

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

() at end of answer refers to rule number from MIAA Handbook

Part I: Governance of Interscholastic Athletics

1-1 Who can join the MIAA?

- Any public or private high school (defined as a school which will include grade 12 and which has a single principal, graduation, valedictorian, class rank, yearbook, etc.) in Massachusetts approved by the MIAA Board of Directors and fulfilling the conditions for membership. (Topic N)

1-2 Who determines if we can have a coop or a Middle Level waiver?

- Your MIAA District Committee (Topic G & icons)

Part II: Definitions and Policies

2-1 Am I required to attend a "Captains Practice"?

- No. The term "Captain's Practice" usually means the team's captain(s) organizing and conducting, *without adult supervision*, out-of-season practice for that sport. The MIAA does not in any way sanction, encourage, or condone "Captain's Practice" in any sport. "Captain's Practice", in some circumstances may be a violation of the rule defining season limitations. There is also a serious practical consideration: a school's potential liability may be an issue. (Rule 24)

2-2 We have a lacrosse "Club Team". What rules do we follow & who can we play?

- All teams which represent the school or compete with other school teams must comply with all Association rules. In all interscholastic contests, any team organized in the name of the school must represent the school in accordance with all MIAA rules. (Rule 26 & 32.12)

2-3 My school does not offer Volleyball in the spring. May I join a nearby school's team?

- No. Your school's athletic program defines the only opportunities for participation. (Rule 30 & 51)

2-4 As the only coach at the baseball game, I was ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct. The umpire called the game because there was no other adult school representative present to assume the coaching duties. Was this the correct action?

- YES, when the coach is ejected and there are no other authorized adult school district personnel present to supervise the team, the contest is terminated and forfeiture declared. (Rule 3)

2-5 Which sports must have medical coverage?

- All levels of football, wrestling, rugby, and varsity ice hockey games. For all varsity football games, each team must employ a licensed physician, licensed trainer or certified EMT to be with their team (Rule 5)

Part III: General Rules

3-1 Our school has a Freshman basketball team. Do we have to follow the MIAA Rules?

- Yes. Rules apply to all teams and individuals in all interscholastic contests at all levels of competition. (Rule 32.2)

3-2 I coach basketball at an MIAA High School. Can I schedule to play a freshman college team or an AAU travel team?

- No. MIAA Member School Teams may not compete against teams that do not represent a high school. (Rule 32.7)

3-3 Is it permissible for a school to sponsor a spring vacation basketball tournament and invite other school teams?

- No. This would be a violation for each school involved. (Rule 35.2)
- 3-4** Is it a violation when a school vehicle is used to transport students to a winter wrestling tournament?
- No. Since it is during the winter season. (Rule 32.2 and Rule 41)
- 3-5** Can school uniforms or equipment be used by students participating in all-star contests?
- Yes. Providing the All-Star Game is played before the end of the MIAA Tournament for that sport and is sponsored by a member school. (Rule 39)
- 3-6** Could a school provide facilities, sport specific apparatus (such as batting cages, football sleds, nets, etc.), school equipment (such as football helmets and shoulder pads, balls, etc.) to be used during the summer?
- Yes. Schools may issue equipment (but not uniforms) during the out-of-season period, but school districts should review any liability issues that could arise from such issuance. (Rule 41)
- 3-7** Could a school authorize school district vehicles to be used to transport individuals and/or teams to summer camps or clinics if approved by the local school board?
- No. A coach/school may not provide transportation for candidates of their team to an out-of-season athletic activity/camp. (Rule 41)
- 3-8** At what point does an individual become a “coach” and at what point does the out-of-season rule apply to that new coach?
- The MIAA considers the last coach of record as holding that position until replaced. Once hired by the School District, then the coach must follow Out-of-Season Limitations. (Rule 40)
- 3-9** Could a gymnastics coach be coaching in the same training facility with current and/or potential athletes if those athletes are being coached by someone else?
- Yes. A coach may be in the same facility. (Rule 40- MIAA position on out-of-season activities)
- 3-10** We have a former NBA player now living in our community. Is it permissible to bring him in to assist in practices once in a while?
- Yes. This person would be considered a volunteer coach and must be approved as a coach according to local school district policies. Volunteer coaches are subject to all MIAA rules in the same manner as paid coaches. (Rule 40.1)
- 3-11** Are there any restrictions regarding alumni returning to the school during the winter break to assist with the wrestling program?
- Yes. Alumni assisting in any manner with a school sports program must be approved volunteers according to local school district policies. (Rule 40)
- 3-12** Since a coaching contract is typically four to five months in length; could a coach work with students outside the parameters of the coaching contract during the school year?
- No. When a coach is hired to coach an interscholastic team, that coach has committed to following MIAA Rules, throughout the school year. (Rule 40)
- 3-13** Could a coach be involved in coaching one of their athletes who has been nominated as a member of a regional or national team in that sport during the out-of-season time period?
- No. Between seasons a coach may conduct a meeting(s) with team candidates only to elect captains, collect equipment, issue equipment, to provide for physical examinations, to conduct legitimate fund-raising events, or to offer wellness workshops or activities. (Rule 40.4)
- 3-14** Could a coach work with their student athletes at a club, YMCA, YWCA, college, etc., during the school year out of their sport season, if that position was their primary source of income?

- Yes. Providing all offerings are open to all, rates are the same for all, and their candidates are less than 50%. (Rule 40.7)
- 3-15** May a coach take a player to a clinic for their sport during the school year?
- Yes – during the sport season. No – during the out-of-season time period. (Rule 40)
- 3-16** Could a middle level softball coach hit balls with their daughter in the neighborhood park?
- Yes. MIAA Out-of-Season rules do not prohibit immediate family obligations. (Rule 40)
- 3-17** Although not coaching the team, could a basketball coach take their players to a spring tournament?
- No. The coach may provide, post, or distribute information to their players regarding the spring tournament, but could not transport them to the site or be involved in coaching. (Rule 41)
- 3-18** May a high school basketball coach serve as the head or assistant coach for an AAU basketball team comprised of high school athletes from different schools?
- Yes. If the athletes are not from the coach's high school team, or if the coach's candidates are in the minority, and no more than 2 candidates are on the court playing in a game at the same time. (Rule 40.7)
- 3-19** Is it a violation for a coach or school designee to distribute information for clinics and camps prior to the last state tournament?
- No. This is not a violation, but distribution of materials should be approved by school administrators. (Rule 40- MIAA position on out-of-season activities)
- 3-20** Is it a violation if the swim coach of our high school, who is employed to coach swimming only, also works for the community pool and serves students from the school as the AAU Swim Team coach?
- No. Providing all offerings are open to all students in the school, rates are the same for all, and their candidates are less than 50%. (Rule 40.7)
- 3-21** My team did not qualify for postseason playoffs. How long can we continue to practice as a team with our coach?
- You cannot continue to practice once your schedule is completed. (Rule 35)
- 3-22** Is it okay for a coach to work with seniors after they have finished their season?
- Yes. Seniors would no longer be candidates once the season is complete. (Rule 40.7)
- 3-23** I coach a varsity softball team and want to coach out-of-season and know there is a 50% rule of candidates. What/Who is a candidate?
- A candidate is defined as (40.7.2):
 - A varsity or sub-varsity athlete who;
 - is enrolled at the MIAA member school where the coach is employed or volunteers for the specific sport in question,
 - participated in a high school program at any interscholastic level the previous year, and
 - has eligibility remaining; or
 - (40.7.3) Students in the grade immediately below the designated structure of the school, such as a sixth-grade student for a 7–12 school, a seventh-grade student for an 8–12 school, or an eighth-grade student for a 9–12 school.
 - Note: For private, vocational, charter, and school choice schools, all students in the grade immediately below the designated structure of the school are considered candidates.
 - Students who reside outside the school's established residency admission criteria are not considered candidates under rule 40.7.3. (e.g., for vocational

schools that serve a specific group of towns/cities, only students that reside in those towns/cities are considered candidates).

- For the purpose of athletic eligibility, a student is not considered to be in the next grade level until the first day of school or the first fall tryout/practice, whichever occurs first.
- Example: A student completes 8th grade on June 15, 2025. They will be considered an 8th grader until the first day of school in their freshman year or the first fall tryout/practice, whichever comes first. Therefore, throughout the summer, they are considered candidates for a 9–12 school in compliance with MIAA Rule 40.7.3.

3-24 I am the high school baseball coach, am I permitted to coach members of the softball team during the summer?

- Yes. Coaches (paid or volunteer) of one sport may be involved in out-of-season activity of another sport during the summer only. (40.3)

3-25 May a soccer coach of a school team coach a member of that school's basketball team in an AAU league during the spring season?

- No. Coaches (paid or volunteer) of one sport may be involved in out-of-season activity of another sport **during the summer only**. (Rule 40.3)

3-26 Is unsupervised use of school outdoor facilities for specific sport practice by several "team members" in violation of out-of-season rules?

- This "practice" is a violation only if the school or coach organizes or promotes it. (Rule 41)

3-27 Could a football coach supervise the weight room in August?

- Yes. Schools may sponsor a year-round weight training and conditioning program that must be open to all students and cannot include instruction in specific sport skills and/or drills. Each school has the authority to determine who will supervise the weight room. (Rule 40.6)

3-28 My school has advertised in the school bulletin that the weight room will be open for wrestlers beginning October 1st. Can students not interested in wrestling be denied access to the weight room?

- NO. The access to the weight room is considered to be part of a year-round conditioning program and must be open to all students within the school. (Rule 40.6)

3-29 Could a school district approved conditioning coach or supervisor test the participants in a summer conditioning program prior to the start of the fall sports season?

- YES, testing of participants is permissible as long as the testing is a normal portion of the conditioning program and the test does not include any activity that resembles a drill or specific function of any sport. (Rule 40.6)

3-30 Could a coach have an open gym time period for their sport during the noon hour or after school outside the regular sport season, during the school year?

- NO, schools may sponsor a year-round open gym program, with the program open and promoted to all students, with a range of activities available. No coaching is permitted. The gym supervisor must be approved by the school. (Rule 40.6)

3-31 A coach opens the gymnasium and supervises but does not direct drills for students. A variety of activities are available and the gym is open to all. Is this a violation?

- NO. (Rule 40.6)

3-32 The softball coach wants to set up the batting cage during the open gym time period each day. Is this legal?

- YES, as long as a number of sport opportunities are available for the interested students (batting cage, volleyball net and standards, basketball hoop, etc.). Coaches may not give instruction, but may provide general supervision. Candidates attending must be less than 50%. (Rule 40.7)
- 3-33** Is it legal for the basketball coach to be supervising the gym while the basketball team players are running drills or plays during open gym time?
- YES, as long as the players are not being coached, represent less than 50% of candidates, and the coach has not directed “the activity”. (Rule 40.7)
- 3-34** Is it legal for the volleyball coach to play with the students during open gym?
- YES, as long as no coaching is taking place and candidates are less than 50%. (Rule 40.7)
- 3-36** Our coach is planning to sponsor an open gym for the basketball players in October as preparation for the upcoming season. He has a written schedule for conditioning and plays to work on, and he will be there to assist as needed. Is that legal?
- NO, coaches may conduct practice ONLY during the MIAA sport season. (Rule 40.4)
- 3-37** Is it okay for 8th graders at our middle school to practice with high school teams?
- No, unless Grade 8 is part of the High School and under one principal or there is an approved middle level waiver. (Rules 40, 51, and 53)
- 3-38** Can the non-qualifying track athletes continue to practice if 1 or more members of the team is still competing in Divisional, All-State or New England Tournaments?
- Yes. (Rules 35.1, 35.2 & 35.3)
- 3-39** Two of our tennis players qualified for the NFHS National Championship. Can they participate?
- Yes, if sanctioned by the NFHS and MIAA (Rule 34.1.3)

Part IV – Rules Affecting an Individual Student Athlete or Coach

- 4-1** Must all eligibility criteria be met prior to a participant trying out for a particular sport or activity?
- A student participant is not required to meet all eligibility standards to try out. The MIAA rules govern interscholastic participation; practices or tryouts are intraschool events and local schools may establish criteria that must be met prior to tryout participation.
 - Note: Student must be enrolled and attending school (unless a new student during the fall season) and a physical exam is required prior to the first practice. (Rule 51 & 56)
- 4-2** Can a student who turns 19 years of age in July compete for a fall sport?
- NO. A student shall be under 19 years of age, but may compete during the remainder of the school year, provided that their birthday occurs on or after September 1 of that year. (Rule 60)
- 4-3** Can a student who turns 16 in May of the previous school year compete on a freshman high school athletic team?
- NO. For Freshman competition, a student shall be under 16 years of age but may compete during the remainder of the school year provided that the sixteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1 of that year. (Rule 60)
- 4-4** As a home school student, where can I compete in athletics?
- A home school student has athletic eligibility in their resident public school of record, providing the local school committee has approved participation opportunities for all home schoolers. In order to participate in activities/athletics the student must be a registered home school student with the school district and must meet all the eligibility requirements for participation. (Rule 54.1)

- 4-5** My family has lived in a school district for many years, and then we moved to a new school district at the beginning of the second semester. It is near the end of my wrestling season. Am I eligible at my new school to participate in the remainder of the wrestling season?
- YES. But only if your entire family has relocated, and at your previous school your parents' change of residence necessitated a transfer of schools. You have immediate transfer rule eligibility at your new school, provided you meet all other eligibility requirements of participation at your new school. (Rule 57.7.1)
 - Note: Your new school and coaches will decide whether you can join a team mid-season and then will make the decision on the level and degree of your participation.
- 4-6** Can an academically ineligible student participate in practices, but not compete interscholastically?
- YES. An ineligible student may practice only if permitted by the school Principal, subject to local school regulations. They cannot compete in scrimmages or games (Rule 22.4 and 86)
- 4-7** For academic eligibility purposes, is it necessary to check eighth grade transcripts for incoming ninth graders?
- Academic eligibility of **middle grade students** including non-participants entering Grade 9:
 - As soon as a student participates in a MIAA sanctioned sport, that student is bound by the MIAA academic standard (and the stricter local standard, if one exists) from that point in time.
 - Non-participants will have a "fresh start" regarding academic eligibility when they first enter Grade 9.
 - The MIAA Board of Directors has stated that once athletes have had the privilege of participation, they are bound by the academic eligibility standard in place at the time of their participation (58.1)
- 4-8** My high school has a pass-all-classes academic requirement for athletics. During the second term, I failed one class. I meet the MIAA academic standard but do not meet the school district academic standard. Can I still participate in athletic contests?
- NO, you are ineligible because you do not meet your school district academic standard which the MIAA recognizes and supports. (Rule 32.10 & 58)
- 4-9** I am on the football team but academically ineligible due to my final grades from the previous school year. Our football team has a jamboree prior to the start of school this year. Can I play in the jamboree?
- NO. You cannot participate in interscholastic competitions until you become academically eligible (when first term grades are issued). (Rule 58 & Rule 32.8)
- 4-10** I dropped out of school with 5 weeks remaining in the semester last spring. Can I now play football this fall?
- NO. When a student drops out of school then decides to return to the same school they cannot become eligible for athletics until a report card is issued and a minimum 2 months attendance is achieved. (Rule 55)
- 4-11** I overslept this morning and did not get to school until the start of 4th period. Can I play in tonight's game because I missed part of the school day?
- The MIAA does not have a rule on attendance/tardiness the day of a contest. Most all member schools have an attendance/tardiness rule for practice and game days. Please check with your athletic director on your eligibility to compete in tonight's game. (Rule 12)
- 4-12** I transferred to a new school at the end of the first semester of the school year. I did not do well academically at my old school and would have been ineligible at the start of the second semester due to my poor grades. At my new school I would be eligible because its' academic standard is not as restrictive. Which standard is applicable in my situation?

- A transfer student **may not gain academic eligibility** at the receiving school if the student was not, or would not be, eligible at the sending school. Further, a student may not compete in interscholastic contests at the receiving school if they would not be eligible at the sending school. If the transfer was necessitated by a move of parents, then eligibility would be determined by receiving schools' eligibility standards (Rule 58.2 & 57.1)
- 4-13** Do I need to own my home in order for my daughter to have athletic eligibility?
- NO, home ownership has nothing to do with athletic eligibility. The important factor in establishing athletic eligibility is the school district where the entire family unit lives full time.
- 4-14** I am a basketball player, and my entire family moved from another state to Massachusetts over the weekend. Can I play basketball at my new school?
- YES. You are immediately eligible, from a transfer perspective, as soon as you enroll in your new school, if the transfer of schools was necessitated by the change in residence, and your receiving school administration verifies you as eligible by all other standards because you cannot legally continue attendance at your current school. (Rule 57.7.1)
- 4-15** I have attended a private high school outside of my resident school district the past two years. My family is moving again to another school district. Where is my athletic eligibility?
- At your private school since you can continue there. This exemption does not apply to a change in custody, guardianship, or to a student's change in residence from one parent to another, **nor does it apply when the student could continue to attend the former school.** (Rule 57.7.1)
- 4-16** I have completed the 8th grade at my public middle school and now want to transfer to a local private school for the 9th grade. Am I ineligible due to the transfer rules?
- NO. By rule you are transferring at the break between the middle level and high school and will be eligible, provided you meet all conditions of athletic eligibility and have not participated in high school athletics while in middle school. (Rule 57.7.2 & 57.7.3)
- 4-17** I have been attending my resident high school for the past three years, but my parents are moving to another area of the state over the summer. I want to stay and finish my senior year at my current high school. Would I be athletically eligible?
- YES. As long as you maintain continuous enrollment, and the school district allows you to stay, you have full athletic eligibility, regardless of where your family unit resides, provided you meet all other conditions of athletic eligibility.
- 4-18** Our daughter attends our local MIAA high school and participated in varsity athletics last year. We live in a district that has multiple high schools (4). She is going to be a junior this year and wants to transfer to one of the other MIAA high schools in the district, because of some academic offerings that are not available at her high school. Will this transfer affect her athletic eligibility?
- YES. Per MIAA rule 57.1.1 she would be ineligible for one year for all varsity sports she played in the last year. However, the receiving school can utilize the MIAA Form 200 since the transfer is between two ***MIAA Member Schools***. Student could become eligible if both schools sign off. (Rule 57.4)
- 4-19** I will be coming to Massachusetts as part of a yearlong cultural exchange. Will I be able to participate in athletics at my host school?
- MIAA Rule 57.6 outlines the conditions. If you are here through an approved CSIET program, and you meet all other MIAA eligibility rules, you would be permitted to participated. (MIAA Rule 57.6)
- 4-20** My school does not offer German as a foreign language. I will be transferring to another school district in order to take German and other AP classes. I participated in varsity field hockey at my previous school. Will I be able to compete at my new school?

- NO. You will be ineligible for 1 year in all varsity sports participated in unless Form 200 is executed satisfactorily ***between two MIAA Member Schools***. Or a full waiver (Form #7) is executed if the transfer is from a non-member school to a MIAA Member School. (Rule 57)
- 4-21** I am a graduate of my high school in my home country and will be spending a year in a high school in Massachusetts. Can I participate in sports at my host school?
- NO. You are a graduate of high school and have no further high school athletic eligibility. Your host high school may allow you to practice with a team, but you will not be able to participate in any level of interscholastic competition. (Rule 57.6.1 and 61)
- 4-21** A family friend is a Doctor of Chiropractic's and has agreed to provide athletic physical exams for our family. Will this physical exam be accepted for interscholastic participation?
- NO, only those licensed to perform physical examinations are able to provide physical exams for athletic participation. Those licensed to perform physical examinations include a duly registered Physician, Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner. (Rule 56.1)
- 4-22** I had a physical exam on April 1st for spring sports. For how long is my physical good?
- Physical exams cover the student for 13 months and would expire on May 1st of the following year. (Rule 56.1)
- 4-23** I have had some academic difficulty and will not graduate with my class in June. I will return to high school next year to complete all my credits and want to participate in athletics. I have been a member of the high school football team all four years. Are there any limitations on my athletic participation as a 5th year senior?
- YES, you have no athletic eligibility remaining; you have already participated for four (4) consecutive years since entering or being eligible to enter the 9th grade. Your high school can choose to allow you to practice with the team, but you cannot compete in any interscholastic contests. (Rule 59 & 32.8)
- 4-24** I was involved in a serious car accident when I was a sophomore and was hospitalized for an extended period of time. I was unable to attend school for most of my sophomore year and am behind in credits and will not graduate with my class. I will return to school for a fifth year to earn enough credits to graduate. Will I be able to participate in athletics?
- Rule 59.2 explains that, *"Consideration will be given in special cases where a student has been absent from school because of an accident or illness that resulted in the failure to receive passing grades or full credit equivalent to four traditional yearlong major English courses."* In this case, while you are deemed ineligible, your High School Principal has the ability to apply for a waiver of Rule 59. Medical documentation must be submitted with this waiver request. (59.2)
- 4-25** Our son will not graduate from high school this June with his class; basically he has just been lazy and has not earned enough credits to graduate on time. He will either take summer school or go back to school next fall to earn enough credits to graduate. We understand there is an appeal process for athletic eligibility. We want to complete the process this spring so we can make a decision on completing his credits. If he will have athletic eligibility next fall, he will return to school in the fall. If not, he will take summer school to earn his credits, then go to community college next fall.
- The High School Principal cannot submit a waiver for your son until he has been issued the final report card for the academic year. You should base your decision on the best academic course of action for your son, not on his possible athletic eligibility. (Rule 59 & Rule 87.1)
- 4-26** My family moved to a new school district at the end of the first semester. My old school offered golf during the fall sports season. My new school offers golf in the spring season. Am I eligible to participate in golf at my new school, even though I have already played golf for a school this school year?

- NO. Only one season of a sport in a single academic year is permitted. (Rule 46)
- 4-27** I am a select soccer player. Can I play on my select club team at the same time that I play on my high school team?
- It is possible, provided your own school does not have a more restrictive policy. You can participate on a non-school team at the same time you compete on your school team with a few restrictions outlined in the Bona Fide Team Rule. You cannot miss a high school competition or practice in order to participate in the non-school program. (Rule 45)
- 4-28** A college is recruiting me and they have asked me to visit campus and practice with the team. Will this jeopardize my athletic eligibility?
- You are allowed to try out and/or practice with a college team, but cannot miss a high school practice or game. (Rule 45)
 - Note: Check the NCAA regulations for any restrictions that may apply.
- 4-29** I have become a professional in the sport of bowling. Can I still play on my high school teams in all other sports?
- YES. You must be an amateur in the sports you participate in at the high school level. (Rule 47.1)
- 4-30** I will be instructing, supervising and officiating at a sports camp this summer and will be paid for these duties. Will being paid affect my amateur status?
- NO. You can instruct, supervise or officiate for any organized youth sports program, recreation, and playground or camp activities without jeopardizing your amateur status, providing the pay is “nominal”. (Rule 47.2)
- 4-31** I have been invited to attend one of the Nike Basketball camps this summer. As part of the camp, I will be given a pair of shoes and workout gear with a retail value of over \$500. Can I accept this merchandise without jeopardizing my amateur status?
- NO. Beyond reasonable, travel, meal and lodging expenses, a student-athlete may accept sports-related paraphernalia with a monetary value not to exceed \$500.00 (Rule 47.1.2)
- 4-32** My son has been invited to participate in a large invitational track meet this summer in California. As part of the invitation the meet organizers have agreed to pay his transportation to and from the event, as well as provide housing and meals at the event. Is this allowable without jeopardizing his amateur status?
- YES. Reimbursement for the actual expenses for the athletic trip are allowed.(Rule 47.1.2)
- 4-33** During October of my freshman year, I had a chemical health violation and served the 25% suspension. Then in December of my sophomore year, I had another chemical health violation. Is this my second offense?
- NO, violations are cumulative only during each academic year. Penalties do however carry over. (Rule 62)
- 4-34** My school district has a 365 day (or all year) athletic code prohibiting the use of illegal substances for all athletes, but my friends at a neighboring high school have indicated their school athletic code is for the school year only. Why are the athletic codes different?
- The MIAA requires a school district to have an athletic code that covers the school year of participation. Schools and school districts have the right to have more restrictive athletic code rules that would cover the entire calendar year. (Rule 62 & Rule 32.10)
- 4-35** I was ejected from the basketball game because of offensive language directed towards the official. I was upset and wanted to leave the gym and get away from the game. My coach required me to stay on the team bench. Why?

- Your coach is responsible for you until you return to your school after the game or are released to your parents by the coach. (Rule 49)
- 4-36** I had a player receive his first ejection from the varsity football game on Friday night. Can I play him in the junior varsity game on Monday and have him sit out the next varsity game?
- NO. Any ejected player or coach is ineligible for all contests until sitting out a contest in that sport at the same level of competition from which the person was ejected. (Rule 49)
- 4-37** Our wrestling coach was ejected last night from the varsity match. He wants to attend tonight's match so he can scout the visiting team. Do the rules permit this?
- NO. During the suspension the disqualified coach may not be present at the competition site. (Rule 49.4.2)
- 4-38** My starting pitcher (a junior) was ejected from the last baseball game of the season last spring. He also plays soccer. When does he have to serve the suspension?
- In this case, the suspension would be served at the start of the next baseball season. The rule outlines that if a student is disqualified from the last contest, or the next to last contest of the season (in the case of a two-game suspension), the penalty carries over to the following year in that same sport season. However, if a team is playing in tournament competition, it is considered an extension of the sport season. (Rule 49.3.4)
 - Note: **A senior** and/or a student in their last year of eligibility who is disqualified from the last contest, or the next to last contest of the season (in the case of a two-game suspension), will be penalized at the start of the next season in which student-athlete is a participant.
- 4-39** My son was ejected for the second time of the season in last night's basketball game. What is the penalty for the second ejection?
- The second ejection in the same sport and season results in ineligibility for the remainder of the season and in all sports during that season for a year from the date of their second disqualification. (Rule 49.3.7)
- 4-40** As the athletic director, I want to appeal the ejection of my coach from yesterday's game. I agree with my coach that the official made the wrong judgment call. What is the appeal process I must follow?
- There is no appeal for a coach or student disqualification for 1 or 2 games (Rule 49.1.3). In the event of a one-year suspension, there is an appeal process outlined in Rule 89.
- 4-41** I lost my temper at last night's game and physically assaulted the official. I was ejected and the official checked off box 49.3.8 for a recommended one-year suspension. Am I suspended for one year in all sports?
- YES. A student or coach who physically assaults an official is recommended to be expelled from the activity immediately and banned from further participation or coaching in all sports for one year from the date of the offense. There is an appeal process for this situation. (Rule 49.3.8 & 49.4.9)
- 4-42** Are there any MIAA regulations governing the participation of a high school athlete between school sport seasons?
- NO. Students may participate in non-school programs as they choose. The MIAA out-of-season rules prohibit, or limit, the involvement of school coaches during the off-seasons. (Rule 40)
- 4-43** Could high school students participate as instructors in elementary or middle level sport camps or clinics?

- YES. High school athletes are allowed to be involved as instructors or volunteer coaches at the elementary or middle level. (Rule 47.2)

4-47 One of the gymnasts on our team also participates in club gymnastics. She intends to practice for about 15 minutes at school, and then continue the practice at the club where she competes. Is that legal?

- NO. Students cannot be given special treatment (late arrival, early dismissal, etc.) for non-school programs. (Rule 45)

4-48 I played Freshman football and violated the Chemical Health Rule in the winter and spring. Do I have to serve any penalty since I only play football?

- YES. Since you had two violations, you would sit out 25% of the total football season for the first violation and an additional 60% of the total season for the second violation. (If you chose to participate in a school approved Dependency Program throughout the penalty period, the second violation would be reduced to 40% of the total season). **Or**, if the penalty period is not completed during the season of violation, the penalty shall carry over to the student's next season of actual participation, which may affect the eligibility status of the student during the next academic year. *(e.g. a student plays only football: he violates the rule in winter and/or the spring of same academic year.; he would serve the penalty [ies] during the fall season of the next academic year).* (Rule 62)

4-49 Two sophomore athletes, "A" and "B," who participated only in baseball the previous year, violated the chemical health rule in October. Both joined the Indoor Track team in an attempt to serve their penalties. (Rule 62 & icons)

- **Athlete A** competed in 5 meets but then quit the team due to a lack of interest.
- **Athlete B** committed a second chemical health violation in January and was dismissed from the team.

Penalties:

- **Athlete A** must serve the 25% suspension during the next season in which they fully participate, as leaving the team early does not satisfy the penalty requirement.
- **Athlete B** may be credited with serving a portion of the first penalty; however, any remaining portion of the first penalty, along with the full penalty for the second offense, must be served during the next season of full participation.

4-50 I am the principal of the sending school (the school the student is transferring from). Do I have to sign Form 200 if I believe the student-athlete is ineligible?

Yes you must complete the form but have two options:

- You may initial questions 3a–f to indicate agreement and support of the transfer, or
- If you believe the student-athlete is ineligible, you may check the box in question 4 and still sign the form alongside your athletic director.

The completed form must be returned to the receiving school within 3 days (per Rule 57.4 & related icon). If you are alleging a recruiting violation on Form 200, you must also submit additional written documentation to support your claim.

4-51 I am the principal of the receiving school (the school the student is transferring into), and I sent Form 200 to the sending school, but it has not been returned within 3 days. What should I do?

- Contact the MIAA. They will follow up directly with the sending school. (Refer to Rule 57.4 & Associated link.)

Important: Form 200 may only be used between MIAA member schools. If the sending school is not an MIAA member, a full waiver request must be submitted to the MIAA. Otherwise, the student must sit out for one year in all sports they previously played at the varsity level (or its equivalent).

- 4-52** I'm graduating at the end of the first semester of my senior year. Am I eligible to finish the Winter season and participate in the Spring season?
- Yes, you are eligible to complete the **Winter season**.
 - No, you are **not eligible** to participate in the **Spring season**. (See Rule 58)
- 4-53** Is a student serving a chemical health rule violation allowed to participate in practices and scrimmages?
- Yes, the student **may participate in practices**, but **may not participate in scrimmages**. (Refer to Rules 62 and 22.4)
- 4-54** I violated the chemical health rule during the baseball season and missed the final 3 games of a 5-game penalty. Do I need to sit out 2 baseball games next season, or will the penalty carry over to football?
- You served 60% of your penalty (3 out of 5 games). The remaining 40% must be served during your next season of play.
 - If football is your next season, you must sit out 1 game (40% of a 2-game penalty = 0.8, which rounds up to 1). If your next sport were golf, which has a 20-game season like baseball, you would owe 2 games.
 - Per Rule 62.1, the minimum carryover penalty is 1 contest.
- 4-55** A player receives a disqualification (DQ) in the last game of the season. When is the penalty served?
- Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors must serve the penalty in the same sport during the next school year.
 - Seniors must serve the penalty in the next season in which they participate.
 - Refer to Rule 49.3.4

Part V – Sport Rules

- 5-1** One of our wrestlers will return from basic military training one week into the wrestling season. Can basic training count toward the required pre-contest practices?
- No, this does not count toward the MIAA's pre-contest practice requirements. (84.3.4)
- 5-2** Our family usually travels out of state during winter vacation to visit relatives, but my gymnastics coach has scheduled practices on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of that week. Is the coach allowed to do that?
- Yes. Each school has the authority to determine when, where, and how long practice sessions will be held, as long as they do not violate any MIAA rules (Rule 35).
- 5-4** We do not have an athletic trainer at our school. Which sports require medical personnel to be present?
- Medical personnel are required at all levels of football, wrestling, and rugby, as well as at varsity ice hockey games, in accordance with sport-specific rules. For all varsity football games, each team is required to have a licensed physician, licensed athletic trainer, or certified EMT present with their team. (Refer to Rule 5)
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Part VII – Procedures

- 7-1** Transfer student repeats Grade 9. When can the high school principal request a waiver of Rule 59?
- When student completes four consecutive years of high school and final grades have been issued. (Rules 59 & 87)