

2012-13

CASE STUDIES

AHSAA

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.

Transgender Student-Athletes

The interpretation is that participation in athletics should be determined by the gender indicated on the student-athlete's certified certificate of birth.

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.

Contracting Contest Officials

- ⦿ A middle school recently hosted an annual basketball tournament. Registered AHSAA contest officials were used for the tournament, but they were not assigned by the booking agent for the school's contracted officials' association, and some were not members of the school's contracted officials' association. Tournament director coordinated the assignment of officials.

Ruling Applied:

- Rule VI, Administration, Section 5,
Contracting Contest Officials:

It is the responsibility of each school to contract with local officials associations to assign registered officials for each of its regular season contests in all sports.

Ruling:

The middle school is assessed a monetary fine of \$125.00 and placed on probation for a period of one year. This probationary period should serve as a warning that should further violations of this nature occur, additional sanctions will be assessed.

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 schools 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.

Undergraduate Rule

- ① A baseball coach knowingly allowed two ineligible players to participate as part of the school's baseball team in two games during a tournament. The coach actually informed opposing coaches that the school would use two ineligible players in the tournament games.
- ① The school suspended the coach from his coaching duties pending the outcome of the investigation and cancelled the three remaining regular season games and all non-area games.

Rule Applied:

- ⦿ Rule I, Eligibility, Section 1, Undergraduates Rule: Graduates of accredited high schools or equal grades are not eligible.
- ⦿ 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 III, Contests, Section 4, Membership Requirements: Eligibility rules or playing rules may not be set aside for any athletic contest at any level.

Ruling:

The school is assessed a monetary fine of \$500.00 and placed on restrictive probation for a period of one year as long as coach remains baseball coach for said school.

Should coach's duties with the baseball program be suspended or terminated, said school will be relieved of restrictive probation and remain on non-restrictive probation.

All contests in which two ineligible athletes participated and were won by said school must be forfeited to the opposing school.

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.

Custody and Legal Guardianship

- The student-athlete moved to live with his father in another school attendance zone. The father petitioned for and was awarded legal custody by the County Juvenile Court.

Rule Applied:

- Rule I, Eligibility, Section 12, Transfer Rule, Custody and Legal Guardianship:

Custody or legal guardianship assigned to anyone (including relatives) will not establish immediate athletic eligibility.

Note: If a student transfers to another school zone to live with an appointed guardian without a bona fide move into that school zone by the parents, that student would be ineligible under the Transfer Rule. If a student has been declared a “dependent of the state” and placed by the Department of Human Resources (DHR), that student would meet the Transfer Rule requirement in the school zone where the student has been placed.

Ruling:

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

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.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

An unsportsmanlike altercation occurred with 0:07.7 remaining in the third quarter. A school-1 player intercepted a school-2 pass and returned it near the school-2 30-yard line. An official time out was called to allow assistance for a school-2 player who sustained an injury during the play. The contest official observed a fellow official attempting to break up a fight between school-1 player and school-2 player. Multiple players and coaches from both schools left the designated team area and entered the playing area. The incident lasted approximately two minutes. The contest officials were unable to identify all players who were involved and requested that the AHSAA review video evidence to insure an accurate identification of all players involved. Several players were observed fighting and one was observed using his helmet as a weapon. When order was restored the contest officials determined that neither school had enough eligible players remaining to continue the contest. The contest was terminated and declared a double forfeit.

Rule Applied:

- Rule I, Eligibility, Section 18, Conduct Rule/Ejection Penalties:

Penalties for coaches and players ejected from one or more contests are as follows: First Ejection - \$300.00 fine (athlete's fine can be reduced by completion of STAR Take 2), Second Ejection – A one-game suspension and a \$500.00 fine, Third Ejection – Minimum penalty of suspension for the remainder of the season plus a \$750.00 fine. Note: If any of the ejections occur during the last contest of the season, a monetary fine will be placed on the school. All fines are due within 30 days. Leaving the bench Ejection: If players come off the bench onto the court or field and are ejected under National Federation rules, they will also be suspended for 20 percent of the team's total number of regular season contests. A tournament would count as one contest except in championship play where the suspension would be in effect contest by contest.

For physical abuse, which includes physical attacks made on officials, coaches, and/or players by anyone: minimum fine of \$500.00, no maximum. Physical violence by a player on an official or coach may also include the suspension of the player for a specific period of time or permanent suspension, depending on the severity of the act and the incidents which lead to the altercation. Subsequent penalties on the same school will result in additional, higher monetary fines and extension of the probationary period which may or may not be restrictive. For physical violence or abuse, a school may be placed on restrictive probation for a part or all of its athletic programs or may be suspended from the Association. Restrictive probation limits the school's participation to regular season games and prohibits the school from participating in any interscholastic contest involving more than two schools, including championships, for the duration of the restrictive probation.

- 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:

School-2 was assessed a monetary fine of \$300.00 per ejection. All first time ejections may take the STAR Take 2 to reduce their fine to \$100.00 pending completion and confirmation. Students who came off the bench are suspended for the next two regular season varsity football games.

For the egregious action of the player who used his helmet as a weapon, the school is fined an additional \$300.00 and the student-athlete is suspended from participation in any spring or fall football jamboree contests as well as the school's first regular-season contest of the following school year. Since the school took strong disciplinary action against the student-athlete the \$300.00 fine is rescinded.

The school is assessed a monetary fine of \$1,000.00 and placed on probation for a period of one year for the unsportsmanlike conduct of its football team during a contest. It is recommended that the school's football players and coaches complete one professional development session with the AHSAA mentoring instructor. The school's response to the mentoring program within 10 days will result in the \$1,000.00 fine being reduced to \$500.00

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

Five members of a school's baseball team participated on a travel baseball team during the baseball season. The students participated in contests for the member school while being part of the travel baseball team.

Once aware of the violation, the school removed the student-athletes from the team.

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: Private individual instruction is not considered an outside sports activity. Private individual instruction is one-on-one instruction 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 sports 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.

Ruling:

The school is assessed a monetary fine of \$250.00 and placed on probation for a period of one year. The student-athletes are ineligible to participate in baseball at said school for the remainder of the current school season.

Any contests in which the student-athletes participated and were won by the school after they participated (practice or games) on the non-school team must be forfeited to the opposing school.

Once the student-athletes become eligible to participate in baseball, they must sit out the same number of contests in which they participated while ineligible.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

A parent of a basketball player grabbed one of the contest officials as the crew was leaving the playing area following the contest. The fan began to shout at the official and took a swing in an attempt to hit him. Home management intervened and subdued the parent and escorted the contest officials to their dressing area.

Rule Applied:

- ⦿ Constitution, Article VII, Central Board of Control: For a violation of rules, including flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct other than physical abuse: 1st offense \$150-\$300 fine, depending on the severity of the case. Severity of the case includes who reported the violation, whether there was intent to hide or conceal information, and whether there were attempts to falsify records. The penalty will also carry probation which is a warning to the school that any further violations will jeopardize its membership in the AHSAA.
- ⦿ Rule VI, Administration, Section 2, Principals' Accountability: The principal of a school shall be held ultimately responsible in all matters that concern interscholastic athletics at his/her school.

Ruling:

The school is assessed a monetary fine of \$300.00 and placed on probation for a period of one year. The school's basketball team will be placed on restrictive probation if the fan is allowed to attend any home or away school athletic contest for the remainder of the current school year.

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.

Outside Participation, Camps

- Three varsity baseball players participated in a tryout with a college team during their high school team's baseball season. The three players visited the college and participated in on-field evaluations directed by the college team's baseball coach to evaluate their talent and skill levels. The student-athletes subsequently participated in contests for their school team.

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 instruction 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, Contests, 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 member school was fined \$250 and placed on probation for one year. Games in which the players played and were won must be forfeited to the opposing team and a letter of forfeiture sent to each school and the AHSAA. After regaining their eligibility, the three students must sit out the same number of games in which they participated while ineligible.

THANK YOU

For your dedication to
high school athletics