ARTICLE I (PIAA Regulations)

AGE

Preamble
The purposes of this ARTICLE are (1) to promote the safety of traditional school-age participants in interscholastic athletics; (2) to prevent a Team from gaining a competitive advantage by permitting more mature (physically, mentally, and emotionally) students to participate in interscholastic athletics; (3) to discourage schools from "red-shirting" students; and (4) to give more of an opportunity for traditional-age students to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Section 1. Maximum Age Rule.
A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition upon attaining the age of nineteen years, with the following exception: If the age of 19 is attained on or after July 1, the student shall be eligible, age-wise, to compete through that school year.

Section 2. How to Determine Age.
In determining the age of a student, the date of birth as recorded in a State Bureau of Vital Statistics shall be considered as conclusive if filed in a State Bureau of Vital Statistics within one year after the date of birth. If a birth record from a State Bureau of Vital Statistics is not available, proof of a student's age may be determined by the submission of (1) a birth certificate which was issued within one year after birth; (2) a passport with the date of birth recorded thereon; (3) an affidavit by the parent(s) or guardian(s) filed not later than one year after the student's admission to the first grade of an elementary school; or (4) the earliest date of birth as recorded in the records of the school or schools attended by the student. In the event of the non-existence of any of these documents, the Principal may rely upon the most credible available evidence as to the actual date of birth.

AMATEUR STATUS AND AWARDS

Section 1. Amateur Status Required.
To be eligible to participate in an Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, and/or Contest, a student must be an amateur in the sport involved. An amateur student is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the educational, physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived thereof. Where the official rules for a sport provided for under ARTICLE XVIII of these By-Laws establish requirements for amateur status, such requirements shall govern to the extent inconsistent with this ARTICLE II.

Section 2. Loss of Amateur Status.
A student loses amateur status in an interscholastic sport whenever:
A. The student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), receives compensation, other Consideration, or an award not permitted under Section 3 hereof, for or related to the student's athletic ability, participation, performance, services, or training in a sport.
B. The student receives Consideration for becoming a member of an athletic organization or school.
C. The student plays on a professional team or as an individual professional athlete in that sport.
D. The student signs a contract whereby the student agrees to compete in any athletic competition for Consideration. It is not a violation for a high school student to attend, and participate in a professional try-out camp, provided that (1) no compensation or expenses are paid to the student; (2) the try-out lasts no longer than forty-eight hours; and (3) if in the sport of baseball, the student's participation is otherwise in conformity with the National Federation Major-Minor League Agreement.
E. The student sells or pawns the student's athletic achievement awards.

Section 3. Permissible Awards.
A. Member Schools: A student may accept, from the student's school, or a school-affiliated booster club, items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification, upon completion of a season of participation on a Team and/or for earning the official school letter or award. The fair market value of items provided to any such student shall not exceed $200.
B. Sponsors of Athletic Events: A student may accept,
from the sponsor or sponsors of an athletic event or group of athletic events, items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification, if the student participated in the athletic event and/or earned an award for an athletic event or events. The fair market value of items provided to any such student shall not exceed $200. Such sponsor or sponsors may also pay the expenses for a student to participate in educational programs, tours, and field trips provided by the sponsor or sponsors in connection with the athletic event or events.

C. Media and Other Public Recognition: A student may accept, from a non-profit service organization approved by the Principal of the student’s school, or the news media, items of apparel, a blanket, watch, ring, scroll, carry-on or warm-up bag, photograph, medal, plaque, or similar award, with appropriate institutional insignia or comparable identification in recognition of the student’s athletic ability or performance, and present the same at a time appropriate to such recognition. The fair market value of items provided to any such student shall not exceed $200.

D. Banquets: Students may also attend, without charge of admission, athletic banquets sponsored by the institutions listed above in this Section 3.

E. Participation expenses: A student may accept, from a school, and/or the sponsor of an athletic event or group of athletic events, the reasonable and necessary expenses for transportation, lodging, and/or meals incurred by the student and/or the student's Team for participation in an athletic event or events.

F. Payments to Schools: Nothing in this Section should be deemed to prohibit the sponsor of any athletic event or group of athletic events from providing to a school any Consideration, provided that such Consideration is not made with the assurance or understanding that all or some of such Consideration is to be then conveyed by the school to any individual student-athletes.

G. College Recruiting: A student may accept from an institution of higher education which the student visits in connection with the student’s prospective or possible attendance there as a college student, reasonable expenses necessitated by such visit, and free admission to home athletic events of such institution which occur during such visit.

ARTICLE IV

CONSENT OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN
Section 1. Consent of Parent or Guardian Necessary Before Student Begins Practice.
Except as otherwise provided in this ARTICLE, a student shall be eligible to participate in Practices, Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests in each sport only when there is on file with the student’s Principal, or the Principal’s designee, a certificate of consent, which is signed by the student’s parent or guardian. The only valid certificate of consent is the PIAA Parent’s/Guardian’s Certificate.

ARTICLE V

HEALTH

Preamble

Participation in interscholastic athletic competition is intended to develop and strengthen the body and character of the participant. Participation can also be, and often is expected to be, demanding and stressful. Participation in contact sports may further provide heightened exposure of the athlete to communicable diseases, illnesses, and/or injuries. While injuries are an inherent risk of any physical activity, and the avoidance of all illnesses not realistic, PIAA believes that the risk of such injuries and illnesses can be minimized through proper coaching, training, and supervision. PIAA further believes that all students should have a thorough pre-participation physical evaluation, by an Authorized Medical Examiner, to ensure that there are present no obvious illnesses and/or injuries, which would place the student or others of enhanced risk or injury through the student’s participation in interscholastic athletics. Finally, PIAA believes that a review and re-certification of some students is necessary prior to their participation in their next sport season.

Section 1. Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation.

No student shall be eligible to participate in Practices, Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages and/or Contests unless the student has completed a comprehensive initial pre-participation physical evaluation (“CIPPE”) performed by an
Authorized Medical Examiner, and the Authorized Medical Examiner has completed the PIAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form ("CIPPE Form").

Section 2. Certification.
By signing the PIAA CIPPE Form, the Authorized Medical Examiner certifies that the student is physically fit to commence Practice and participate in Inter-School Practices, scrimmages and/or contests in the sport(s) approved by the student's parent.

In certifying whether a student is physically fit to participate in Practices, Inter-School Practices, scrimmages and contests in a particular sport(s), the Authorized Medical Examiner (a) is expected to have or, if not already in possession of it, obtain, a working understanding of the physical requirements of the sport(s) in which the student is to Practice and participate; (b) should review a health history of the student; and (c) should perform a CIPPE appropriate for the sport(s) for which certification is being sought.

Section 3. Re-Certification.
Any student who (1) previously participated in PIAA interscholastic athletic competition pursuant to a CIPPE; and (2) is seeking to participate in Practices, Inter-School Practices, scrimmages, and/or contests in subsequent sport(s) in the same school year, must, not earlier than six weeks prior to the first Practice day of the next sports season, complete and turn in to the Principal of their school the Re-Certification by Parent/Guardian part of the CIPPE Form. The Principal, or Principal's designee, of that student's school must review the Supplemental Health History of that student and, if any Supplemental Health History questions are either checked yes or circled, shall require that student to submit a completed Section 6, Re-Certification by Licensed Physician of Medicine or Osteopathic Medicine, to the Principal, or Principal's designee of that student's school prior to that student's additional participation in interscholastic athletics.

Section 4. Timing.
The CIPPE may not be performed earlier than June 1st and shall be effective, regardless of when performed during a school year, until the next May 31st.

INTERPRETATION


The minimum wrestling weight at which a student may wrestle must be certified to by an Authorized Medical Examiner no earlier than six weeks prior to the first Regular Season Contest day in that sport. The minimum wrestling weight is to be recorded on the CIPPE Minimum Wrestling Weight form, which is placed on file with the student's Principal, or the Principal's designee.

Section 6. Feeder Schools for Private Schools.

Any member Private senior high School may submit to PIAA a list designating its Feeder Schools. Such submission is necessary for the schools to be recognized as Feeder Schools for a particular school. The list of designated Feeder Schools shall be signed and submitted by the Principal and shall be certified as correct (a) in the case of Catholic schools under either Archdiocesan or Diocesan jurisdiction, by the Archdiocesan or Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, or (b) in the case of other member Private senior high Schools, by the Superintendent or by the President of the Board having jurisdiction over the member Private senior high School. Upon any change in its list of Feeder Schools, that member Private senior high School shall submit to PIAA a list of those changes, signed and certified in the same manner as is required for the original identification of its Feeder Schools. Upon submission, for purposes of the PIAA Constitution and By-Laws, this list shall constitute the schools in the member Private senior high School's "school district." Where a Catholic junior high/middle School under either Archdiocesan or Diocesan jurisdiction disagrees with its being designated as a Feeder School for a particular member Private senior high School, or where such a school is designated as a Feeder School by multiple member Private senior high Schools, the designation(s) by the Archdiocesan or Diocesan Superintendent of Schools shall control. If any other Private junior high/middle School disagrees with it being designated as a Feeder School for a particular member Private senior high School, the Private junior high/middle School shall so designate the member Private senior high School(s) for which it is a Feeder School and such designation shall control. For the purpose of providing for participation at a member Private senior high School of seventh and eighth grade students enrolled at Feeder Schools of that member Private senior high School, such Feeder Schools may collectively apply for membership as a single Private junior high/middle School. In such instance, PIAA shall recognize the Principal of that member Private senior high School as the Principal of the collective member Private junior high/middle School created for this purpose.
Section 7. Recruiting.
One of the purposes of this ARTICLE is to deter recruiting which is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose. Recruiting for athletic purposes is directly contrary to fundamental interests of PIAA and its member schools and any school engaged in such conduct should do so with the expectation that it will be treated harshly upon proof of such conduct. Recruiting which is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose is contrary to the fundamental objectives of (1) keeping athletics in their proper place and subordinate to academics; (2) protecting student-athletes from "exploitation" by adults and those having interests which might not be consistent with those of the student; and (3) maintaining competitive equity and a level playing field among PIAA member schools. Recruiting which is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose is defined as efforts by a school, or any of its employees, agents, or representatives, to engage in, support, or condone conduct whereby a motivating factor is to seek out one or more athletes to attend a particular school; to promote a school's athletic program or personnel other than as part of the overall program at the school; and/or, to provide preferential treatment or attention to prospective enrollees who are athletes.

A. Upon a Regional Panel's or District Committee's, within their respective jurisdictions, receipt of:

either (1) a signed complaint from the Principal of a PIAA member school, or (2) otherwise credible information that (a) a representative of a school's Athletic Personnel, or any other person affiliated with the school, influenced, persuaded, or attempted to influence or persuade one or more students, or one or more parents or guardians of such student(s), or an adult with whom the student(s) reside, to Transfer to, or otherwise obtain athletic eligibility at, that school for the purpose of participating in athletics at that school, or (b) the school, its Athletic Personnel and/or individuals affiliated with the school in other ways engaged in recruiting of students for an athletic purpose, the Regional Panel or District Committee shall give notice to the school of such complaint or credible information and shall convene a hearing to consider whether any such individuals or the school, by itself or through its Athletic Personnel or other persons affiliated with the school, has engaged in recruiting of students for the purpose of participating in athletics.

B. The following is an illustrative, but not exhaustive, list of situations which may indicate recruiting which is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose:

1. Placing an advertisement in a newspaper or other literature directed toward prospective recruits touting the athletic successes of a school's Teams and/or students.
   
   NOTE: A comprehensive brochure or comparable piece of literature discussing all or most aspects of the school, including, but not focusing on, the athletic program, will not be deemed to constitute recruiting for an athletic purpose.

2. Providing a student-athlete of another school, including a lower level school, other than a Feeder School of that senior high school, with free transportation, tickets, or admissions to a Contest, unless such free transportation, tickets, or admissions are made available to all students, or to all students at the same school, or to all students in the same grade level at the same school. To promote interest in youth sports programs, member senior high schools may also provide free, or reduced-price, admission to Contests for all members of youth sports Teams, provided that public senior high schools make such offer only to Teams based within the geographic boundaries of their public school district and member Private senior high Schools make such offer only to Teams affiliated with that school's sponsoring entities or organization(s) or where at least 50% of the Team members attend a Feeder School for that member Private senior high School.

3. Using AAU or other amateur athletic Coaches to steer students to a particular school.

4. Offering, to an athlete, scholarships or financial aid that is not available to other students at the school.

5. Encouraging the parents or relatives of an athlete attending a school, other than a Feeder School of that senior high school, to influence the student to enroll at that school to play sports there.

6. Promising playing time or a position on a Team to a student.

7. Meeting with athletes of a school, other than a Feeder School of that member senior high school, individually or as a group, to encourage them to enroll at a particular school.

NOTE: This does not prohibit meeting with students who attend a school open house, which is open to all potential enrollees of that school. This also does not prohibit school personnel from visiting non-Feeder Schools of that member senior high school and speaking with entire classes, which may include athletes. The use of Athletic
Personnel to engage in visits to non-Feeder Schools of a member senior high school is not prohibited but may be determined, following a hearing, to be recruiting for an athletic purpose if a focus of the appearance was on athletics, athletes, or promotion of the Athletic Personnel's role as a Coach or member or representative of the athletic department.

8. Providing transportation or other inducements to any prospective student-athlete to take a qualifying examination at a school or to meet with school officials, unless such opportunities are provided to all students at a particular school or grade level.

9. Athletic Personnel of a member senior high school directly, or through another person, encouraging a student or the parents of a student attending a school, other than a Feeder School of that member senior high school, to have the student enroll at the school of the Athletic Personnel.

NOTE: This restriction does not prohibit school personnel from responding to purely student- or student family-initiated inquiries to the personnel about athletic programs at the school.

10. Providing any item with school advertisement (such as shirts, pennants, caps, jackets, etc.) unless such offer is made to all students of a particular school or class.

11. Athletic Personnel of a member senior high school attending a lower level school Contest and, immediately before, during, or after the Contest, speaking to or with the players from one or both Teams. The Athletic Personnel are, however, permitted to speak to or with players from a Feeder School of the Athletic Personnel's school.

NOTE: This restriction does not prohibit Athletic Personnel from simply attending and observing any Contest nor does it prohibit Athletic Personnel from having contact with students on a Team, if the Athletic Personnel's son(s) and/or daughter(s) is (are) on that Team.

12. Participation by a student in non-school athletics (i.e. AAU, American Legion, club settings, etc.) on a Team that is affiliated with any school other than the school which the student attends, or attended the prior year, followed by a Transfer by that student to the affiliated school. A Team affiliated with a school is one that is organized by and/or coached by any member of the Coaching staff at, or any other person affiliated with, that school; and/or on which the majority of the members of the Team (participants in Practice and/or competition) are students who attend that school.

13. Organizing, leading, or participating in a sports camp or clinic or speaking at a sports banquet or function are not, by themselves, considered to be recruiting for an athletic purpose. However, if the Athletic Personnel involved in the camp, clinic, or speech use the opportunity to promote their own school, such effort may be deemed to constitute recruiting for an athletic purpose.

C. If the Regional Panel or District Committee, within their respective jurisdictions, finds that the school, a representative of the school's Athletic Personnel, or any other person, affiliated with the school, approached a student, or a parent or guardian of that student, or an adult with whom that student resides, and attempted to influence and/or influenced that student to Transfer to that school for the purpose of participating in athletics at that school, or otherwise engaged in recruiting which is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose, the offending school will be subject to any of the penalties described in ARTICLE XIII, PENALTIES, of the PIAA By-Laws.

D. Any person determined to have engaged in recruiting which is materially motivated in some way by an athletic purpose shall be disqualified from Coaching any athletic Teams of PIAA members for a period of at least one year.

INTERPRETATIONS

December 17, 2010.

For purposes of this ARTICLE, participation in a sport is deemed to include seasons of participation by both genders in that sport. A student participating in girls' soccer, for example, is deemed to have also participated in boys' soccer for that school year. The following sports are subject to this Interpretation: basketball, bowling, cross country, golf, lacrosse, rifle, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field (indoor and outdoor), volleyball, and water polo.

A student who remains in the student’s present school after the student, the student’s parent(s), legal guardian(s), or foster parent(s), as applicable, has changed residence to another public school district shall retain eligibility at that school until such time as the student seeks eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at another school.

**October 22, 1960; as amended January 31, 2004.**

A student, who upon release from a correctional institution to which the student was assigned by the court, returns to the school of the student’s home public school district, is eligible immediately.

**December 2, 1983.**

A student who Transfers to and attends a school upon the affidavit of a resident of the public school district is subject to ARTICLE VI to the same extent as any other student.

**Section 1. December 28, 1966; as amended July 25, 2008.**

A student enrolled on a full-time basis in a high school, who takes college courses on a part-time basis, is not considered to have transferred because of taking the college courses.

**Section 1. April 1, 1950; as amended January 31, 2004.**

A student who takes summer school courses is not considered to have transferred.

**ARTICLE X**

**CURRICULUM**

**Section 1.**

To be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition, a student must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the Principal as a full-time curriculum. Where required, this curriculum or its equivalent must be approved by, and conform to, the regulations of the State Board of Education and the Pennsylvania School Code, as well as any local policies established by the local School Board. The student must be passing at least four full-credit subjects, or the equivalent. Eligibility shall be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period, shall be reported on a weekly basis, and shall be filed in the Principal’s office. Where a student’s cumulative work from the beginning of the grading period does not as of any Friday meet the standards provided for in this Section, the student shall be ineligible from the immediately following Sunday through the Saturday immediately following the next Friday as of which the student’s cumulative work from the beginning of the grading period meets the standards provided for in this Section. Where a school is closed on a Friday for any reason, the Principal may, at the Principal’s election, determine whether the student as of that day meets the standards provided for in this Section.

**Section 2.**

To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a student must have passed at least four full-credit subjects, or the equivalent, during the previous grading period, except as provided in Section 5. Back work may be made up, providing it is in accordance with the regular rules of the school.

**INTERPRETATIONS**

**Sections 1 and 2. October 6, 2001.**

Whenever students spend approximately double the amount of time in class under “block” scheduling in comparison to “traditional” scheduling, a credit that a student is carrying under “block” scheduling would be the equivalent of two credits under “traditional” scheduling in determining athletic academic eligibility, except when eligibility is determined by final credits at the end of the school year.

**Section 2. July 21, 1983; as amended December 7, 1985; and May 11, 2002.**

ARTICLE X, Section 2 sets only the minimum academic standards for interscholastic athletic eligibility. Since the standards are minimum ones (passing “at least” four full-credit subjects), PIAA member schools may adopt higher or more stringent academic standards, but may not have lower academic standards.

**Section 2. July 22, 1982; as amended December 7, 1985.**

A student who has passed subjects which, in the aggregate, total at least four credits has passed the equivalent of four full credit subjects.

**Section 3.**

In cases where a student’s work in any preceding grading period does not meet the standards provided for in Section 2, said student shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for at least fifteen (15) school days of the next grading period where the school has four (4) grading periods per school year, or for at least ten (10) school days of
the next grading period where the school has six (6) grading periods per school year, beginning on the first day report cards are issued, except as provided in Section 5.

Section 4. New Students Must Meet Eligibility Requirements On Curriculum.
Students who are enrolled for the first time must comply with the requirements of the curriculum rules. The standing required for the preceding week, the preceding grading period or the preceding year shall be obtained from the records of the last school which the student has attended.

Section 5. Use of Final Credits at End of School Year.
At the end of the school year, the student’s final credits in the student’s subjects rather than the student’s credits for the last grading period shall be used to determine the student’s eligibility for the next grading period.

INTERPRETATION
Students whose work does not meet the standards provided for in ARTICLE X, who attend summer school and correct their deficiencies, shall be eligible.

ARTICLE XII

ATHLETIC RELATIONS

Section 1. Teams which PIAA Member Schools may Play.
A. No Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, or Contest may be played with a Team not sponsored and controlled by a public school or Private School nor any school not belonging to PIAA, unless the non-PIAA member school’s eligibility rules for school, Team, and contestants meet the requirements of PIAA. All Contests shall be played pursuant to ARTICLE XVIII, Official Rules for Sports. This requirement does not apply to Contests played outside of Pennsylvania where the opponent school is not a member of PIAA.
B. Regular Season Scrimmages and/or Contests with alumni, where authorized by the school, are permitted in all sports except in Football and Wrestling. Such Scrimmages and/or Contests shall count against the maximum permitted number of Regular Season Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests in the applicable sport.

INTERPRETATIONS

PIAA member senior high schools may participate in Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests against non-PIAA member senior high schools that (1) are in good standing with their respective National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS)-member state high school associations and (2) have on their Teams’ rosters junior high or middle school students enrolled in the 7th and/or 8th grades. However, PIAA member senior high schools are not permitted to use students enrolled in the 7th and/or 8th grades on their Teams in such Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests, unless otherwise authorized under these By-Laws.

Section 1A. May 11, 2002.
Where it is deemed necessary by the respective School Boards, and/or Boards having jurisdiction over the schools, for students and/or Teams from different schools to share facilities at the same time, those students and/or Teams are not considered to be engaging in a Contest, Scrimmage, or Inter-School Practice so long as the students and/or Teams do not interact by competing against or Practicing with each other.

Section 1B. July 24, 2009.
Except as provided in ARTICLE XII, ATHLETIC RELATIONS, Section 1B and ARTICLE XIV, COACHES, Section 2. What Constitutes Coaching, of the PIAA By-Laws, no person who has graduated or withdrawn from high school is eligible to participate in Practices, Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests.

Section 2. Practices, Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and Contests Limited to Six Days Per Calendar Week During Regular Season.

No Team, no individual member or members of such Team, and no individual representing any PIAA member school, may Practice or participate in an Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, Contest, and/or Open Gym on more than six days in any Calendar Week during the Regular Season.

ARTICLE XIII

PENALTIES
Preamble
As a guiding principle, a penalty imposed by PIAA should be broad and severe if the violation or violations reflect a general disregard for the PIAA Constitution, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, and/or Rules and Regulations; in those instances where the violation or violations are isolated and of relative insignificance, then the penalty should be more specific and limited. Previous violations of the PIAA Constitution, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, and/or Rules and Regulations shall be a contributing factor in determining the degree of penalty. All PIAA member schools shall cooperate fully with PIAA District committees, Regional Panels, and/or the PIAA Board of Directors, within their respective jurisdictions, to further the objectives of PIAA and to investigate incidents relating to disciplinary matters and application of the PIAA Constitution, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, and/or Rules and Regulations. All PIAA member schools shall make available, upon request by the District Committee, Regional Panel, and/or the Board of Directors, documents relating to a particular incident and shall further make available for questioning Principals, Athletic Directors, Coaches, student-athletes, and other school and/or Team personnel whose testimony may be desired by the District Committee, Regional Panel, and/or the Board of Directors.

Section 1. Expulsion.
A school that has been expelled from membership in PIAA may not apply for readmission for a period of three (3) school years following expulsion. Thereafter, and upon demonstration to the satisfaction of the PIAA Board of Directors that the reasons for expulsion have been remedied, the expelled school may be readmitted to membership. A school may be expelled:
A. If the Principal is not responsible for the control of interscholastic athletics in the PIAA member school.
B. If it refuses to abide by the decisions of the District Committee, Regional Panel, or the Board of Directors, within their respective jurisdictions.

Section 2. Suspension.
Suspension may consist of suspension of a school from membership in PIAA, or suspension of one or more of a school’s Teams from interscholastic athletic competition with PIAA member schools.
A school or its Team(s) may be suspended:
A. For breach of contracts with other schools.
B. For playing a suspended school.
C. For persistent breach of contracts with Contest officials.
D. For knowingly using an ineligible Coach and/or contestant.
E. For neglecting to provide reasonable safeguards for the protection of Contest officials and visiting Teams.
F. For flagrant violation of the Constitution, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, and/or Rules and Regulations of PIAA.
G. When the conduct of its administration, faculty, Coaches, Teams, students, or Team followers is unsportsmanlike and results in actions which are detrimental to individual, school, and/or public welfare and/or which are prejudicial to the purpose of PIAA.
H. For refusal or failure to abide by the decisions of the District Committee, Regional Panel, or the Board of Directors, within their respective jurisdictions.
I. For violation of terms of probation imposed by the District Committee, Regional Panel, or the Board of Directors, within their respective jurisdictions.
A suspension may be for a defined period of time or may be indefinite. If the suspension is for an indefinite period of time, the District Committee, Regional Panel, or the Board of Directors, within their respective jurisdictions, may also impose conditions which must be met prior to the lifting of the suspension and the suspended school must apply to the body imposing the suspension to lift the suspension.

Section 3. Forfeiture of Contests.
A. Mandatory Forfeiture.
To remedy any possible harm to opponents from participation by an ineligible student or Coach, and to remove any incentive for such participation, a school shall be required to forfeit all Contests in which an ineligible student participated and/or an ineligible Coach coached on behalf of the school, regardless of whether the ineligibility was known at the time of participation and/or Coaching or discovered later. The burden of
ensuring that a student is eligible to participate and/or a Coach is eligible to Coach rests entirely on the student, Coach, and Principal of the school. For a Coach, participation in a Contest, after which the Coach is disqualified, includes any contact by the Coach with members of the Team, including other Coaches, between a reasonable time after the Coach is disqualified and the conclusion of the Contest.

Section 8. Disqualification From Next Contest(s).

A. General Rule.

1. Mandatory Disqualification. Any Coach and/or contestant who, while Coaching or competing for a PIAA member school, is ejected from a Contest by a state high school association recognized and/or registered official in that sport for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct shall be disqualified from Coaching and/or participating for the remainder of the day and in all Contests on the next Contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition from which the Coach and/or contestant was previously disqualified. For a Coach, participation in the next Contest includes any contact by the Coach with members of the Team, including other Coaches, between the time that the Team arrives at the Contest site and the conclusion of the last Contest of the day. Principal shall direct the Coach not to attend all of the Contest(s).

2. Discretionary Disqualification. Upon the finding by a District Committee, Regional Panel, or, if the conduct occurred in an Inter-District Contest, by the Executive Director or Board of Directors, within their respective jurisdictions, that a student-athlete, Coach, and/or Team, while Coaching or competing for a PIAA member school, engaged in flagrant misconduct while on the premises where a Contest is conducted, said student-athletes, Coaches, and/or Teams may be disqualified from participation in the next scheduled Contest following said determination.

B. Disqualification From Last Contest of a Season.

Any Coach and/or contestant ejected from the last Contest(s) in that sport in a sport season shall be disqualified from Coaching and/or participating in the first Contest(s) in that sport in the subsequent sport season, at the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition, at any PIAA member school or, if the Coach and/or student changes levels of competition, such as from junior varsity to varsity, the first Contest(s) in that sport.

C. Reporting of Disqualification.

The official shall file a report with the PIAA Office on the form prescribed for the sport involved, within twenty-four (24) hours following the completion of the Contest in which the ejection occurred. Failure to file such report shall not affect the validity or consequences of the ejection.

D. Appeal of Disqualification.

Decisions of a Contest official to disqualify a Coach and/or contestant are generally not subject to appeal. The only exceptions to this rule are as follows:

1. Misidentification of a person: The person intended by the Contest official to be disqualified was not the one actually disqualified. This exception will not be considered without input from the Contest official.

2. Misapplication of a rule: The Contest official erred in applying a Contest rule such that a Coach and/or contestant was disqualified under a rule not applicable to that sport or which did not provide for disqualification. The judgment of the official regarding the conduct of the Coach and/or contestant may not be challenged.

Misidentification of a person and/or misapplication of a rule appeals shall be submitted to, and resolved by, the Executive Director. Such appeals will be considered only if they are brought to the attention of the Executive Director in sufficient time to permit reasoned consideration prior to the next Contest. Such appeals may be denied for lack of timely submission of adequate evidence. The Executive Director's decision may not
be appealed.

Section 9. Violations by Individuals.

A. Rectifying Action by School.

If it is determined that a school's administration, faculty, Coaches, Teams, students, or Team followers engaged in flagrant misconduct and/or conduct which violates one or more provisions of the Constitution, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, and/or Rules and Regulations of PIAA, and/or misconduct which is contrary to the purposes of PIAA, that school may be directed by its District Committee, Regional Panel, or, if the conduct occurred in an Inter-District Contest, by the Executive Director or Board of Directors, within their respective jurisdictions, to impose appropriate discipline upon such persons or to take other rectifying action for such conduct. PIAA may require the school to take specified rectifying action and/or to impose specified appropriate discipline upon such persons as a condition for not imposing penalties upon the school for flagrant misconduct and/or violations of the Constitution, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, and/or Rules and Regulations by the individuals enumerated in this Section. The failure of a school to impose such directed discipline or to take directed rectifying action may subject that school to the penalties set forth in Sections 1 through 7 of this ARTICLE.

B. Punching, Striking, Biting, or Kicking by Contestant or Coach.

1. A student-athlete who, immediately prior to, during, or immediately after a Contest, recklessly or with ill will or an intent to harm, punches (striking with a closed fist), strikes, bites, or kicks a contestant, Coach, an official, or any other person attending the Contest; may be disqualified in that sport by the Regional Panel or District Committee, within their respective jurisdictions: (1) if the act was reckless, for a period of time up to and including the remainder of that sport’s season and, if the incident occurs with 1/3 or less of that sport’s Regular Season remaining, for a period of time up to and including one half of the following season in the same sport, or (2) if the action was a punch or was with ill will or an intent to harm, for a period of up to one year from the date of the incident leading to the disqualification or the date of the Regional Panel or District Committee hearing. If such conduct occurs immediately before, during, or immediately after an Inter-District Championship Contest, the Board of Directors may disqualify the student for the remainder of the Postseason and, (1) if the conduct was reckless, for a period of time up to and including one half of the following season in the same sport; and (2) if the conduct was a punch or was with ill will or an intent to harm, for a period of up to one year from the date of the incident leading to the disqualification or the date of the Board of Directors’ hearing Where the punching, striking, biting, or kicking results in injury to another competitor, the student engaging in such conduct may further be disqualified until the injured person is able to return to competition. For purposes of this Section, an injury occurs whenever the conduct results in (1) the struck contestant, Coach, or official being unable to further participate in that Contest or one or more subsequent Contests because of the contact; and/or (2) the struck person obtaining post-Contest medical treatment because of the contact.

2. A Coach who, immediately prior to, during, or immediately after a Contest, intentionally strikes, bites, or kicks a contestant, Coach, an official, or any other person in attendance at the Contest, or who punches a contestant, Coach, an official, or any other person in attendance at the Contest, shall be disqualified by the Regional Panel or District Committee, within their respective jurisdictions, (or Board of Directors if the incident occurred at an Inter-District Contest) for a period of not less than one year from the date of either the incident leading to the suspension or the date of the hearing to consider the matter.

INTERPRETATIONS


A Regional Panel or District Committee, within their respective jurisdictions, has the power to suspend a school where the school fails to provide police protection for spectators, officials and competitors.


In sports in which individual events or matches are conducted, use of an ineligible contestant in any event or match will result in forfeiture of that event or match by that student and of the entire Contest by the Team of which the ineligible contestant is a member. Eligible students from all involved Teams, who won their individual events or matches, will not be required to forfeit their individual victories. Additionally, in all Contests, statistics for individual contestants, other than that of the ineligible contestant(s), shall not be affected. All statistics of the forfeiting contestant(s) shall be voided.

ARTICLE XIV

COACHES
Section 1. Who may Coach.
A. A Coach is a person (including volunteer high school alumni, professional athletes, and citizens of the community) engaged, either for an entire season or any part thereof, by a school to provide Coaching to a Team. PIAA does not impose any requirements or limitations on the retention or hiring of paid or volunteer Coaches in either public or Private Schools.
B. Neither the Public School Code nor the Regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) currently place restrictions on the hiring or qualification of persons employed as Coaches in public schools. Upon satisfactory compliance with applicable laws relating to completion of required background checks, schools may engage as Coaches any persons who meet their local criteria.
C. To encourage the hiring of individuals who have knowledge of the skills needed to Coach interscholastic sports, PIAA endorses the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coach Education Program and recommends that individuals hired as Coaches successfully complete this or a similar certification program designed to prepare Coaches in their respective sports.

Section 2. What Constitutes Coaching.
Coaching is the provision of instruction, training, conditioning, and/or direction to a Team, for the purpose of developing athletic abilities and skills. In furtherance of their responsibilities, and consistent with applicable standards and practices relating to safety in individual sports, Coaches may participate as they deem necessary and appropriate in Practices and may provide sideline Coaching assistance in Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and Contests.

INTERPRETATION
Except as provided in ARTICLE XII, ATHLETIC RELATIONS, Section 1B and ARTICLE XIV, COACHES, Section 2, What Constitutes Coaching, of the PIAA By-Law, no person who has graduated or withdrawn from high school is eligible to participate in Practices, Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests.

Section 3. Mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting.
The head Coach of the Coaching staff of each PIAA member senior high school Team must attend at least one PIAA mandatory rules interpretation meeting each year for each boys’ sport and each girls’ sport coached by that staff. The Principal of a PIAA member senior high school may appoint a representative of the Coaching staff to attend said annual mandatory rules interpretation meeting if the head Coach of the Coaching staff in the sport has not yet been designated by the school. A PIAA member senior high school that fails to have the head Coach of its Coaching staff, or an appointed representative of the head Coach of the Coaching staff, attend a minimum of one PIAA mandatory rules interpretation meeting each year for each boys’ sport and for each girls’ sport offered by the school, and in which a PIAA mandatory rules interpretation meeting is offered, shall pay a fine of $100.00 for non-attendance. Payment of said fine shall be made to PIAA within 30 days of notification from PIAA that the head Coach or representative of the head Coach of the Coaching staff, if the head Coach of the Coaching staff in the sport has not been designated by the school, failed to attend the annual mandatory rules interpretation meeting. If the fine is not paid within 30 days of notification, the PIAA member school shall automatically forfeit the right to compete in District and Inter-District Championship Contests in all sports until such time as the fine is paid. PIAA recommends that the head Coach of the Coaching staff of each PIAA member junior high/middle school attend at least one PIAA mandatory rules interpretation meeting each year for each boys’ sport and for each girls’ sport coached by that staff. If the head Coach of the Coaching staff for a junior/middle school in a particular sport does not attend the annual mandatory rules interpretation meeting, that head Coach is required to meet with the respective senior high school head Coach or appointed representative in that sport for the purpose of obtaining all of the information that was presented at the annual mandatory rules interpretation meeting.

ARTICLE XVI
SEASON AND OUT-OF-SEASON RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section 1. Guidelines.
Consistent with the concept that interscholastic athletics are a part of the educational system, and consistent with the established goals of health, safety, and sportsmanship, the following guidelines for out-of-season regulations are set forth:
1. The basic responsibility of all administrators and athletic Coaches is to provide students who are participating in interscholastic athletics with a worthwhile, educational experience.
2. All sports have a defined-season, and no sport shall operate to the detriment of any other sport.
3. All students should have the opportunity to participate in as many interscholastic athletic experiences as is reasonably possible.

**Section 2. Rules and Regulations.**

Each sport has a defined-season which includes the first Practice day, the first Inter-School Practice or Scrimmage day, the first Regular Season Contest day, the last Regular Season Contest day, the District Deadline, the dates for PIAA Championships, the maximum number of Regular Season Contests and the maximum number of Regular Season Inter-School Practices or Scrimmages. All PIAA member schools must comply with the defined-season established for each sport. Within each defined-season, PIAA member schools may sponsor sports Teams which compete against other PIAA member schools or schools that follow all PIAA Policies and Procedures and Rules and Regulations.

**A. Out-of-Season Activities.**

Outside of the defined-season for sports:
1. PIAA member schools may not sponsor Teams in that sport;
2. PIAA member schools, Coaches and/or students of PIAA member schools may be involved with sports activities such as training programs, recreational activities, Open Gyms, clinics, and camps provided that any participation by Coaches and/or students is as private citizens and is voluntary as described below;
3. Coaches and/or students acting as private citizens, and on a voluntary basis, may participate on Teams that are not affiliated with PIAA member schools during the out-of-season period. Coaches and other PIAA member school personnel may not require a student to participate in a sport or a training program for a sport outside of the PIAA-defined sport’s season. The participation of students in any sports activity that occurs outside of its defined season must be voluntary; and
4. The school’s name, nickname, interscholastic athletic uniform, interscholastic athletic equipment, and interscholastic athletic health/first-aid supplies may not be used by community organizations and groups. The school’s name, nickname and interscholastic athletic uniforms may not be used by students; however, the Principal, with the exception of football equipment, may permit students to use the school’s interscholastic athletic equipment and the school’s interscholastic athletic health/first-aid supplies.

**B. Conclusion of Regular Season.**

Except as provided below, all activity in a sport, including Practice, shall terminate by the last Regular Season Contest day in that sport unless the Team is entered into District or Inter-District Championship Contests. If the Team is entered into those Championship Contests, all activity in the sport must terminate on the day of elimination from such Championship Contests.

With the approval of the District Committee, Regular Season Contests which have been postponed may be rescheduled and played between the last Regular Season Contest day in that sport and the District Deadline in that sport. For purposes of the immediately preceding sentence, the date of playing of the last such postponed Regular Season Contest shall constitute the last Regular Season Contest day in that sport.

**C. Football.**

The following sport-specific rules modify the provisions otherwise set forth in this ARTICLE. To the extent any other provision in this ARTICLE is inconsistent with this Section, this Section controls.
1. For purposes of this Section, “Physical Contact” shall mean blocking and/or tackling. “Physical Contact” does not include contact with blocking and/or tackling dummies, shields, and/or sleds; and/or minimum risk “form” blocking or tackling.
2. Students who engage in Physical Contact at football camps and/or during clinics and/or drills, or similar or comparable functions or activities, and/or during Practices, Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests, outside the PIAA-defined football season, shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic football for a period of up to one year from the date of such participation. Coaches assisting and/or supervising in Physical Contact by students from PIAA member schools, outside the PIAA defined football season, shall be ineligible to Coach interscholastic football at any PIAA member school for a period of up to one year from the date of such conduct.
3. Outside the PIAA-defined football season, the Principal may permit students of the Principal’s school to use the school’s helmets, shoulder pads, and shoes for non-Physical Contact skill related instruction supervised by
school-approved adults or at instructional camps. This provision is to promote student safety in football-related activities that do not include Physical Contact.

4. In recognition of the unique circumstances within those PIAA member schools that are absent of any junior high/middle school interscholastic football program, students enrolled in and attending those member schools in grades 7 and 8 may annually participate in the out-of-season interscholastic football program organized and operated as National Football League (NFL) Junior Player Development. A student’s participation shall be limited to a maximum of two weeks per year.

5. Nothing in this Section shall prevent any student from participating, up through the completion of 8th grade, on a community based non-school affiliated youth football team through completion of that team’s fall regular season and, if applicable, its fall postseason.

Section 3. Reporting of and Procedure for Alleged Violations.

Alleged violation(s) of PIAA Season or Out-of-Season Rules and Regulations shall be reported and addressed as follows:

1. Any person may report a violation via the PIAA form entitled “Report of Alleged Violation(s) of PIAA Season or Out-of-Season Rules and Regulations”. The form must be signed by the complainant. Where the complainant is a PIAA member school, the form must be signed by the Principal or Athletic Director. The form must be submitted to the District Committee of the District having jurisdiction over the school allegedly committing the violation.

2. Upon the receipt of a properly completed and signed form, the Chairman of the District Committee or executive staff of the District shall mail a copy of the form to the Principal of the school allegedly involved. The Principal of the involved school shall have twenty-one (21) calendar days in which to respond, in writing, to the alleged violation(s) and to report the actions, if any, the Principal has taken concerning the alleged violation(s).

3. The District Committee shall consider the report of the Principal and determine whether the report fully addresses the alleged violation(s) and satisfies all PIAA interests and concerns.

4. If the District Committee determines that the report of the Principal fully addresses the alleged violation(s) and satisfies all PIAA interests and concerns, it shall close the matter. If the District Committee determines that the report does not fully address the alleged violation(s) and/or does not satisfy all PIAA interests and concerns, it shall conduct a hearing upon the alleged violation(s).

5. If the District Committee finds that there was a violation(s) of this ARTICLE, the offending school will be subject to any of the penalties described in ARTICLE XIII, PENALTIES, Sections 2 through 7, of the PIAA By-Laws.