

CASE STUDIES

2013 AHSAA

Summer

Conference

AHSAA Rules

- ◎ Bible and Handbook
- ◎ It all starts with great rules
- ◎ Members schools make the rules
- ◎ Rulemaking process
- ◎ AHSAA staff governs the rules
- ◎ Official rulings

Fifty Percent Rule

- A student-athlete participated in practice with two separate non-school soccer teams – a U18 team and a U15 team – both of whose rosters contain student-athletes from the school. The student-athlete is one of six school players on the U18 team roster and the student-athlete also practiced one time with the U15 team, which has four other school players on its roster.

Rule Applied:

- Rule I, Eligibility, Section 6, Fifty Percent Rule:

Participation (includes practice) during the school year on a non-school team outside the school season by students that will play the following season on the same high school **varsity or junior varsity/B-team (grades 7-12)** is limited to 50 percent of the number of players required to play the game (i.e. three in basketball, six in soccer, five in baseball, etc.)

- Note: In each sport, only the specified number of students participating on a non-school team during the school year may be **placed on the same high school team roster** the following season. Those students cannot be interchanged on the school team roster. A freshman team at a high school is considered a junior high team just like a 9th grade team at a junior high school.

Ruling:

Since the student-athlete participated on the two non-school teams with nine other school student-athletes, only five of those can be on the same school team with the student-athlete who participated on the non-school team the following season.

Transfer Rule, Non-Resident Attendance

A student-athlete is an eligible student at said school. He continues to attend said school despite the displacement of his family from its home in the said school attendance zone and their subsequent relocation to a residence outside the said school attendance zone. The student-athlete's enrollment in the said school has been without interruption.

Rule Applied:

- Rule I, Eligibility, Section 12, Transfer Rule, Exception 2, Non-Resident Attendance Requirement:

Any student, after completing one year's attendance in a school and fulfilling all other requirements, becomes eligible in that school and the high school that it feeds in the same system. (This does not apply to foreign exchange students who participate in athletics during their first year of attendance.)

- Rule I, Eligibility, Section 12, Transfer Rule, Exception 4, Home Rule:

Even though the parents may move to an address that does not serve the school where a student is attending, the student may remain eligible at that school.

Ruling:

The student is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the said school if all other eligibility requirements have been met.

Transfer/Enrollment Rule

- A student-athlete resides with his family in the city limits of one city and transfers to a school located outside the family's school attendance zone.

Rule Applied:

Rule I, Eligibility, Section 12, Transfer Rule, Exception 2,

- Transfer Rule:

A student that enrolls in one school and later transfers to, or enrolls in, another school shall not be eligible immediately to represent the latter school in any

- Non-Resident Attendance Requirement:

Any student, after completing one year's attendance in a school and fulfilling all other requirements, becomes eligible in that school and the high school that it feeds in the same system

contest.

Ruling:

The student athlete is ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at said school for one year from the date of initial enrollment.

Illegal Football Practice

After football season, a student-athlete attended the National Underclassmen Combine. While at this event, which was paid for by the student-athlete's family, he participated in drills and scrimmages using full protective football equipment. The student-athlete's participation was also confirmed by the event director.

Rule Applied:

- Rule III, Contests, Section 18, Fall Football Practice Regulations:
Between the close of the football season and the end of that school year, any football practice is prohibited except during the allowable spring practice period. A student who participates in an illegal practice may be declared ineligible for interscholastic football.

- Rule III, Contests, Section 21, Camps:
The maximum length of a team camp is four (4) days. A junior high/middle school team may attend a team camp at a different time than its high school varsity. Helmets are the only type of protective equipment that may be worn at an organized team or individual camp.

- Rule III, Contests, Section 22, Summer Practice Rules, Summer Practice Competition, Item 10:

Helmets and hand-held blocking pads are the only types of protective equipment that may be used in any football practice competition (includes team and individual camps).

Ruling

The student-athlete is suspended for the school's first regular season football contest of the following season. The school is assessed a monetary fine of \$300.00 and placed on probation for a period of one year.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

An altercation occurred in a baseball game when a player was hit by a pitch on the back. He immediately released his bat and charged the mound. The contest officials left their positions to attempt to diffuse the incident and both coaches entered the playing area to restrain their respective players. The officials observed players emerging from the dugout and entering the playing area. The contest officials recorded the jersey numbers of all players who left the dugout and entered the playing area. They indicated in their reports that the other school had no players leave their positions on the field or their dugout. After order was restored, only seven school players, including the batter who charged the mound, should be ejected from the contest. These ejections resulted in a lack of the required number of eligible players to continue and the contest was terminated. A forfeit victory was awarded.

Rule Applied:

- Baseball Rules Book, Rule 3, Substituting-Coaching-Bench and Field Conduct-Charged Conference, Section 3, Bench and Field Conduct:

Article 1: A coach, player, substitute, attendant or other bench personnel shall not leave their positions or bench area during a fight or physical confrontation.

PENALTY: The umpire shall eject the offender from the game. Failure to comply shall result in game being forfeited.

- Baseball Rules Book, Substituting-Coaching-Bench and Field Conduct, Fighting, 3.3.1:

Situation PP: R1 slides hard into F4. R1 and F4 begin pushing each other. F6 and the on-deck batter run to second base to break up the fight. **RULING:** All are ejected. Once F6 and the on-deck batter left their positions and advanced toward the fight, they were in violation of the rule.

- Rule III, Contests, Section 10, Failure to Complete Contests:

A school that takes its team off the field or court during a regular season or tournament contest may not expect to collect its expenses or guarantees. Such an act will be considered flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct. After a contest begins, each school waives all rights as far as objections to the officials are concerned.

Note: A contest ending as a result of an unsportsmanlike incident involving one or both participating teams is subject to the Failure To Complete Contests rule.

Ruling:

The school is assessed a monetary fine of \$300.00 per ejection. All first-time ejected student-athletes may complete the STAR Take 2 Sportsmanship Program within 10 school days, reducing their fine to \$100.00 pending completion and confirmation. The five student-athletes ejected under NFHS rules (leaving the dugout) are suspended for the next four regular season varsity baseball games. Changes in the scheduling because of this incident are not allowable under AHSAA rules. The on-deck batter was ejected for entering the playing area, no four-game suspension is assessed.

The school is assessed \$300.00 because an unsportsmanlike incident caused the contest to be terminated. The school is placed on probation for a period of one year. It is recommended that the school players and coaches complete one professional development session with AHSAA mentor. Completion of the mentoring session within 10 days will result in the school fine being reduced.

Contest Rule

- ⦿ Two schools were scheduled to play in a varsity softball game. The contest officials were not available for the game but the two schools played the game without registered AHSAA officials.

Rule Applied:

- Rule III, Contests, Section 1, Contest Restrictions:

Note: Practice contests between schools are not permitted at any time during the school year, which begins with the first fall practice.

- Rule III, Contests, Section 3, Sanctioning Requirements:

A team or individual cannot participate in any tournament or contest that is not sanctioned by the AHSAA.

- Rule VI, Administration, Section 6, Altering AHSAA Rules:

Mutual agreements to violate the rules of the AHSAA may result in the suspension of all schools involved.

- Rule IV, Game Officials, Section 2, Registered Officials' Contest Requirements:

Only officials who are registered with the AHSAA may be used by member schools as officials in football, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, wrestling and soccer. Some registered officials are required in track and field. Violation of this rule shall subject the school or schools to a fine.

Ruling:

The schools were assessed a monetary fine of \$300.00 and placed on probation for a period of one year.

Video Restrictions

- A parent who films athletic contests for a school filmed basketball games of two other school playing. He did so without the knowledge of the school administrators or coaches and without permission from the participating schools. When the school administrators learned that the parent had filmed the games, the administrators from the two schools were notified and the violation was reported to the AHSAA.

Rule Applied:

- Rule III, Contests, Section 23, Video Restrictions:

A school may not video tape nor film any contest in which it is not involved unless it has received permission from both participating schools. No outside group or individual may video tape or film any contest without permission from all participating schools.

Ruling:

The school is assessed a monetary fine of \$250.00 (self-reported) and placed on probation for a period of one year. The school should take necessary steps to destroy the two game films.

Academic Rule

- A student-athlete was academically ineligible, pending completion of a course through credit recovery. The credit recovery course was not completed prior to the September 1 deadline. Thus the student-athlete did not meet academic requirements based on his previous two semesters attended. The student-athlete participated in two varsity football games before the violation was discovered.

Rule Applied:

◎ Rule I, Eligibility, Section 9, Academic Rule:

Students entering the 10th and 11th and 12th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least six new Carnegie units with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those six units. Four core curriculum courses must be included in those units passed and averaged. English, mathematics, science and social studies are core curriculum courses. Any combination of these courses is accepted. Any student that accumulates more than four units of core courses per year may earn less than the required four core courses during the next school year and be eligible as long as the student remains on track for graduation with his/her class. Students entering the 8th and 9th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least five new subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects and must have been promoted to the next grade. Note: A new unit is one that has not been previously passed. A semester is half of a school year as defined by the local school system. (6) Units earned through **Credit Recovery may also be among the maximum two summer units counted and must be completed before Sept. 1.** If Credit Recovery is used to make up Carnegie units, those units can only be accepted if they are earned through a State Department of Education approved program.

◎ Rule 1, Eligibility, Section 21, Undefined Violations:

If a student participates while ineligible, the usual penalty for the student will be a period of ineligibility equal to the time that the student participated while ineligible. This period may be determined to suit the nature of the case.

Ruling:

The school is assessed a monetary fine of \$300.00 and placed on probation for a period of one year. All contests in which the student-athlete participated and were won by the school must be forfeited to the opposing school. As restitution, once the student-athlete becomes eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the school, he must sit out the same number of athletic contests in any sport in which he participated while ineligible. The student-athlete must sit out the first two regular season contests of the following season.

Home Rule

A student-athlete transferred from a private member high school in Jefferson County to a public member high school in Shelby County in January of the current school year. The student-athlete and her parents are long-time residents in the attendance zone of the Shelby County public school. Upon her enrollment at the public school the student-athlete joined the indoor track team and was allowed to participate in a meet.

Rule Applied:

⦿ Rule I, Eligibility, Section 12, Transfer Rule, Exception 4, Home Rule:
If a student attends a member school that does not serve the area where the student's parents reside, the student may return to his/her home school and be eligible at the beginning of any school year if all other requirements are met. If the change of schools is made after the school year has started, the student will not be eligible until the beginning of the next school year. (This does not change the existing rule concerning transfers within overlapping school zones in which both schools serve the area where the student's parents reside.)

⦿ Rule III, Contests, Section 8, Ineligible Student Participation:
If an ineligible student participates in a contest, or if a student enters a contest under an assumed name, that student's school will be required to forfeit that contest if it was won by the school. If a student participates under an assumed name, the school's membership in the AHSAA will also be jeopardized. If an ineligible student participates in a contest composed of individual events (track meet, tennis match, etc.), that school will be required to forfeit the entire contest, including all points and awards (medals, trophies, etc.) earned by other members of the team.”

Ruling:

High School is assessed a monetary fine of \$250.00 and placed on probation for a period of one year. All contests and individual events in which student-athlete participated and were won by school must be forfeited to the opposing school, including all points and awards earned by other team members. Once the student-athlete regains eligibility at said high school, she must sit out the school's first regular season indoor track meet.

Coaching Outside the School Year

A student-athlete transferred to said school. Upon investigating the bona fide move a question occurred whether a coach from the school where the student transferred had provided private baseball instruction to the student-athlete prior to transferring to said school.

Upon investigation, a current and long-time volunteer assistant baseball coach did provide private baseball instruction to the student-athlete during the previous two summers and during the prior baseball season while the student-athlete attended the previous school

Rule Applied:

- ◎ Rule III, Contests, Section 15, Coaching Outside School Year:

Any coach that coaches a student from another school renders that student ineligible at the coach's school for the next school year (practice or competition).

Ruling:

The student-athlete is ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the new school for one year from his initial date of enrollment.

Fall Football Practice Regulations

A student-athlete would like to attend the Team USA Nationals football camp scheduled for July. This event features four teams in each age bracket participating in competitions such as 7-on-7, jamborees and modified games wearing full protective football equipment.

Rule Applied:

- Rule III, Contests, Section 18, Fall Football Practice Regulations:

Between the close of the football season and the end of the school year, any football practice is prohibited except during the allowable spring practice period. A student who participates in an illegal practice may be declared ineligible for interscholastic football.

- Rule III, Contests, Section 21, Camps:

The maximum length of a team camp is four (4) days. A junior high/middle school team may attend a team camp at a different time than its high school varsity. Helmets are the only type of protective equipment that may be worn at an organized team or individual camp.

Ruling:

The student-athlete may attend the camp but may not participate in any activity wearing full protective equipment.

Outside Participation

After the school's first tennis match, a team member participated in a tennis clinic at a nearby college along with student-athletes from several other schools. During the clinic, the team member volleyed and performed drills with the other student-athletes.

Rule Applied:

- **Rule I, Eligibility, Section 6, Outside Participation Rule:**

A student who is a member of any school athletic team (grades 7-12) may not participate (includes practice) on a non-school team in the same sport during the school season of that sport. A student who is a member of any high school athletic team may not participate in an outside sport activity in the same sport during the school season of that sport.”

Note: Olympic Development programs are exempted from the Outside Participation Rule. One evaluation per month has been approved by the AHSAA.

Note: Private individual instruction is not considered an outside sports activity. Private individual instruction is one-on-one between one athlete and one instructor and cannot be instruction with another player or groups of players.

A student who violates this rule becomes ineligible to compete on that school team or in that school sports activity for the remainder of that school season. Any student who participates on an outside team after the school sport season begins is ineligible to join that school team for the remainder of that season.

A team’s season begins the day of that team’s first contest and ends when that team’s season has been completed. An ineligible student cannot participate with an outside team after the school team’s season starts and then join the school team upon becoming eligible.

- **Rule III, Contest, Section 21, Camps:**

Students may attend camps (for individuals) provided they do so individually at their own expense.

Note: During the sports season, no activity is allowed in the same sport, including but not limited to camps, tryouts, showcases, etc., regardless of who sponsors/conducts the event (please refer to Outside Participation Rule).

Ruling:

The school learned of the violation and did not allow the student-athlete to participate in any school matches after attending the clinic. The school also self-reported the student-athlete's violation and the student-athlete was ruled ineligible for the remainder of the tennis season. No additional sanctions were assessed because the student-athlete did not participate in a school match after the violation.

Transfer Rule, Divorce

A student-athlete previously attended said school and was an eligible athlete, residing in the said school attendance zone with his father who had primary physical custody. In January the student-athlete's mother who resides outside the school attendance zone of said school obtained a temporary court order which granted her emergency care due to concerns at the father's home. The student-athlete transferred to the school that served his mother's address and was in his mother's care. In February a court hearing was held giving primary physical custody to the father. The student-athlete returned to live with his father and transferred back to the said school.

Rule Applied:

- ◎ Rule I, Eligibility, Section 12, Transfer Rule, Divorce:

The eligibility of a student whose parents are divorced is determined by the following: If there has been a divorce or legal separation in a family and sole or physical custody has been awarded by the court granting the divorce to one of the parents, the athletic eligibility of the student will be established at the school that serves the area where that parent resides.

- ◎ Note: If joint custody has been awarded and a transfer is involved, the student must attend the new school for one year before becoming eligible. **If it becomes necessary at a later date for the student to reside with the other parent, the move will be accepted as a bona fide move if the court that granted the divorce changes the custody to this parent.** This type of move will be accepted for immediate eligibility purposes only one time. Therefore, if a student subsequently decides to return and reside with the first parent in a different school zone, the student will be ineligible for a period of one year.

Ruling:

Based on the court orders stipulating that the child must live with his father, and after consultation with the AHSAA's legal counsel, the student-athlete is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at said school if all other eligibility requirements have been met.

Bona Fide Move Rule

A student-athlete and his family moved to another town to live with a family member and enrolled in the school for which the family member's residence was zoned. Less than a month later, the student-athlete's Mom moved to a new residence in another school's attendance zone, leaving the student-athlete to reside with the family member and participate in athletics at that school. The student-athlete played in all the school's football and basketball games. At the end of the school year, the student-athlete moved to live with his Mom and enrolled at the school which served her residence.

Rule Applied:

● **Rule I, Eligibility, Section 12, Transfer Rule, Exception 3, Bona Fide Move:**

A student whose parents make a bona fide move completely out of one school zone into another may transfer all his/her rights and privileges to the member school that serves the area where his/her parents reside.

If the change of school precedes the bona fide move on the part of the parents, the student is ineligible until the parents make a bona fide move.

Determining a Bona Fide Move – Sometimes it is very difficult to determine what constitutes a bona fide move. Family and home conditions differ and must be considered. The following factors are basic guidelines for determining a bona fide move:

- The household furniture of the family must be moved into an unoccupied house or apartment.
- All principal members of the family must reside in the new place of residence.
- The original residence should be closed, rented or disposed of and not used by the family.
- Nine months at the new residence will be required to make a move bona fide.

If a family moves into a new school zone and remains there less than nine months, the move will not be considered bona fide and the family's child who is enrolled in the new school zone becomes ineligible there the day the family leaves the new school zone.

The student remains ineligible for a full calendar year from the date the family moved out of the new zone. However, if the student did not participate in athletics, the period of ineligibility will be 12 months from the date of the student's initial enrollment.

Rule Applied:

- ◎ **Rule III, Contests, Section 8, Ineligible Student Participation:**

If an ineligible student participates in a contest, or if a student enters a contest under an assumed name, that student's school will be required to forfeit that contest if it was won by the school. If a student participates under an assumed name, the school's membership in the AHSAA will also be jeopardized.

- ◎ **Rule I, Eligibility, Section 22, Student Restitution:**

If a student participates while ineligible, the usual penalty for the student will be a period of ineligibility equal to the time that the student participated while ineligible.

Ruling:

The bona fide move became non-compliant when the Mom moved out of the family member's house and into the new school zone before the required nine months passed and the student-athlete became ineligible immediately. The school was fined \$300, placed on one-year probation and required to forfeit all contests in any sport in which the student-athlete participated ineligibly. When the student-athlete gains eligibility, must serve restitution equal to number of games participated in while ineligible.

THANK YOU

For your dedication to
high school athletics