

ARIZONA INTERSCHOLASTIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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## **A.I.A. ELIGIBILITY RULES**

### **PROTECT YOUR ELIGIBILITY BY KNOWING THE RULES**

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|--|-----------------------------------|
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### **INTRODUCTION**

Every year over 70,000 students in the state of Arizona participate in interscholastic activities at the high school level. The Arizona Interscholastic association is comprised of member schools that establish eligibility criteria for students, such as yourself, to be able to participate.

When you become a member of an interscholastic team at your high school, you will find that both your school and the AIA will have rules you must follow in order to be eligible for interscholastic participation. AIA rules must be followed as minimum standards for all interscholastic competition in any member school. Your high school may have additional requirements, but they may not be less stringent than these statewide minimums.

Information contained in this pamphlet will acquaint you with the major rules and regulations you must follow in order to maintain and protect your high school eligibility. Any questions you have concerning these essential requirements or with your athletic eligibility should be checked with your school principal or athletic director. These administrators in your school have a complete copy of all AIA eligibility requirements.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HERE INCLUDES PORTIONS OF THE BYLAWS, NOT THE ACTUAL BYLAWS. PLEASE REFER TO THE BYLAW REFERENCES FOR THE COMPLETE STATEMENT OF THE BYLAWS IN THEIR ENTIRETY. BYLAWS ARE ALSO POSTED ON OUR WEB SITE – iHigh.com

### **ELIGIBILITY RULES**

1. Enrollment Rule Reference: Bylaw 15.3
  - You must be enrolled and attending classes in your high school no later than the 14<sup>th</sup> school day of the semester in order to establish eligibility.
  - If you have been enrolled in school for 15 or more days during any one semester, it will count as one of the eight (8) semesters of high school attendance during which you may possibly have eligibility.
2. Academic Rule Reference: Bylaw 15.4
  - You must be enrolled in a minimum of five (5) courses the first six semesters of high school and a minimum as determined by your school during the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> semester.
3. Domicile Rule Reference: Bylaw 15.5
  - Except as otherwise stated in Article 15, you, whether an adult or not, are privileged with eligibility for interscholastic competition only at the school in the district in which your parents are domiciled. In multi-school districts, you are eligible only at the school in the attendance zone in which your parents are domiciled.

## AIA Eligibility Rules (Cont.)

4. Age Limit/Birth Record Rule Reference: Bylaw 15.6
  - If you become 19 years of age on or before September 1, you are NOT eligible for any part of that school year.
  - You must submit an acceptable record of birth before your name is placed on an eligibility list for varsity competition.
5. Physical Examination Rule Reference: Bylaw 15.7
  - You must have a physician's record of a physical examination on file with the principal stating that you are physically fit for interscholastic athletic competition.
  - Your physical examination for the following year must be given on or after March 1.
6. Parent or Legal Guardianship Rule Reference: Bylaw 15.8
  - You must get signed permission to participate from your parents or guardian on a form provided by the school.
7. Maximum Participation Rule Reference: Bylaw 15.9
  - You are eligible to participate for only four seasons in each sport and no more than eight semesters.
  - You may be eligible for no more than eight semesters you attend school after you enroll in the ninth grade. If you attend school for fifteen (15) days or more in a semester, that counts as a semester of attendance.
8. Transfer Rule Reference: Bylaw 15.10
  - If you move with your parents to a new school district, you will be eligible at your new school provided you meet all other eligibility requirements.
  - If you transfer schools and your parents do not move into the district of your new school you will be ineligible for 365 days.
9. Amateur Rule Reference: Bylaw 15.11
  - You must be an amateur. This means that you have never used and are not using your knowledge of athletics or athletic skill in an athletic contest for financial gain.
  - You shall participate and always have participated under your own name.
10. Recruitment Rule Reference: Bylaw 15.12
  - The bylaws prohibit recruiting of high school students for athletic purposes. If you are solicited to enroll in or transfer to a school to participate in athletics, you are being illegally recruited and your eligibility is in jeopardy.
  - If the recruitment rule is violated, you will not be eligible as a member school until reinstated by the AIA Executive Board.
11. Non-School Participation Rule Reference: Bylaw 14.4
  - If you are a member of a school team, you may not practice or compete with a non-school team in the same sport during the same season.
  - You will become ineligible if you violate the above rule.
12. Sportsmanship Rule Reference: Bylaw 16.4
  - If you are ejected from an interscholastic contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, you will be ineligible for your team's next contest.
  - You may also be subject to other penalties.