were changed for next school year. For 2010 – 2011 the numbers will be: Class AA 925 and up, Class A 525 – 924, Class B 305 – 524, Class C 175 – 304 and Class D 174 and below.

Q. How would I go about nominating someone for the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame?

Please go to our website, www.nysphsaa.org . Click on the FORMS button (on the top) and you will be able to access the nomination form. Please make sure that you provide all the information that is required with your nomination packet. The nomination must be approved by the Section prior to being submitted to the NYSPHSAA office. The completed nomination forms must be submitted by the December 15th deadline.

Q. Where do I seek advice when I have a sport specific question such as a clarification of a sport rule, not an eligibility standard?

We suggest that you contact the sport coordinator from your local section. We consider all sport coordinators to be the recognized expert in their particular sport. If they are unable to assist you, please contact our state sport coordinator for clarification.

Q. I have two students who would like to participate in practices with the soccer team. One student has been deemed ineligible due to the transfer rule and the other student is a special needs student who turned 19 prior to July 1st. May I allow them to participate?

No. All “athletes must meet all standards of eligibility for practice or competition.” (NYSPHSAA Handbook p. 90, 100)

Q. I have a male student who wants to swim as an independent, is this possible.

The NYSPHSAA does not recognize independent competitors; the student must represent the school in which they are a bona fide student. A student can be an individual competitor, representing their school with a certified coach who has been appointed by the Board of Education. The athlete must meet all the standards of eligibility and meet the criteria under the Representation regulation.

Q. May I split my tennis team on a particular day into two squads and have them compete in matches at two different locations and/or may I split my tennis team on a particular day into two squads and have one group play a match while the other goes to another school for a scrimmage?

Yes, you may split your squad BUT the team will be charged with two matches on that day toward the maximum number of matches (18 for tennis) for the season. The scrimmage would not count toward the maximum as long as it truly is conducted as a scrimmage (Please refer to the 2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook for how a scrimmage must be conducted). If you go over the maximum number of matches for the season the team and all the members of the team are ineligible for the remainder of the entire sport season. (Note: Only 18 tennis matches are permitted for 2009-2011.)

Q. How do I keep up with the NYSPHSAA initiatives and changes such as new regulations and the progress of sport committees?

The Association has a monthly NYSPHSAA Office Report highlighting the most updated information. The Office Report will be emailed directly to all Athletic Administrators and is available on our web site www.nysphsaa.org.

Q. Is it possible to email the NYSPHSAA to ensure that a student athlete is eligible for high school competition?
The NYSPHSAA encourages communication via email under most circumstances but not to assist you in determining the eligibility status of a student. Too often there are extenuating circumstances that are not easily conveyed in an email. Therefore we request you contact the office by phone to discuss the matter.

Q. How are the All-State Teams selected?
The NYSPHSAA does not sponsor or endorse any All-State Team. All-State teams are usually selected by outside organizations such as a coaches association or the sports writers association.

Q. Where can I find the most recent changes to NFHS playing rules?
The recently adopted sport rule changes can be found on the NFHS web site. The internet site address is www.nfhs.org or click on the link located on the www.nysphsaa.org web site.

Q. My varsity and junior varsity bowling teams are scheduled at home on side-by-side lanes. If a junior varsity athlete plays only the first game, may I move him up to the varsity squad during a later game?
No. Once an athlete enters competition, regardless if it is a minute or half a contest, he/she is charged with their one competition of the day. They are not eligible to enter another competition that day.

Q. After competing in one contest we discovered a student/athlete did not have a physical examination and approval by the school physician. Is there a penalty?
Yes. To be eligible to practice or compete, an athlete must have a physical exam and approval of the school medical officer. The penalty is forfeiture of the contest. Furthermore, none of the practices participated in by the student prior to the date of the school physician's approval count toward the required number of practices.

Q. Recently we received an invitation to a track meet which included a coed relay event. Is this permissible?
*While boys' and girls' track meets may be combined and held at the same site, no coed events may be held. Boys may only compete against boys, and likewise girls against girls. Relays are considered one event despite the fact there are multiple participants in that event. All participants must be of the same gender. *2004 NFHS*

Q. We have scheduled 24 games for our ice hockey team. It appears that we will receive a forfeit next week due to team illness. May we schedule another contest so we can play the maximum number of contests allowed?
*A forfeit is considered a contest. Therefore you should not schedule another game or you would be in violation of the maximum number of contests allowed. (Note: **Only 20 Ice Hockey games are permitted for 2009-2011.**)*

Q. My volleyball team has been invited to participate in a three day tournament. Is this considered to be one contest or three contests?
*In volleyball, each day of a tournament shall be counted as one contest. The team will use three of the 24 maximum number of contests. NYSPHSAA Handbook p. 115 - Volleyball. (Note: **Only 20 Volleyball games are permitted for 2009-2011.**)*

Q. We are considering conducting a "double dual" in track and field. Is this permissible?
Our Sports Standards of one night rest between contests, as well as the individual limitation of one contest per day, preclude holding "double duals" in track and field. There is a distinction between a "double dual" meet and a multiple school meet. As approved by our governing board in 1984, if the competitors from all schools compete at the same time in events (a multiple school meet) and adhere to the daily individual limitation, then these meets would count as one contest towards the maximum number allowed. For example, when four cross country teams all run the course at the same time, this would be one contest in terms of NYSPHSAA's maximum number of contests regardless if some additional superficial scoring is used-such as Team A beats Team B, C and D and Team B beats Teams C and D. On the other hand, a "double dual" wrestling meet would count as two contests as all contestants do not compete in an event at the same time, even though the individuals do not exceed the four-bouts-a-day limitation.

Q. My soccer coach wants to move a Junior Varsity player up to the Varsity squad. Is this permissible?

In terms of high school programs the NYSPHSAA has no restrictions on movement from one level of play to another for Freshman, Junior Varsity and Varsity level teams. An athlete could compete on the Varsity level on day and then compete on the Junior Varsity level on the following day. Note: Some leagues have more restrictive standards.

Q. How are people chosen as members of the National Federation's game rules committees?

Representatives to the National Federation's rules committees come from eight geographical sections of the country. New York belongs to Section 1 of the National Federation which is comprised of eight states (including the New England states and New Jersey). When openings occur on the various rules committees for Section 1, only those states which use the National Federation rules in a specific sport without modification are eligible to submit candidates for consideration. The NYSPHSAA generally submits the names of our state sports coordinators. In addition to sectional representation on the rules committees, the NFICA and the NFIOA also select members to serve on these committees.

Q. Why does the start of the fall season begin so early in August? The dates often cut into family vacations and summer employment.

The NYSPHSAA has not established sport seasons since 1980. At that time authority to establish sport seasons was given to each of the eleven sections. The NYSPHSAA governing board only approves of deviations to the section's seasons.

Q. May a student-athlete compete in an athletic contest without their coach present?

No. All student-athletes representing their high school must be under the direct supervision of a qualified coach appointed by the Board of Education of the school district.

Q. Can a baseball player participate in a JV game then participate in a Varsity game that follows?

NYSPHSAA does not differentiate between JV and Varsity programs. A baseball player may participate in both games as long as he does not compete in more than 2 games in a day and exceed the maximum number of 24 contests permitted in the season. However, there may be local Section or League rules that may restrict the player from participating in both. (Note: Only 20 games are permitted for 2009-2011.)

Q. Do all athletic directors have to attend a NYSPHSAA workshop?

Beginning in the 2007 – 2008 school year, each school district is required to have their athletic director attend an annual mandatory NYSPHSAA Eligibility Workshop. Failure to comply with the mandate will result in the school being ineligible for post season competition.

Q. Now that wrestling, winter track, cross country and spring track are able to count the number of competitions for the individual competitor what is the penalty if a member of the team exceeds the maximum number of contests.

The penalty remains the same as it has always has been. "If a team or individual exceeds the maximum number of contests permitted, the penalty is team ineligibility from the date of violation for the rest of the season." The team in which the violation occurred would be ineligible for the remainder of the season. To assist coaches and athletic administrators to keep track of the contests entered the NYSPHSAA will have a "Competition Form" available on our website for use in the coming school year.

AMATEUR REGULATIONS

Q. Several student athletes are hoping to be hired by the Parks Department to supervise and instruct our town's summer playground program. Will such employment hurt their amateur status?

No. Our Amateur Standard specifically exempts instructing, supervising or officiating in any organized youth sports program which includes recreation and playground programs. A good rule of thumb is to remember a scholastic athlete may be employed working with individuals whose level of play does not exceed his/her level of participation.

Q. Our local Rotary Club wants to give a scholarship award of \$500 to an outstanding athlete. Is this permissible? *Scholarship awards are exempt from our Amateur Rule if they are held by the awarding organization and paid directly to the institute of high learning chosen by the student.*

Q. One of our scholastic bowlers filled in as a substitute on an adult league where money was awarded as prizes. Now we are told the student is ineligible. Why?

While all other sports follow our Standard #2 Amateur, bowling also follows USBC Rule 400, which puts limits on prizes for bowlers.

Q. We have a young man who is an outstanding bowler. His father told me that the child plans to participate in the US Open Qualifier, as well as the World Championships. The father informs me that all prize money will go to a scholarship fund, under guidelines established by the United States Bowling Congress (Rule 400.) Can this young man participate if he declines any prizes that are worth more than \$250?

Please refer to page 91 of the 2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook, specifically Section A #3 which speaks directly to scholarships. The USBC requires scholarship monies to be placed in their SMART fund. These funds must ONLY be used for a scholarship to an institution of higher learning.

BONA FIDE STUDENT

Q. A district resident has inquired about the athletic eligibility of their child. The student attends a small non public school in our community which does not offer any athletic opportunities for their student body. May they participate in our modified athletic program at the public school?

No, they are ineligible to compete because they are not a Bona Fide Student in your district which requires the child to attend your school and enroll in three classes plus Physical Education (2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook, Pages 38, 87 and 94).

Q. Our neighboring school district does not sponsor an ice hockey program. Several students are interested in participating on our teams. Can they tryout for our team?

No, they are not eligible to do so. A common misconception held by coaches and parents is that if a sport is not offered in one school a student can go to another school which sponsors a program. This is not true. A student must be registered in a school (Bona Fide Student) to be eligible for its athletic programs.

Q. A student registered in a private school located within our school district's boundaries desires to participate on our high school soccer team. Is he eligible to do so?

No. The student must be registered in the high school he represents and taking at least four subjects including Physical Education (Bona Fide Student Rule). While public school districts must provide certain services to non-public school students, extracurricular activities such as athletics are not included.

CLUB TEAMS

Q. One of the schools in our league is forming a club team to foster the development of a girl's gymnastics team. They had asked to schedule a scrimmage and a contest with our junior varsity gymnastics team. Is this permissible?

Interscholastic athletic teams can only scrimmage and/or compete against other school board approved interscholastic teams. These teams must follow all Commissioners' Regulations and NYSPHSAA Standards. The State Education Department or NYSPHSAA does not recognize club teams. They do not need to follow any regulations governing scholastic sports.

Q. We are thinking of starting a girls' club lacrosse team to get the sport started in our school. We hope to participate in a limited number of contests this year. Is this acceptable?

You certainly could start a club team for girls' lacrosse instead of an interscholastic team; however, you should first explore if other club teams exist. If so you would have opportunities for competition. If not, keep in mind that interscholastic teams may not practice/scrimmage with or compete against club teams.

Q. This year our school has initiated a varsity level crew program. In the past, when crew was organized as a club team, we competed against other school club teams as well as rowing organizations' teams. My athletic director tells me I can not compete against these teams anymore. Is this true?

Yes. The Commissioner's Regulations as well as NYSPHSAA standards restrict board of education approved scholastic athletic teams to competition only with other similarly approved athletic teams. Scholastic athletic teams are mandated to follow the Commissioner's Regulations as well as all eligibility standards of the Association. School club/activities programs as well as outside groups are not required to follow any of these regulations. Your varsity crew team may only compete against other scholastic crew teams. Further more this same restriction applies when participating in multi-team invitationals.

COLLEGE ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Q. One of our soccer players is attending a community college part-time and wonders if he can practice with that college's soccer team?

Your soccer player may not practice with the college squad during the scholastic soccer season or he will become ineligible from the date of participation.

Q. One of our students is attending an accelerated program full-time at a local community college. She has not graduated and is still under 19. Is she eligible?

The student must still be meeting all Commissioner Regulations and NYSPHSAA Standards to have athletic eligibility. Of particular importance, the high school must be granting credit for 3 courses plus physical education for her college courses.

Q. While visiting a college campus may a high school athlete participate in a practice or competition with the college team? What are the limitations?

The NYSPHSAA standard #7 states that a student athlete may not participate in practice or competition with any individual or team(s) representing a college in that sport in that season. However, for example, it would be permissible for a student to participate in a basketball practice at the college if it were held during our fall or spring sport season.

COMBINING OF TEAMS - SMALL TEAMS

Q. Our district has two high schools – East and West. East has a wrestling program. Since West does not sponsor a wrestling team may students from West participate on East’s team?

To participate on a high school’s athletic team the student must be a bona fide student of that school. In other words, a student must be registered in that school and taking three courses plus physical education. This rule applies to all high schools regardless if they are located in the same district or not. However, a merger may be requested.

Q. Our school is conducting interscholastic swimming for one student. The Handbook states the number of required practices which must be completed prior to the first competition. If our one swimmer participates in the number of practices stipulated for an individual is he eligible to compete?

No, he is not eligible. Since your one swimmer is the team, he must complete the number of practices specific for the team prior to any competition.

Q. May a parochial school located within our district combine with our high school’s swimming program?

Only NYSPHSAA member schools may receive permission to combine sports programs. If the parochial school is a non-member, they must first join the section and the athletic association. When that is accomplished they may petition the section to combine swimming programs with another member school.

Q. We do not have a swimming program at our school. Parents have inquired if their son, an outstanding swimmer, may compete as an independent in scholastic swim meets?

All competition conducted by our schools must only be between or among member schools. No student is eligible to enter such competition without representing a school. Only two avenues of action are open to schools wishing to provide opportunity for a single student; they are 1) establish their own program, or 2) seek to form a single team with another school district.

Q. Our son has been a competitive swimmer for 10 years. He has expressed a sincere interest in competing at the high school level with a desire to compete at states. His high school has a pool but no team. How would we go about having him compete either for his high school or “unattached” with eligibility to swim at states?

In order for your son to compete he would have to represent the school in which he attends. NYSPHSAA does not recognize “unattached” swimmers. He would have to represent his school when competing. The other option would be to have a combined or “merged” team with a neighboring district, if your school was willing.

Q. Our school district does not sponsor an ice hockey team. May my son play for the neighboring school district which does have a team?

No, your son must be a bona fide student, taking three courses and physical education in the high school represented to be eligible. However, your school district may wish to investigate the possibility of combining schools to form one program.

COMPETITION

Q. In April members of our indoor track team have been invited to an invitational championship. May we participate?

After the indoor track season ends schools may not participate in competition for that sport. No team or individual student may represent its school in any post-season game or tournament. Individuals may attend such competition unattached to the school. No school uniforms, equipment or financial support is permitted.

Q. Our cross country team has received an invitation to a cross country meet being hosted by a nonmember, private school. May our teams compete against schools that are not NYSPHSAA members?

Our schools are permitted to scrimmage and compete against nonmember public, private and parochial schools that belong to the New York State Federation of Secondary Schools Athletic Association. In addition, our member schools may also compete against NYSPHSAA approved Friend and Neighbors.

Q. Last spring we replayed part of a contest in baseball as the result of a protest on a day we had a double header scheduled. We were told we had to cancel one of the games. Was that right?

Yes, while the game or part of a game replayed as a result of a protest does not count as an extra game, the scheduling of contests still must adhere to the time between contests. Though baseball is permitted two (2) contests per day, the "protest" game counted as one of the games allowed.

Q. Our basketball team has been invited to a tournament. All the schools are from New York except one school belongs to the CHSAA (Catholic High School Athletic Association). Are we permitted to play them?

Our member schools are permitted to scrimmage and compete against any New York public, private and parochial school that belongs to the New York State Federation of Secondary School Athletic Associations. The CHSAA is one of the four athletic associations comprising that group.

Q. Due to injury we will only have 15 players eligible for a football game this weekend. Our opponent has agreed we will only scrimmage on the day of the game. Is there a problem with that?

Yes. All interschool contacts (both scrimmage and contests) in football are permitted only when each school has the required number of students who are physically fit and eligible. For eleven-man football this is 16 or more players. (revised 6/04)

Q. Our league is discussing using a 10 run rule in baseball this coming spring. May we adopt this rule?

In October 1998 the NYSPHSAA waived baseball's 10 run rule. A league or section may not use the rule without the approval of the NYSPHSAA's governing board. This does not prohibit an individual school or coach ending a contest prior to its full completion for whatever the reason.

Q. May a school practice/scrimmage against a club team?

No, interscholastic teams may not practice/scrimmage with or compete against club teams. (Handbook page 86)

Q. Our local community college is planning a basketball tournament in December with area school teams invited. I told the college that scholastic teams could not participate without a secondary school co-sponsor. Am I right?

Yes, scholastic teams can only compete in competition which have a school sponsor or co-sponsor (see Standard #18 - Outside Agencies). Furthermore, any competition co-sponsored with an outside agency must have your section athletic councils approval.

DUAL SPORT PARTICIPATION

Q. Can a student athlete play two sports in one season?

That depends if the individual section permits dual participation. The NYSPHSAA permits the Section Athletic Councils to make that determination. (2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook - Representation, page 101)

Q. A student has asked if he can participate in two sports, baseball and track, this spring. Is this permitted?

The NYSPHSAA does not prohibit such participation. A Section Athletic Council, however, may have adopted more stringent regulations. Should a student choose to participate in two sports at the same time, he/she must complete the required number of practice sessions for each sport.

SENIOR ALL-STAR CONTESTS

Q. A senior basketball player has been invited to participate in an All-Star senior contest as well as an all-star contest being held out-of-state. May he participate in both of these contests?

All-Star contests are approved by the section in which the contest is to be held and by the NYSPHSAA Executive Director. Specific guidelines must be adhered to when conducting these contests. A senior may only participate in one approved All-Star contest in a sport.

Q. Our league always hosts NYSPHSAA approved All Star basketball tournaments for boys and girls. This year we are going to schedule the games a week after our sectional tournament. Is this a problem?

When scheduling All Star contests the organizers must keep in mind that only seniors who have completed their secondary school eligibility in that sport may compete in these contests. Therefore, scheduling your All Star contests prior to NYSPHSAA's post schedule tournaments (regional through finals) eliminates all seniors who are members of teams still competing. Should a senior from such a team compete in your event he/she will become ineligible for the rest of the sport season.

EXHIBITION SWIMMERS

Q. Our school has a one girl swim team. Often she is an exhibition swimmer at dual school meets. Is she eligible for sectional and other post-schedule competition?

In August 1991, the NYSPHSAA governing body approved that times established by exhibition swimmers could be used to qualify for post-schedule competition and that an exhibition performance may count as one of the six required meets. Swimmers must have a total of six school contests. (see page 88 of the 2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook)

EXTENDED ELIGIBILITY

NOTE: Effective July 27, 2010, the NYS Regents passed a regulation permitting students with disabilities to request permission to participate under certain conditions.

Contact the NYSED or NYSPHSAA.

Q. An 18 year old senior at my school is inquiring about their eligibility status. The student is entering their 5th year of high school and has participated in four years of soccer and basketball. I've heard of a "5th year of eligibility." Can I apply for a waiver of the Duration of Competition Regulation?

For many years, the term "5th year" has been inappropriately used to describe an "extension of eligibility." The Duration of Competition restricts opportunity/participation to four consecutive years, beginning with entry into the 9th grade. Therefore, a 5th year of "participation" may not be granted. (See pages 46 and 94 of the 2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook) See Note above.

Q. Can a fifth year senior compete in our athletic program if they are under the age of 19?

According to the Commissioner's Duration of Competition Regulation, a student athlete has 4 consecutive seasons of eligibility upon entry in to the 9th grade. Exceptions are approved if it is proven the student did not enter into competition for a season due to accident or illness or similar circumstances beyond the control of the student. (2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook, page 46) In addition, the accident or illness must have had caused the need to attend school for one or more additional semesters in order to graduate. (NYSED approved June 2009) See Note above.

Q. We have a learning disabled youngster who has participated in wrestling. Next year he will be 19 years old. Can a special waiver be granted?

The 19 year old age rule is the Commissioner's regulation. To date no waiver has been granted by the Department. The rule has been administered equally to all students. See Note above.

Q. In the Commissioner's Duration of Competition Regulation, it states "that if sufficient evidence is presented... the pupils failure to enter competition...was caused by illness, accident, or similar circumstances beyond the control of the student..." What is meant as similar circumstances?

According to the State Education Department, similar circumstances has been defined as "similar circumstances related to an illness or an accident."

Q. A student has turned 19 in June but is currently a sophomore due to the fact she has immigrated and has experienced difficulty with academics and social interaction due to language barriers. She has average athletic ability and will not experience much playing time. We believe she would benefit greatly from our athletic program. May a waiver of the Duration of Competition regulation be granted?

No. Under these circumstances permission would not be granted to participate in the high school athletic program. The Commissioner of Education has been consistent in limiting athletic participation to four consecutive years after entering the 9th grade until the student reaches the age of 19. It is permitted for a student who attains the age of 19 on or after July 1 to continue to participate during that year. The July 27, 2010 approved NYSED regulation would not apply under this circumstance.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE & INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Q. We have a foreign exchange student who graduated from high school in his country. I know he cannot compete, but is he allowed to practice with the team since he is enrolled in the high school?

A student must meet ALL eligibility standards to practice or compete, therefore the foreign exchange student would not be permitted to practice.

Q. A student from Canada has enrolled in our school. While he has been graduated from a Quebec secondary school, he only attended high school for three years. Is he eligible to participate in ice hockey?

No, he is not. Our Foreign Student Standard states "All foreign students who have graduated from the secondary school system in their country are ineligible for the interscholastic athletic program". This standard is consistent with the Commissioner's Duration of Competition Standard which limits eligibility to prior to graduation regardless of the number of years of high school attended.

Q. We will be receiving a foreign exchange program student this year. Is it true that for the student to have athletic eligibility the exchange program must be approved?

One year of athletic eligibility is granted if the exchange programs has been approved by the Council of Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and the student meets all State Education Department and NYSPHSAA standards. If the student is not in an approved CSIET Program, please treat them like a transfer student. NOTE: A listing of CSIET approved programs is available on the NYSPHSAA web site.

Q. We have a student from Denmark who attended our school last year as part of a CSIET foreign exchange. He continues to live with a family in the community. Is he eligible for athletics?

Our Standard #9 Foreign Students grants bona fide foreign exchange students only one year of athletic eligibility. Essentially this is a waiver of the Transfer Rule. A foreign student who elects to stay a second year falls under the Transfer Rule. He would be ineligible for one year in all sports he participated in the previous year.

Q. How is eligibility determined for a foreign exchange student?

If the student is affiliated with a foreign exchange program approved by CSIET, our transfer rule is waived for a maximum of one year to permit athletic eligibility. If the student is not in an approved CSIET program our transfer rule would be used to determine eligibility. Please refer to the NYSPHSAA Handbook for other restrictions.

Q. One of our ice hockey players will be part of a student exchange program to Norway next year. He will need a fifth year upon return to complete his studies. Will he have athletic eligibility?

This standard is a Commissioner of Education Regulation. You may apply to your Section for an extension of eligibility of athletic eligibility. However you must counsel your student that he may not participate in competition in any sport while he is abroad. Such participation would render him ineligible for an extension of eligibility.

GED PROGRAMS

Q. We will be placing a student in an alternative school to enroll in a high school equivalency program (GED). Does the student have athletic eligibility?

Yes, the student would have athletic eligibility at the high school of last attendance if he/she meets Commissioner's Regulations. That is, the student must be enrolled in the equivalent of 3 courses (at least 2.5 hours of class instruction) plus meeting the physical education requirement.

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS

Q. If a student's physical examination expires 10 days after the start of the sport season is the athlete eligible for practices and competition until the end of the sport season?

YES! If the health history update was completed 30 days prior to the start of the sport season. Sections or school districts do have the option of adopting a more restrictive rule if they so desire.

Q. Our school physician will not approve a student for soccer due to blindness in one eye. I know the school physician has absolute authority in these decisions. Is there any avenue for appeal?

Yes; in 1978 an amendment was passed to Title 6, Article 89 of the Education Law. This amendment (commonly known as the Dunne Bill) provides for a special proceeding whereby the student may petition the local Supreme Court. Such a petition must be supported in affidavits from at least two physicians.

Q. Our school physician has disqualified a student from participating in lacrosse because he has one kidney. Can this decision be appealed?

The school physician is the final authority in determining the physical readiness for athletic eligibility. However, New York State law permits parents to commence a special proceeding in the Supreme Court if they do not accept this determination.

HOME SCHOOL

Q. Two students who are home schooled want to participate in our athletic program. May they?

No. Home-instructed students are not eligible to participate in interscholastic sports – Section 135.4 (2) (7) of the Commissioner's Regulations directs that a participant in interscholastic sports must be enrolled in the public school.

INELIGIBLE COMPETITORS

Q. We have just found that one of our wrestlers was an ineligible competitor during our first two dual meets. Do we forfeit his wins in his weight class?

In 1988 the NYSPHSAA changed the penalty rule to make the consequence the same for team and individual sports. If a school uses an ineligible student in any part of a contest, such contest is forfeited to the opposing schools. In this instance the whole team forfeits the two contests the ineligible wrestler participated in. However, in individual sports the performances and outcomes of the other individuals would stand.

Q. After a wrestling competition we found that one athlete participated in a weight class below that which he was certified for. Do we forfeit that bout?

You are correct in that the wrestler is ineligible. However, the entire wrestling contest is forfeited to the opposing school as per Standard 19 - Penalties. The performances and outcomes of the other individuals would stand.

JEWELRY

Q. I am aware of the NYSPHSAA jewelry rule. One of my swimmers, who wears a medical alert medal, was told by an official it must be completely covered. Would you clarify the rule?

Yes, we have a regulation that all religious and medical medals must be taped to the body. Religious medals are taped and under the uniform, while medical alert medals must be taped to the body with the emblem visible. Obviously without the emblem visible there is little use to wear the medical alert.

Q. A player on our JV baseball team recently pierced his tongue. Is this considered to be visible body jewelry and should he remove it to participate?

Yes. He must remove the tongue stud to be an eligible competitor.

MIXED COMPETITION

Q. A freshman male student is interested in participating on a girls sports team. Must the school district re-evaluate him on a yearly basis?

Yes. According to the mixed competition guidelines, all students need to be re-evaluated yearly. Yearly evaluation assures the monitoring of the growth and development of the individual student.

Q. Last year a female student was approved to participate on a team designed for males under the guidelines of Mixed Competition. Does the student need to be evaluated each year?

In 1993 the guideline was altered to state, "the panel decision applies only to the sport and season for which the application was made. Subsequent seasons or sports will require another review." The reason for change was predominately safety; a student's athletic profile could change dramatically from one year to the next.

Q. Our school offers both softball and baseball, can a girl opt to play baseball? Are Baseball and Softball considered two different sports?

Please reference the NYSAAA Handbook. For the purpose of Mixed Competition baseball and softball are considered the same sport. By referencing the chart you will discover that baseball/softball is a panel approved sport. In addition it states when a school has a male (baseball) and female (softball) team females are permitted on the team designed for boys with approval of the Superintendent of Schools and approval of the Review Panel. This order of approval must be followed. Please be aware the decision to approve participation should be based upon the female's ability to compete successfully on the baseball team. We also reference this in the 2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook (p 98) letter "c" regarding the Exceptional girl.

If you do not have the NYSAAA binder, we strongly suggest purchasing one for your high school. It can be ordered from our on-line store or the NYSAAA.

MODIFIED SPORTS

Q. Our basketball team is sure to make our sectional playoffs. Is it possible to move our talented ninth grade Modified Program basketball players up to our varsity level team?

Any students participating in the Modified Program may not be moved up to a junior varsity or varsity team after completion of fifty percent of their modified schedule. For example, if your modified basketball team has a schedule of 14 games and the team has competed in 7 contests, the team members could not be promoted to a high school team. Exception: If there is no JV team in a sport, 9th grade students may be promoted following the end of the modified season for past season play only.

Q. The NYSPHSAA standard which permits a student to tryout at the high school level without jeopardizing participation at the modified level has recently been changed. What is meant by "may not return to the modified level until the tryout is over"?

The tryout is over when the level of appropriate participation has been decided. The student does not have to participate in a tryout for the entire length of time but may return to the modified level after their evaluation period is over. A student may not exceed the maximum number of try out days.

Q. We have nearly completed our junior varsity baseball season. For the last few games we would like to move two modified program baseball players up to the junior varsity level. May we do this?

Modified program competitors may not be moved up to a high school level of play after completion of fifty percent of their modified schedule. If the modified baseball program consists of 14 games, the two players would be ineligible to be moved to the junior varsity level if their team has competed in seven or more games.

Q. Where do I find the rules for Modified Sports?

There is a section of the 2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook (pages 125-155) dedicated to Modified sports. Any situation not covered in the Modified portion of the Handbook shall be governed by the Eligibility Standards of the NYSPHSAA.

OFFICIALS

Q. This year we are operating on a contingency budget. In order to save expenses may we have our physical education staff officiate our modified program competition?

Officials from the NYSPHSAA contracted officiating organizations must be used. The numbers to be employed are stipulated in your local section's contract. The only time you may have a non-certified person officiate a contest is if on a given day there is no one available from your local officials' chapter which services the sport in question.

OUT-OF-STATE COMPETITION

Q. The varsity basketball team is interested in participating in an out of state eight team tournament. The schedule calls for the team to play two games in one day. Is this permitted? If not, may we apply for a waiver to be able to play?

The NYSPHSAA rules limit participation in only one basketball game per day. When traveling out-of-state all member schools must abide by all NYSPHSAA approved rules and there is no mechanism for a waiver to be obtained. Please speak to the host school of the event to see if the tournament schedule can be adjusted so your team may participate in conformance with the Association's regulations.

Q. Our baseball team is going to Florida during our spring break. We intent to scrimmage other schools during our stay. Is this permissible?

Scrimmages conducted out-of-state are permitted. Coaches should remember scrimmages are practice sessions that are simulated contests. See the 2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook for how a scrimmage must be conducted. Otherwise a game will be charged against the maximum number of contests allowed. Schools are responsible to ensure that all schools they scrimmage against are members of the state associations.

Q. I have an exceptional track athlete who would like to participate in an out-of-state track meet. I called the NYSPHSAA office and found out that the meet has been sanctioned by the host state and by New York. Can he go to the meet with his parents and represent our high school?

No. An athlete must be under the direction and supervision of a certified coach approved by your school's Board of Education in order to compete in a sanctioned contest, game or meet. However, your athlete may compete on his own in open meets or events organized for athletes not representing their schools. He may compete "unattached" - he may not represent his school (no school uniform, no school coach, no school transportation or financial assistance).

Q. Our girl's lacrosse team is traveling out of state to compete against a high school team that is a member in good standing in their state's athletic association. Do we need to be concerned about any other rules?

Yes. According to the NYSPHSAA Interstate Contest regulation (page 97) when schools schedule interscholastic contests with schools in other states, each school will observe its own State regulations and standards of eligibility. In the case of girl's lacrosse, your team will still be required to wear goggles even if the host school is not required to do so. In other sports, regulations such as nights rest, games in a day and other regulations like pitching limitations must be adhered to.

OUTSIDE TEAM PARTICIPATION

Q. Several of my varsity baseball players are joining a recreational baseball league which begins in May. Can they participate in this league while on my team? What about players participating with adults?

In 1988 the NYSPHSAA eliminated its rule which placed prohibitions on outside competition participation by scholastic athletes. Your baseball players may participate on outside teams in any sport at the same time they are on your school teams. Furthermore, none of our standards prevent competition with or against adults during competition sponsored by outside agencies. (also reference College Rule)

PERMISSION FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION

Q. We have a basketball player that has a wrist injury and he was seen by a doctor, the doctor has cleared him to play this upcoming basketball season provided he wears a neoprene wrist guard on his wrist. We have the doctor's note with the recommendation, what do we need to do to make sure he can wear this brace for games? Do I need to send your office any documentation?

Please check the sport rule book (NFHS Basketball Rule Book) to determine if he can wear the brace. If the rules "prohibit" the brace you will need to contact Assistant Director Todd Nelson and follow the Permission for Special Accommodations process.

PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

Q. Two student athletes played in the NYSPHSAA Soccer final four this year. They decided to come out for the basketball team two weeks into the season and well after their soccer season was completed. May I carry over 3 practice days toward their required 8 practice days for basketball?

This provision in the Practice Regulation is intended to be used when participation in NYSPHSAA championship events prevents a student athlete from practicing with the next season's sport. The carryover of practices can be applied when our events cause the conflict and therefore permits students to be loyal to their current sport without pressure. In this case, the student athletes came out two weeks late so the practices cannot carry over.

Q. I have three student athletes who need one more practice to be eligible to compete in a contest. May I count the warm-up prior to a game as a practice?

No. By definition a practice is a "session for the purpose of providing instruction and practice in physical conditioning activities, skills, team play, and game strategy designed expressly for that sport..." In addition, "all required practices shall be organized and planned for a reasonable length of time and shall include vigorous activity specific to the sport for the purpose of improving the physical condition of the players. Each of the required number of practices for the individual must include vigorous activity...". A warm up does not meet this requirement.

Q. Due to weather conditions an invitational basketball tournament was rescheduled on a Sunday. Then it was canceled. The host school indicated some "six day" rule. Please explain.

Under Eligibility Standard #22 Practice Sessions (b) no student or team may participate in practice or games on seven consecutive days during the regular season. The tournament was canceled because most of the invited schools would have already engaged in practices/games during six days prior to the contest.

Q. A family is moving into our district from Ohio in September. Their son has been participating in football. When may he be eligible to compete?

Once the student-athlete meets the required number of practices he is eligible to compete. Practices at the previous school may be counted if the previous school submits in writing the number and dates of such practice.

Q. One of our soccer players will lack one required practice on the day our first competition is scheduled. May the coach hold a special practice for the athlete so he is eligible for the game?

While a coach could hold the practice it will not count to meet the minimum practice requirement to be eligible for that day's contest. The student still would be ineligible for that game.

Q. How many days can a team or individual practice and compete in a week and how are the days counted?

No student or team may participate in practice or play on seven consecutive days during the regular season. To count, start with the first practice or game after a day of no activity and count the number of consecutive days regardless if they cross over into the next week. 2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook, page 101.

Q. A football player will be attending boot camp training this summer and will not complete the training until August 28. May we count the days at Boot Camp as practice since the Marine training involves rigorous activity over an extended period of time?

No. These practices may not count under any circumstance. According to the NYSPHSAA practice regulation (Standard #22), a practice session must provide instruction and practice in physical conditioning activities, skills, team play, and game strategy designed exclusively for that sport under the supervision of a qualified coach appointed by the Board of Education of the local school district.

Q. One of our soccer players will be attending a week long camp while participating in a tournament with their travel team. May we count those practices to fulfill the required number of practices required prior to competition?

No, our regulation requires practice to provide instruction and physical conditioning activities, skills, team play and game strategy designed expressly for that sport under the supervision of a qualified coach appointed by the Board of Education of the local school district. NYSPHSAA Handbook page 100.

Q. A student-athlete was cut from the volleyball team and now is interested in joining the cross country team. May we count some of her volleyball practices for the cross country requirement?

Yes. The NYSPHSAA Executive Committee voted to approve the carry over of practices under certain conditions. Please check the 2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook, page 100, for details.

Q. May a student-athlete count the warm-up prior to a contest as a practice so they can meet the required number of practices to be eligible to compete in that contest?

No. By definition a warm-up does not meet the requirements of a practice session.

SANCTIONING

Q. Our high school has a senior that has been invited to participate in a national cross country championship. Is the event sanctioned? Can he participate?

At the current time, no national events are sanctioned by either the NFHS or NYSPHSAA. The athlete could compete only if they attend the meet unattached from your high school. This would require that no school funds, school transportation or school uniforms be used. The athlete should obtain a USA Track and Field membership and compete with a track club so he can participate without jeopardizing his eligibility.

Q. One of our talented student athletes has been invited to participate in a national championship event. Can the district sponsor their participation by paying the entry fee, providing transportation and lodging?

No, the school district may not sponsor participation in a non-sanctioned athletic event. The NYSPHSAA has not approved national championship events in any sport. The child may attend this meet but they must be “unattached” from their high school. Please refer to the “Points of Emphasis” document for further details to avoid any school sanctions or participant ineligibility.

Q. A few of our student-athletes are interested in participating in a non-sanctioned track invitational involving athletes from a variety of states. May they attend?

No, not as members of your school's team. NYSPHSAA member schools may participate in an interstate contest involving four or more schools, or an interstate contest which is cosponsored by an organization other than a member school only if the event has been sanctioned by our Association. An athlete entering a non-sanctioned event must do so as an individual, totally independent from the school team.

Q. One of our teams wishes to participate in a tournament outside of New York State. How do I make sure if this event is legitimate and will not violate any rules of the NYSPHSAA.

According to the INTERSTATE CONTEST regulation, school districts are required to give notice to the NYSPHSAA when they plan on participating in an out of state competition involving four or more schools. Contests must be sanctioned by the NFHS and NYSPHSAA. (2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook, page 97) With the substantial increase in high school teams traveling out of state it is imperative to inquire about the event prior to arranging any travel plans. This will help ensure all regulations (such as Amateur, College, Outside Agencies, Non Federation Member Schools, Post Schedule, Post Season and Representation) are being followed appropriately.

SCRIMMAGES

Q. Our field hockey team has scheduled a scrimmage on Monday. That morning we will have completed our eighth team practice. Is this allowable?

No, you cannot schedule a required practice prior to a scrimmage or a contest on the same day. The first day you can scrimmage would be on day nine.

Q. Our football team is scheduling a series of scrimmages with other schools. Is it permissible to scrimmage one school in the morning and then schedule another scrimmage in the evening if no individual exceeds the maximum 90 live contact plays during that day?

No. Only one scrimmage session may be scheduled in one day. Regardless if a boy participates in one live contact play or forty live contact plays he has participated in a scrimmage. Additionally there must be two nights of rest between scrimmages.

SECTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Q. Does the Association have guidelines which the Sections must follow when selecting their representatives for NYSPHSAA championships?

The NYSPHSAA's governing board has established a maximum number of competitors to which each section must adhere. At this time, the method of selecting their representatives for each sport is left to each section to determine.

Q. A student athlete will have only competed in five contests due to an injury sustained at the beginning of the season. May a waiver of Standard #25 Representation be granted to permit the competitor to participate in Sectionals? How do I go about obtaining the waiver?

Yes, a waiver can be granted by the Section Athletic Council to permit the student to participate in Sectionals. Please contact your Section Executive Director for the procedure you will need to follow.

Q. Due to an illness, one of our soccer athletes has not been an eligible competitor during the regular season in the required six contests. Can we request a waiver so he can compete in Sectional competition?

A request for waiver of the Representation regulation (2010-2012 NYSPHSAA Handbook, page 102) should be forwarded to your Section's Executive Director for action by the Athletic Council.

SELECTION CLASSIFICATION

Q. Last week our varsity swim team competed in a dual meet against a team that had two eighth graders on their squad. Since then it has been determined the eighth graders had not been selectively classified to swim on the varsity team. What is the penalty?

The two eighth graders were ineligible competitors. Thus the entire meet is forfeited (not just the events they swam in) to your school. Individual results may stand, unless the ineligible athletes were involved in a relay. The eighth grade students could be selectively classified at this point, but prior to any competition they would need to complete the required number of practices again.

Q. Under the Selection Classification program must a student pass all the components of the physical fitness test prior to participating in a try out for a varsity or junior varsity team?

Yes, under the guidelines of the NYS Education Department regulation a student must meet all the required standards in the Selection Classification program before they can participate in a try out. This includes parental permission, developmental screening, and the athletic performance components.

Q. A seventh grade gymnast was selectively classified and placed on the high school gymnastic team. This is her third year on the team. She is still an eighth grader, as she had to repeat the year. Once she enters ninth grade doesn't she have four years of eligibility?

Once a student has been placed on a high school team through the selection classification process, the "clock" starts counting consecutive years of eligibility. A seventh grade student receives six years of eligibility; an eighth grade student receives five years. In this situation, she has used three of her six consecutive years of eligibility. She would not be eligible for her senior year.

Q. One of our students was selectively classified as a seventh grader to participate on junior varsity baseball. Currently he is repeating 10th grade. Will this affect his eligibility?

When a student is selectively classified to a high school sport he/she is given six years of high school eligibility. The years of eligibility are counted consecutively from the year of the original approval. When a student repeats a grade the count of years continues. In this case the boys' sixth year of eligibility would occur during his junior year, leaving no eligibility during his senior year.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Q. One of our soccer players has to wear a knee brace when participating. We were told special permission was needed from the NYSPHSAA to allow the athlete to wear the brace in competition. Is that true?

No. A knee brace is NOT automatically prohibited by the National Federation Soccer Rules. Coaches should examine any knee brace worn by their players to make sure there is no dangerous metal exposed. If the metal or other hard substance on the brace is covered with soft padding, or a soft pliable sheath covers the entire brace, these knee braces shall not be judged illegal. The same procedure is permitted under the National Federation and NCAA basketball rules.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Q. One of the players on my boys' soccer team was disqualified from a game for verbally abusing an official. We were informed he must sit out the next scheduled contest. Doesn't this penalty apply only to state tournament progression competition?

In April 1993, the NYSPHSAA governing board approved this penalty for all regular season games as well as state tournament games. This policy supersedes any league or sectional policy dealing with sportsmanship.

Q. A member of our varsity soccer team was disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct the last game of our season. I am aware of NYSPHSAA's Sportsmanship Standard. When would this member sit out a contest?

Disqualification from one season carries over to the next season of participation. For example, if the athlete also participates in basketball he/she will sit out during the first basketball competition.

Q. Our varsity soccer coach was disqualified from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct. We understand he must "sit out" the next varsity game. Can he act as coach at a modified soccer contest?

Your varsity soccer coach may not act as coach for any level of play for soccer until after he has sat out the next varsity soccer contest.

Q. A game official red carded a player in the parking lot of a school for directing abusive language to him as he passed by. Does an official have the right to do this?

The authority of a game official begins with the pregame activities as stipulated in the approved game rules and ends when the contest is declared over. Any difficulties with participants and/or other students after the game becomes the responsibility of school personnel.

Q. A student is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct in the last game of the season. He then transfers to a new school. Does the penalty follow him?

Yes, if he is enrolled in a NYSPHSAA member school. The former school has the responsibility to inform the admitting school of the disqualification.

Q. Prior to the December holiday recess, our junior varsity coach was disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct. He also is an assistant coach for the varsity team. We have two tournaments for the varsity team during the break. May he coach at these competitions?

He may only coach at the varsity level if he has sat out the next regularly scheduled junior varsity competition. If that competition is not scheduled until after the holidays, he is not eligible to coach at the varsity level.

STUDENT FACULTY CONTESTS

Q. This semester we want to hold a student/faculty game that would have our staff competing against our varsity basketball team. Is there a problem?

During the basketball season athletes may not compete against adults (faculty or alumni) without losing eligibility. After the season NYSPHSAA has no standard to prohibit these contests. However, the Commissioner's Regulations General Provisions (h) and (r) clearly indicate competition should be between secondary students which could be cited in litigation.

Q. This May we are planning to hold a game between our junior varsity and varsity basketball team members and our faculty. Is this a violation?

NYSPHSAA's Representation Standard (d) prohibits games and practices between students and adults during the season. Should such a game occur during the basketball season the student-athletes may be ineligible for the rest of the season from the date of the game. Such games held out of the sport season are not covered by NYSPHSAA standards. However, schools are reminded that the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education do limit extra class athletic activities to competition and practice between pupils in grades 7 through 12. Should an injury occur in a student/faculty game there may be a basis for litigation.

TRANSFER RULE

Q. My son attended a non-public school for 8th & 9th grade and played football, basketball and lacrosse. He transferred to the public school where we live for 10th grade and played football, indoor track, and lacrosse. He misses the non-public school and is considering going back. Will he be eligible if he transfers back?

If he did transfer back to the non-public school, he would not be eligible for football, indoor track and lacrosse during his junior year. He would be eligible for any other sport(s) he may wish to participate in. In his senior year, he would be eligible for football, indoor track and lacrosse after having sat out a year.

Q. I have an athlete whose family has moved out of the area, but the student athlete wants to remain at our school in order to graduate with his/her class. Is there something in the handbook that addresses this issue? Will the student be eligible?

The NYSPHSAA transfer rule only goes in effect if there is a change in registration from one district to another.

Q. May a student transfer to a school in their district of residency without penalty?

Yes. Students who return from any school to the public school district of their residence or the private school within that district's boundaries shall be exempt from the transfer rule. Such a transfer, without penalty, will only be permitted once in a high school career. The appropriate forms need to be filed prior to the student's first practice.

Q. A boy has transferred to our school from a neighboring district without a change of residency. Last year he participated in junior varsity soccer. Isn't he eligible for varsity soccer this fall?

No, he is not eligible for any level of soccer participation. The Transfer Rule is sport specific. No consideration is given to level of participation. Depending of the circumstances, a waiver of the Transfer Rule may be requested.

Q. The Transfer Standard necessitates we keep track of all students enrolling in our school. I've asked my coaches to report to me all new students coming out for their teams. We are a large school, however, and I am afraid the coaches may not be aware if a student is newly registered or not. Any suggestions?

Some athletic directors have found it helpful to have their Guidance Department send them the name and date of registration of all entering students as they occur.

Q. A family from out-of-state has just moved into a neighboring public school district. Their son would like to enroll in our district so that he may participate in lacrosse. Is this possible?

When the parents make a residence change the children must enroll in the public school district or in a private school within that district's boundaries of their parents' residency to have athletic eligibility.

Q. Our district permits teachers who live outside of the district to enroll their children in our schools tuition free. Are these students eligible for athletics?

These students are treated the same as any other student who changes registration without a corresponding change of their parent's residence Standard #30 - Transfer. Such students are ineligible to participate in any sport they have participated in one year prior to his/her transfer. In April 1999, the courts upheld the Transfer Standard in these situations (East Bloomfield vs. NYSPHSAA).

Q. A student in a neighboring school district may move into our district this summer to live with his grandmother. We know he must receive a waiver from the section since his parents did not move with him. We want to apply for the waiver this spring to make sure he has athletic eligibility. Is this acceptable?

Our Transfer Standard is only activated by a change in registration. Application for a waiver can only be made after a transfer has taken place.

TRYOUTS

Q. What is the tryout period regulation? Can you explain the requirements?

At the October Executive Committee meeting, the following change in General Eligibility Rule #17 Tryouts (page 134) was amended to read: a.) "A section may establish tryout periods to allow EXCEPTIONAL ATHLETES who have completed and passed the NYS Education Department Selection/Classification (S/C) Procedures and Standards the opportunity to be selected for a high school team. b.) Seventh and eighth grade students must pass the S/C qualifications prior to the tryout period. c.) Ninth grade students do not have to pass the S/C qualifications to participate in the tryout. d.) The tryout period for a modified athlete shall be defined as participation in three (3) of the first five (5) practice days of the high school season. During the tryout period, the modified athlete may not return to the modified program until the athlete's tryout is complete. e.) Tryout periods for wrestling, boys lacrosse and ice hockey shall be a maximum of five (5) of the first seven (7) practice days of the high school season. f.) The tryout period for football shall be a maximum of eight (8) of the first ten (10) days of the high school season. g.) Student athletes participating in sectionally approved tryout sessions are not subject to the Promotion rule." (as of January 2003)

TWO VARSITY SPORTS

Q. May a school field two varsity level teams in the same sport?

Yes. While not many schools are able to sponsor two teams in the same sport it is permissible. They should be conducted as two separate entities with two rosters of players, with no movement from one squad to the other at any time. Usually such teams are placed in different leagues for regular season play.

VOLUNTEER COACHES

Q. Two people in our community would like to volunteer their time as assistant coaches for our soccer teams. Is this permissible?

Anyone coaching interscholastic sports must meet all the standards of the Commissioner's Regulation 135.4. This means that they meet all the coaching qualification requirements of the State Education Department. Not being paid for coaching does not set aside these requirements. Volunteer coaches, as a special class of coaches, are not recognized by SED.

STEPS TO ELIGIBILITY

The following information is provided to assist you in determining the eligibility status of your student-athletes and assist you in administering your athletic program. It is NOT to be used as a substitute for the NYSPHSAA Handbook.

DURATION OF COMPETITION - Standard #8

Students are eligible for:

1. Four consecutive seasons of a sport beginning with entry into 9th grade and prior to graduation, and
NOTE: Five consecutive seasons of a sport in high school athletic competition beginning with entry into 8th grade, and six consecutive seasons of a sport in high school athletic competition commencing with entry into the 7th grade.
2. Until a student reaches their 19th birthday, and
3. If their birthday is on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate for the entire school year.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT (Standard #9)

Students are eligible for one year if:

1. Is enrolled in an approved CSIET program, and
2. If the host family is not the Athletic Director or member of the School District's coaching staff, and
3. Has not graduated from the school system in their home country, and
4. Has not reached the age of 19 prior to July 1, and
5. No evidence of placement for athletic purposes.
6. Host family is not the AD or a member of District coaching staff.

HEALTH EXAMINATION (Standard #10)

Students are eligible if:

1. An adequate health examination approved by school physician, and
2. The physical was given during the last 12 months, and
3. Completed a health history update (if physical was completed more than 30 days prior to the start of the sport season).
* Please note, if the 12 month period for the physical expires during a sports season, participants may complete the season as long as a health history was conducted prior to the season. For example, a physical conducted on August 1 would be valid through August 31. If a student plays beyond August (ex. football), the student may complete that sports season as long as an interval health history was conducted before the start of the season.

HOME SCHOOL STUDENT (Commissioner Regulation - Bona Fide Student)

Students are NOT eligible under any circumstance because:

1. Not a Bona Fide Student in your district, and
2. Not on the official attendance roster of the secondary school they wish to represent.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT (Standard #9)

Students are eligible if:

1. Has not graduated from the school system in their home country, and
2. If the host family is not the Athletic Director or member of the School District's coaching staff, and
3. Has not reached the age of 19 prior to July 1, and
4. Has not participated in the sport at a level equal to or greater than our high school sports program, and
5. No evidence of enrollment for athletic purposes, and host family is not the AD or a member of District coaching staff.
6. See Transfer Rule

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION (Standard #11)

Hosting an International Contest

1. An International Contest Sanction Application must be filed with the NYSPHSAA at least sixty (60) days prior to event.
2. Opponents must be members of a team representing a secondary school.
3. The contest must be held within the relative sport season and be counted as one of maximum number of contests.
4. A complete report, including a financial statement, must be filed with the NYSPHSAA and the NFHS within thirty (30) days of the contest.

Attending International Competition

1. An International Contest Sanction Application must be filed with the NYSPHSAA at least sixty (60) days prior to the contest.
2. League, conference and sectional schedules may not be altered.
3. Opponents must be members of a team representing a secondary school - our schools follow our eligibility rules and sport standards.
4. Such competitions may not take place within four weeks of the start of the school's sport season.
5. Practice sessions restricted to maximum number required prior to the first contest.
6. The Section must approve of the trip and competitions.

INTERSTATE COMPETITION (Standard #13)

1. Hosting a contest involving four or more schools, one or more from another state; or, a contest involving three or more states; or, a contest co-sponsored by an outside organization involving a school(s) from other states: file the proper sanction form with the NYSPHSAA office ninety (90) calendar days or more prior to the event, including a list of all participating schools.
2. Participation in an interstate contest involving four or more schools, or any two-school contest involving an outside organization as a co-sponsor, contact the NYSPHSAA office to validate that the event has been sanctioned.
3. Dual Team interstate contests: It is the school's responsibility to be certain the opposing school is a member in good standing of its State Association; or, a school approved by the State Association; or, a contest involving an outside sponsor is co-sponsored and co-administered by a member or approved school.
4. Fee Schedules: Go to www.nysphsaa.org

NATIONAL MEETS or TOURNAMENTS

Students are NOT eligible:

1. The NYSPHSAA does sanction National events, and
2. The National Federation does not sanction National events.

NOTE: Athletes attending these meets/tour must do so unattached from and not represent their high school.

OUT OF SEASON ACTIVITIES (Practice Sessions - Standard #22)

School sponsored activities are permissible if:

1. Consist of general conditioning, weight training, weight lifting, intramurals, recreation, open gyms, club activities and camps, and
2. Are not mandated by coaches or school personnel, and
3. Are available to all students.

Non School sponsored activities are permissible if:

1. Not mandate by coaches or school personnel.

Note: It is recommended that no school equipment be used for these programs as per State Comptroller Opinion 85-37.

SECTIONAL CONTESTS – FOOTBALL (Representation - Standard #25)

Students are eligible if:

1. Have been an eligible participant on a team in that sport in that school for a minimum of three (3) regularly scheduled contests, and
2. Those contests were on different days, and
3. Concluded before the end of the regular season.

SECTIONAL CONTESTS – INDIVIDUAL SPORTS (Representation - Standard #25)

Students are eligible if:

1. Have represented their school in the sport in 6 regularly scheduled contests, and
2. Those contests were on different days, and
3. Concluded before the end of the regular season.

SECTIONAL CONTESTS – TEAM SPORTS (Representation - Standard #25)

Students are eligible if:

1. Have been an eligible participant on a team in that sport in that school for a minimum of six (6) regularly scheduled contests, and
2. Those contests were on different days, and
3. Concluded before the end of the regular season.

SENIOR ALL-STAR CONTESTS (Standard #26)

Students are eligible if:

1. They are seniors and have exhausted their eligibility in that sport, and
2. Only participate in one approved all star contest in that sport, and
3. The contest is held within the designated sport season, and
4. Approved by the Section Athletic Council and NYSPHSAA Executive Director.

TRANSFER (Standard #30)

Students are eligible if:

1. Transferred with a corresponding change of residence of his/her parent (or whom they have resided with for at least six months), and
2. The residency change involved a move from one school district to another.
3. Student who returns from any school to the public school district of their residence or the private school within that district's boundaries shall be exempt from the Transfer Rule. Such a transfer, without penalty, will only be permitted once in a high school career. The proper forms need to be filed prior to the student's participation in practice or competition.

Students are ineligible if:

1. Transferred without a corresponding change in residency of his/her parent (or whom they have resided with for at least six months), and
2. If participated in a sport during the one year period immediately preceding the transfer, they are ineligible to participate in that particular sport for a period of one year.