ARTICLE 15

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY RULES

15.1 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

15.1.1 All participants in interscholastic activities must be in compliance with all student eligibility rules. The student eligibility rules are enumerated and presented in detail in Article 15 of the AIA Bylaws.

15.1.1.1 Failure to meet all eligibility requirements by all participants while participating in an interscholastic event may result in forfeiture or disqualification by the offending school and/or such other disciplinary action as the AIA Executive Board may impose. The disciplinary actions authorized in the event of a violation of the AIA rules and regulations are: Advisement, Warning, Probation, Disqualification and Forfeiture. (*See Article 16, Section 1)* The AIA Executive Board shall consider possible violations of the AIA rules and regulations at its regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting. A special meeting to hear a violation report may be called by the President of the AIA Executive Board at any time deemed necessary. The President shall call a special meeting when so directed by a majority of the AIA Executive Board. At the discretion of the AIA Executive Board, said special meeting may be held by telephone conference call.

15.2 APPLICATION OF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY RULES

15.2.1 No part of the student eligibility rules shall be set aside, nor shall any attempt be made to set aside by mutual agreement of any participating schools or their agents, for any contest whatsoever. The student eligibility rules shall not be supplemented or supplanted in any contest under the jurisdiction of the AIA.

15.2.2 The student eligibility rules apply to all interscholastic competition in sports governed by the association and portions thereof to nonathletic activities, as applicable, and as set forth in Articles 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42 of the AIA Bylaws.

15.2.3 Prior to participation, the school principal or his/her designated representative shall have determined that each participant is in compliance with all provisions of the eligibility rules as enumerated in Article 15.

15.3 ENROLLMENT RULE

15.3.1 Only students enrolled at a member school in grades 9 through 12, shall be eligible for interscholastic competition, team practices and tryouts. For purposes of this rule, a student's school of enrollment is defined as the school where the student's permanent grades/records are maintained and from which the student will be eligible to graduate.

15.3.1.1 EXCEPTION: A home school student may be eligible if said student is in compliance with A.R.S. §15-802.01.

15.3.1.2 Online Charter School Students – Notwithstanding any other bylaw, a student who is enrolled in an Arizona online charter school and who is domiciled within the attendance zone of a member school, may be allowed to try out for interscholastic athletics and activities on behalf of that member school, if permitted by the member school's governing board. On an annual basis, prior to the beginning of the school year, the member school governing board shall determine by formal board action whether it will permit online charter school students to try out for interscholastic athletics and activities and said board determination will remain in effect for that school year. If permitted, the member school may charge online charter school students additional fees to participate in interscholastic athletics and activities.

All other eligibility requirements shall apply to online charter school students consistent with requirements established for students enrolled in that member school, including but not limited to, that the online charter school shall submit to the member school written verification that, in a manner and timeline that is consistent with the member school's policies, the student is both: 1) receiving a passing grade in each course or subject being taught, and 2) maintaining satisfactory progress towards advancement or promotion.

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A student who is enrolled in an online charter school and who was previously enrolled in a school that is part of a school district is not eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics or activities for the remainder of the school year during which the student was enrolled in a school that is part of a school district.

15.3.2 In order to establish eligibility for that season, a student's initial attendance shall be no later than the 14th official school day of the season. If a student's initial attendance occurs after the 14th official school day of the season, he/she is ineligible for that season.

DETERMINATION: The AIA Executive Director, as designee of the AIA Executive Board, may rule on the eligibility of a student who enrolls after the 14th official school day of a session.

15.4 ACADEMIC RULE

15.4.1 A student must be enrolled in a minimum of five courses the first six semesters of high school and a minimum as determined by the district during the seventh and eighth semesters. The configuration and method of course delivery shall be as determined by the member school.

15.5 DOMICILE

15.5.1 Domicile – Except as otherwise stated in Article 15, a domicile is a place where a person has his/her true, fixed and permanent home, and to which, whenever absent, he or she has the intention of returning. A student shall have only one domicile for the purposes of these eligibility rules.

15.5.2 Special Domicile Placements

15.5.2.1 Ninth-Grade Enrollment – Except as stated in 15.15, an eighth-grade student graduate enrolling in the ninth grade for the first time may attend any member high school and be eligible for interscholastic activities. This recognizes the concept of open enrollment. Upon any transfer by the student after the initial enrollment in the ninth grade, the Transfer Rule applies.

15.5.2.2 Legal Guardian – Except in the case of a foreign exchange student or an international student under 15.15, a student for whom a legal guardian has been appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction may be declared eligible at the school in attendance zone in which said legal guardian is domiciled by petitioning as outlined in the AIA Bylaws under Article 15, Section 15.14 Hardship. For purposes of this rule, a court of competent jurisdiction does not include courts outside the United States.

DETERMINATION: The AIA Executive Director, as designee of the AIA Executive Board, may rule on the eligibility of a student for whom a legal guardian has been appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

15.5.2.2.1 EXCEPTION: If a legal guardianship appointment has been in effect for at least two years prior to the student's participation in interscholastic competition, it shall not be necessary to petition the AIA Executive Board for domicile hardship eligibility.

15.5.2.2.2 The use in interscholastic competition of a student for whom a legal guardian has been appointed, without compliance with the above requirements, shall constitute the use of an ineligible player.

15.5.2.2.3 Where it is determined by the Executive Board or the Executive Director that athletic motivation and/or circumvention of AIA domicile requirements is involved in the legal guardianship, this is sufficient in and of itself for denial of the hardship request (see 15.14.1.4).

15.5.2.3 Ward of the Court - A student who is a ward of the court or the state and is placed in a school by court order may become eligible for interscholastic competition at that school by petitioning for and receiving approval of the AIA Executive Board as outlined in the AIA Bylaws under Article 15, Section 14 Hardship.

15.5.2.4 Dual Enrollment - A student registered in dual enrollment or in special programs at a school outside the attendance zone within that school district in which his/her parents are domiciled is eligible to participate in interscholastic competition at the school where the student's permanent records are maintained. The student is eligible for interscholastic competition at that school only.

15.5.2.5 District Alternative School Students - Students attending a Cognia Commission on Accreditation & School Improvement accredited alternative school that is void of any AIA interscholastic activity programs are eligible to participate in such activities at their home school (school of domicile). All AIA and school district eligibility requirements must be met.

15.5.2.6 Deaf and Blind Students

15.5.2.6.1 A student enrolled in an AIA member school who also qualifies for enrollment at Phoenix Day School for the Deaf or Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind shall have primary interscholastic eligibility at the school in which he/she is enrolled. In the event the handicap precludes the student from participating in an activity at the school in which the student is enrolled, the student shall have eligibility at one of the aforementioned special program schools for that activity while maintaining enrollment and attendance at the school where enrolled.

15.5.2.6.2 If an Arizona state school for the deaf and blind does not offer a particular AIA sanctioned sport or activity, a student enrolled in said school may participate in that sport or activities at the AIA public member school nearest to the state school for the deaf and blind or at the AIA public member school in which the student's parents or legal guardians are domiciled. The student is not eligible under this provision without the mutual consent of the sending and receiving school principals.

15.5.2.7 First Time Enrollment from Out of State – Except as stated in 15.15, an out of state student whose parents/legal guardian have changed their domicile to and is attending high school for the first time in Arizona may attend any member high school without the transfer ineligibility period(s) provided under 15.10.1 and 15.10.2 be eligible for interscholastic activities and shall not be considered a transfer. A subsequent transfer will result in a period of ineligibility under 15.10.

15.5.2.7.1 If a first time from out of state transfer occurs during the season in which the student has practiced or participated for a team during the current season, the student is ineligible for one year from the date of first attendance at the receiving school in that sport. Excluding any military transfer students. *(Emergency Legislation – 9/19/2025)*
NOTE: The hardship appeal process may be utilized if deemed necessary by the member school.

15.6 AGE LIMIT / BIRTH RECORD RULE

15.6.1 Age Limits – If a student becomes 19 years of age on or after September 1, he/she is eligible to compete for the remainder of that school year. If he/she becomes 19 years of age before September 1, he/she is not eligible for any part of that school year.

15.6.2 Birth Records – Acceptable record of birth shall be submitted before a student's name is placed on an eligibility list for varsity participation. Acceptable records shall be:

15.6.2.1 Certified Birth Certificate – One certified by the appropriate state agency.

15.6.2.2 Acceptable Substitutes – Hospital Certificate of Birth with seal or appropriate signature; a Department of Commerce Certificate; a Bureau of Immigration Certificate; a Department of Justice Certificate; a Certificate of Indian Blood signed and sealed by the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs; a birth registration card issued by the State of Arizona Department of Health Services with seal; or a passport issued to a United States citizen (born in the United States or a naturalized citizen) by the State Department of the United States.

15.6.2.3 Verification of Birth – Verification of birth may also be established when three reputable sources of information acceptable to the AIA Executive Board all agree as to the date of birth (i.e., school records, immunization records, etc.). Such documents must demonstrate utilization of the birth date over an extended period of time (i.e., each document should reflect issue dates encompassing a number of years).

15.6.3 Birth Record Retention – A record of the certified birth certificate or an acceptable substitute shall be kept on file by the school. The certified birth certificate or acceptable substitute should be returned to the student.

15.7 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE

15.7.1 A student shall not be allowed to practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until there is on file with the principal or his/her designee a record of a preparticipation physical examination (PPE) performed by a doctor of medicine (M.D.), an osteopathic physician (D.O.), a naturopathic physician (N.D., N.M.D.), a certified registered nurse practitioner (N.P.) licensed to practice, a certified physician's assistant (PA-C) registered by the Joint Board Of Medical Examiners and the Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery, or a certified chiropractic sports physician (CCSP). The physical examination for the following school year shall be given **on or after March 1**. The physical examination on file shall be signed by one of the aforementioned medical providers and shall state that, in the opinion of the examining provider, the provider did not find any medical reason to disqualify the student from practice or competition in athletic contests. The principal or his/her designee, if deemed advisable, may require a student to be reexamined.

15.7.2 Member schools shall utilize the physical examination forms provided by the AIA. There shall be four parts:

15.7.2.1 **Part One – Annual Preparticipation Physical Evaluation** – To be completed and signed by the parent or guardian and student athlete. (*See Form 15.7-A*).

15.7.2.2 **Part Two – Annual Preparticipation Physical Examination –** To be completed and signed by the examining medical provider. (*See Form 15.7-B*).

15.7.2.3 **Part Three – Annual Preparticipation Acknowledgement** – To be completed and signed by parent or guardian and student athlete. (*See Form 15.7-C*).

15.7.2.4 **Part Four – Annual Preparticipation Consent to Treat Form** – to be completed and signed by the parent or guardian and student athlete *(See Form 15.7-D).*

15.8 PARENTAL OR LEGAL GUARDIAN CONSENT RULE – Parental or legal guardian consent is required before a student can be eligible to practice or compete in interscholastic competition. All students shall have on file with the principal or his/her designee appropriate permission in which the parent or legal guardian authorized participation.

15.8.1 It is recommended that such authorization state:

I/We give our permission for _____ to participate in organized interscholastic athletics, realizing that such activity involves the potential for injury, which is inherent in all sports. I/We acknowledge that even with the best coaching, use of the most advanced protective equipment and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility. On rare occasions, the injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis, quadriplegia or even death.

I/We acknowledge that I/we have read and understand this warning.

_____

Parent/Guardian

_____

Player

15.9 MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION RULE – After a student first enrolls in the ninth grade, he/she has a maximum of eight semesters of opportunity and a maximum of four seasons of opportunity in each sport or activity. **Semesters 1-8 must be consecutive.**

15.9.1 Enrollment for at least fifteen school days during any semester, or participation in any interscholastic contest, constitutes a semester of opportunity and a season of opportunity.

15.9.2 A student's ineligibility during any semester or season does not affect application of the Maximum Participation rule and does not extend the number of semesters of opportunity or seasons of opportunity.

15.9.3 During a school year a student shall be eligible to participate in only one season of competition per sport, except freshman/sophomore tennis.

15.9.4 Absence for Reason Other Than Confinement or Disabling Illness of Self or Immediate Family – A student absent from school for a period of more than ten consecutive school days for reasons other than a disabling illness or injury of himself/herself or a member of his/her immediate family shall be ineligible for the remainder of the semester or until he/she has been in attendance for the same number of days as he/she was absent. (*See Article 15, Section 3, Paragraph 5*).

15.9.5 Any period during which a student is not enrolled or is out of school due to suspension, expulsion or removal for disciplinary reasons shall be included for purposes of the Maximum Participation Rule.

15.10 **TRANSFER RULE** – Except as stated in 15.10.6, after enrolling and attending one or more classes, a student changing enrollment from one school (sending school) to another school (receiving school) shall be considered a transferring student. For information and record keeping purposes, the receiving and sending school shall reasonably cooperate and complete Form 550.

15.10.1 In team sports, a student shall be ineligible for all power ranked contests at the varsity level until after the first 50% of the maximum allowable Power Rankings regular season contests in those sports in which the student participated during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the season in which the student is seeking eligibility. In sports permitting invitationals/tournaments, the student shall be ineligible for the first invitational/tournament no matter where the first invitational is in the regular season schedule. Participation is defined as a student participating in the sport during a regular season game as is specified by the AIA standardized calendar.

15.10.2 For individual sports, the student will be ineligible for 50% of scheduled opportunities, including invitationals/tournaments for that school.

15.10.3 In case of any subsequent transfer by the student, the student is ineligible for one year from the date of first attendance at the receiving school.

15.10.4 A transfer student who plays only in sub-varsity competitions shall have immediate eligibility but is ineligible to participate at the varsity level in regular season, tournaments, and post-season competitions for the season in that sport. A decision to participate only at sub-varsity levels must be made prior to the season of competition and prior to filing a hardship. If a decision is made to file a hardship, playing sub varsity is not an option. Sub-varsity as an option to all 9-11 grade transfers with the exception of a recruited player or player with prior contact (15.12), an in-season transfer that school year (15.10.5), or any athlete who has a hardship heard by the Hardship Appeals Committee (15.14).

15.10.5 If a transfer occurs during the season in which the student participated (competed) during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the season in which the student is seeking eligibility the student is ineligible for one year from the date of first attendance at the receiving school in that sport. If the transfer occurs during the season in which the student has practiced or tried out for a team during the current season, the student is ineligible for the remainder of the season in that sport. The season of sport ending is defined by the end of the regular season of competition on the Quick Glance Calendar of the sending school in that sport.

15.10.6 A transfer from an AIA member school (sending school) to a non-AIA member school that does not offer any interscholastic athletics, will not be considered a transfer.

15.10.6.1 A subsequent transfer from that non-AIA member school back to the sending school will also not be considered a transfer under 15.10.

15.10.6.2 A subsequent transfer from that non-AIA member school to an AIA member school other than the sending school will result in a transfer rule period of ineligibility under 15.10.

15.10.7 (Form 550) - The sending school administration shall provide to the receiving school, via Form 550, the verification of activities in which a transferring student has participated. The receiving and sending school(s) shall **reasonably cooperate and complete Form 550.** Upon receipt by the receiving school of a completed Form 550, assuming all other eligibility requirements are met, the student becomes eligible for all interscholastic activities except for those activities in which the student has competed during the current or previous school year.

"Statement of Philosophy / Rationale for Transfer Rule"

- Promotes the educational philosophy that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, which should not take a dominant role over academics;
- Recognizes the overwhelming administrative difficulty in attempting to determine the motives or reasons for each and every transfer, and, therefore, adopts a uniform objective standard to be followed by all member schools.
- Helps to protect opportunities for participation by students who attend school in the attendance zone of their domicile;
- Helps to protect and promote continuity of school programs;
- Serves as a deterrent to students running from or avoiding an athletic discipline that has been or may be imposed;
- Except as otherwise stated, this rule is intended to and shall encompass any and all transfer situations and shall apply to any and all member schools, be they public, private or parochial.
  NOTE: The fact that a student may or may not have paid tuition has no bearing on the applicability of transfer rules.

15.10.8 **For the purposes of 15.10.6**, a student enrolled at an AIA member school, who chooses to participate on a different team that competes in high school games during the AIA season of sport is considered a transfer. **This rule applies to the 12 months immediately preceding the season in which the student is seeking eligibility**.

15.10.8.1 A return back to the student's original AIA member school program shall be considered a **first** transfer with an ineligibility period the same as described in 15.10.1.

15.10.8.2 A subsequent transfer of eligibility to an AIA member school other than the original school will result in the student being ineligible for one year from the date of first attendance at the receiving school.

15.10.9 School Closures / Drop of AIA Membership – Upon closure or drop of AIA membership by the governing board, students may transfer at the beginning of the following semester to another school in the district as approved by the governing board, to the public high school of another district closest to the domicile of the parents, or to a private, parochial or BIE school and be automatically granted athletic eligibility.

15.10.10 When Sport or Nonathletic Activity Is Dropped by School – When a sport or nonathletic activity is dropped, a student may transfer to a school that offers that sport or nonathletic activity and shall be eligible only in the sport or nonathletic activity that has been dropped at the school from which the student transferred. Said eligibility will be granted when the student enrolls in one of the following schools:

15.10.10.1 A private or parochial high school in the county in which the parents are domiciled.

15.10.10.2 The public high school within the same school district closest to the domicile of the parents.

15.10.10.3 In the event the district does not offer the sport or nonathletic activity in any of its schools, the student may transfer to the public high school of another district closest to the domicile of the parents.

15.10.10.4 The transfer rule shall apply to other interscholastic sports and activities in which the student participates.

15.10.11 Disciplinary Removal - A student suspended, expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary reasons, athletically and/or academically as imposed by the school or state association, including revocation or non-renewal of open enrollment, from one high school shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition in any other high school for one year or until all conditions for re-admittance have been fulfilled at the high school where the suspension, expulsion, open enrollment revocation or removal for disciplinary reasons occurred, whichever occurs first. (Emergency Legislation – 9/19/2025)

15.11 AMATEUR RULE

15.11.1 Each student, in order to represent his/her school in any AIA sanctioned contest, shall be and shall remain an amateur.

15.11.1.1 Name Image and Likeness (NIL): A student-athlete may benefit from the use of their name, image and likeness (NIL) provided the NIL is not connected to his/her AIA sanctioned high school team or activity program. NIL activities consistent with the guidelines in AIA bylaw 15.11.1.2 will not result in loss of amateur status. NIL activities may not be utilized to violate AIA bylaw 15.12 (Recruitment Rule). A student that is in violation of this bylaw shall immediately lose eligibility if that student, his/her family member, or anyone else on behalf of that student, enters into an agreement with an individual, corporate entity, partnership, association, or any other party or organization which violates the guidelines in AIA bylaw 15.11.1.2.

15.11.1.2 **NIL Guidelines:** A student-athlete may benefit from the use of their name, image, and likeness (NIL) provided:

15.11.1.2.1 The compensation is not contingent on athletic performance or achievement
15.11.1.2.2 The compensation is not an incentive to enroll in or remain enrolled at a specific school.

(Section 15.11 cont'd. on next page)

15.11.1.2.3 The compensation is not provided by the school, a booster club, a collective, or any person/entity acting as an agent on behalf of the school or athletic program.

- No student-athlete may be a member of nor receive compensation or any other benefit from a Collective or NIL Club. A Collective is defined as any group organized or existing for the purpose of compensating or benefiting an individual student athlete or a group of student athletes of a member school. NIL Clubs are defined as a group of student athletes organized or existing for the purpose of soliciting funds or other benefits from fans, members or other sources, managing or promoting NIL activities of student athletes or otherwise providing funds or other benefits to an individual student athlete or group of student athletes.
- Booster Clubs are not considered Collectives or NIL Clubs if such Booster Club is operated under the supervision of a member school and provides monetary or other benefits to school athlete facilities, school athletic equipment, school team meals or other school team benefits rather than to an individual student athlete or group of student athletes.

15.11.1.2.4 Intellectual property - No “marks” may be used including, but not limited to, school or district name, logo, uniforms, mascots, or any AIA logo

15.11.1.2.5 No school or district apparel or equipment shall be worn or used that includes school or district name, logo, uniforms, mascots, or any AIA logo.

15.11.1.2.6 No AIA member school facility may be used for the purpose of NIL activities.

15.11.1.2.7 No activities in conflict with a member school’s district policy may be endorsed. (Examples include, but are not limited to, tobacco products, alcohol products and controlled substances).

15.11.1.2.8 Within five (5) school days of entering into any NIL contract/agreement, a student, or the student’s parents/guardians, must notify the school’s Athletic Director of the agreement.

15.11.1.2.9 Students and their families should seek professional guidance regarding collegiate financial aid, NCAA clearinghouse, legal and/or tax implications, among other concerns.

15.11.2 An amateur athlete is one who has never used or is not using his/her knowledge of athletics or athletic skill in an athletic contest for financial gain.

DETERMINATION: The AIA Executive Board determined that an amateur may receive merchandise awards that do not exceed the limit as set forth in Article 13, Section 1.

15.11.3 A person who has lost his/her amateur standing in any AIA sanctioned sport loses his/her amateur standing in all sports in interscholastic competition for a maximum of one full calendar year from the date of discovery of the infraction or until reinstated by the AIA Executive Board.

15.11.4 Amateur athletes shall retain their amateur standing even though they participate during the summer vacation in schools or clinics sponsored by professionals. *(See Article 14, Section 9)*.

15.11.5 Individual students may receive monetary rewards for participation in luck-of-the-draw or lottery-type programs. This type of competition must be limited to individual type competition and not put one contestant against another. There is no limit on the amount of monetary award for this type of competition. (Examples: Shooting baskets at half-time at professional basketball games; shooting hockey pucks at goals during intermissions at hockey events).

15.11.6 Amateur athletes shall participate and always have participated under their own name

15.11.7 An amateur athlete shall not compete for money or other monetary compensation.

15.11.7.1 Amateur athletes may receive actual expenses for participating in out-of-town games. This amount shall not exceed the state of Arizona per diem.

15.11.7.2 Amateur athletes may receive a fee for officiating non-interscholastic high school and non-intercollegiate sports without jeopardizing their amateur standing.

15.11.7.3 Amateur athletes shall retain their amateur standing even though they receive compensation from private clubs for instructing students not enrolled in high school.

(Section 15.11 cont’d. on next page)

15.11.7.4 Amateur athletes shall retain their amateur standing even though they receive compensation from state, county, city, parks or recreation departments.

15.11.7.5 Amateur athletes may enter a tournament with or against professionals without jeopardizing their amateur standing providing they do not receive, or anyone receives for them, any monetary awards, gift certificates or merchandise awards which exceed the limits as set forth in Article 13.1.4.

15.11.8 Except for a Letter of Intent to attend a college or university, amateur athletes shall not enter into any agreement with any corporation, association, partnership or individual for their services as an athlete until they have terminated their attendance in high school. This includes professional clubs and/or teams for training and competition.

15.11.9 An amateur athlete, or any member of his/her family, shall not receive remuneration, either directly or indirectly; such remuneration being given to influence the student or the family to reside in a given high school district for purposes of establishing the student's eligibility on a team and/or participation with a club and/or team in the form of a scholarship and/or room and board. *(See also Article 15, Section 12)*.

15.11.10 A student may participate and receive monetary awards in non-interscholastic and/or non AIA sanctioned activities/contests (such as rodeo, boxing, bowling, judo) and be classified as an amateur under AIA rules. *(See Article 11, Section 1, Paragraph 2*).

15.12 **RECRUITMENT RULE** – There shall be no recruitment of athletes. Recruitment is defined as the act of influencing a student to enroll in a school or to transfer from one school to another in order that the student may participate in interscholastic athletics. No school administrator, athletic coach or employee of a high school district shall engage in recruitment either by direct contact with a student or indirectly through parents, legal guardians, common school employees, directors of summer athletic programs or other persons who are in a position to influence the student's choice of a school.

15.12.1 If the recruitment rule is violated, the student will not be eligible at a member school until reinstated by the AIA Executive Board.

15.12.2 If school personnel condone or actively engage in recruitment or a school uses a recruited student, the school shall be subject to disciplinary action by the AIA Executive Board. *(See Article 16, Section 1)*.

15.12.3 Contact procedures used in the soliciting of students to enroll in any public, private or parochial school shall be the same for all students.

15.12.4 Interpretations

15.12.4.1 Funds which have been donated to schools by clubs and individuals may be given as financial aid to students through the normal financial aid program of the school for all students, without regard to athletic potential. Financial aid based even partially on athletic potential or performance is not permitted from the school or from groups that exist because of or for the benefit of the school (e.g., booster clubs).

15.12.4.2 Individuals not exclusively representing athletic interests of a high school may make general presentations (not just athletic) to eighth grade students (not just athletes). There should be a variety of presenters, speaking on a variety of topics to students of all interests.

15.12.4.3 It is a violation of this section for a coach or any other unauthorized representative of a school to suggest or promise that any part of tuition will be waived for a prospective student for any reason, including financial need. The only person who may address the possibility of fee reduction is that person who has specific responsibility for admissions and financial aid policies and procedures.

15.12.4.4 If it is a faculty member's responsibility to recruit students (not just athletes) and that person makes such contact irrespective of athletic eligibility, such contact is permitted. However, anything done for an athlete that is not done in a comparable fashion for all students is a violation of the Recruitment Rule.

15.12.4.5 When a student at a junior high/middle school or other high school, or the parents of that student, contacts the coach about attending the coach's school, the coach shall refer the student or parent to the appropriate school personnel (those who have the responsibilities for seeking and processing prospective students).

(Section 15.12 cont'd. on next page)

15.12.4.6 A high school coach may not initiate contact with a student at a junior high/middle school or other high school, or the parents of that student, about attendance at the school. It is not a violation for a coach to have normal community contact with a student who attends a junior high/middle school of the same system, which is a feeder to the high school.

15.12.4.7 It is a violation of the Recruitment Rule if coaches or their representatives call, send questionnaires, cards or letters or visit prospective athletes and their families for the purpose of evaluating and recruiting specific prospective athletes.

15.12.4.8 High school coaches or their representatives may not attend grade school or youth sports games (e.g., Pop Warner) for the purpose of evaluating and recruiting specific prospective athletes.

15.12.4.9 High school coaches and administrators may not request booster clubs, parents, players, former players or alumni from the high school to discuss the merits of their athletic program with prospective athletes or their parents by phone, in person or through letters.

15.12.4.10 Any high school may allow all students of any junior high/middle school to attend its athletic events without charge.

15.12.4.11 Persons "indirectly associated with the school" include, but are not limited to, parents of players and booster club members. Such persons are prohibited from providing or performing any of the examples of recruitment listed in this section and its interpretations.

15.12.4.12 Examples of recruitment shall include, but are not limited to:

15.12.4.12.1 Offer or acceptance of money or other valuable consideration such as free or reduced tuition during the regular year or summer school by anyone connected with the school.
15.12.4.12.2 Offer or acceptance of room, board or clothing or financial allotment for clothing.
15.12.4.12.3 Offer or acceptance of pay for work that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service.
15.12.4.12.4 Offer or acceptance of free transportation by any school connected person.
15.12.4.12.5 Offer or acceptance of a residence with any school connected person.
15.12.4.12.6 Offer or acceptance of any privilege not afforded to non-athletes.
15.12.4.12.7 Offer or acceptance of free or reduced rent for parents.
15.12.4.12.8 Offer or acceptance of payment of moving expenses of parents or assistance with the moving of parents.
15.12.4.12.9 Offer or acceptance of employment of parent(s) in order to entice the family to move to a certain community if someone connected with the school makes the offer.
15.12.4.12.10 Offer or acceptance of help in securing a college athletic scholarship.

15.12.4.13 **OPEN HOUSE** – The intent of an open house is to allow incoming students to gather information regarding curriculum, programs, and the admissions process. Coaches may provide general information to prospective incoming students but no specific details or enticements as to participation if they were to enroll.

15.12.4.14 **PRIOR CONTACT** – Prefatory statement: In an effort to preserve and promote competitive fairness, and consistent with the AIA's mission to ensure that academics remain the primary focus of its member schools, the Prior Contact rule is an effort to deter recruiting of student-athletes and minimize athletically motivated transfers. However, the rule applies regardless of whether there is any evidence of athletic motivation or recruitment.

Despite compliance with the other provisions of AIA Bylaws, a student who transfers from one school (sending school) to another school (receiving school) is ineligible in the sport involved for one year from the date of attendance at the receiving school, if any of the following circumstances existed during the one year preceding the transfer:

- The student participated or practiced as an individual, on a school team, or on a non-school team coached, directed, supervised, managed, coordinated, owned or operated by any of the receiving school's coaches (in the sport involved), administrators or parents.

(Section 15.12 cont'd. on next page)

- The student participated or attended an open gym, open weight room, or open athletic facilities at the receiving school. For this circumstance, the sport involved is deemed to be any interscholastic sport in which the student has participated or practiced during the current or previous school year.

- A coach at the receiving school has served as a personal trainer, coach, conditioner or instructor for the student. For this circumstance, the sport involved is deemed to be any interscholastic sport in which the student has participated or practiced during the current or previous school year.

- The student participated or attended a camp, clinic, combine, showcase or similar event where a coach, trainer, or instructor in the sport involved at the receiving school worked, whether on a paid or volunteer basis.

As used in this rule, the term "coach" includes any person who coaches, volunteers, manages, administers, or assists in any capacity with the coaching or training of the school or non-school team, regardless of compensation or contract status. No personal relationship, individual instruction or direct contact between the coach and the student is required for application of this rule. For example, a coach of a football team, regardless of position or group he/she coaches, is considered to be a coach of the entire football team, at all levels (freshman, junior varsity, varsity), and this rule applies. ***(Emergency Legislation – 3/1/2019)***

15.12.4.14.1 During Summer Enrollment – Beginning with the week identified in the AIA calendar as summer and ending with the week that begins fall practice, a student is considered to have transferred when the student has demonstrated intent to enroll in the receiving school. Intent is identified by the school or school district.

15.13 ELIGIBILITY APPEAL PROCEDURES

15.13.1 In the case of an alleged hardship, a member school may appeal on behalf of a student his/her ineligibility by utilizing the process provided in AIA Bylaw 15.14, Hardship. (Form 15.10)

15.13.2 In all other cases, a member school may appeal on behalf of a student his/her ineligibility by notifying the Executive Director of the appeal in writing, setting out fully and completely the basis for the appeal. The Executive Director, utilizing the authority under AIA Bylaw 7.2.3.7, shall respond in writing within a reasonable time. Should the member school disagree with the determination of the Executive Director, it may ask that the matter be considered by the Executive Board (AIA Bylaw 7.2.3.7).

15.13.3 Review of Prior AIA Hardship Appeals Decision - The AIA Executive Board may review prior decisions regarding eligibility of a student at any regular or special meeting provided:

15.13.3.1 Substantially new and different information has been submitted in written form to the AIA Executive Director.

15.13.3.2 If, in the opinion of the AIA Executive Director, the information is not new and different, the item will not be placed on the agenda.

15.14 HARDSHIP (Form 15.10) - In individual hardship cases the AIA Executive Board or the Hardship Appeals Committee may, at their discretion and upon such terms and conditions as may be imposed, waive or modify the Enrollment Rule (Article 15, Section 3, Paragraph 4 only), Domicile Rule (Article 15, Section 5), Maximum Participation Rule (Article 15, Section 9, Paragraph 1 only), Transfer Rule (Article 15, Section 10), and/or Recruitment Rule (Article 15.12.4.14 only), and/or the International Student Eligibility Rule (Article 15.15.2 only). The appeal shall initially be heard and decided by the Hardship Appeals Committee. The decision of the Hardship Appeals Committee shall be final unless appealed to the AIA Executive Board within five business days from the date of said decision. AIA Executive Board consideration of such appeals will take place only at regularly scheduled monthly meetings, unless otherwise scheduled by the Board. (*See Article 6, Section 3 regarding procedures for meetings of the AIA Executive Board.)* Procedures for appeals to the Hardship Appeals Committee shall be as determined by the AIA Executive Board.

15.14.1 Hardship Defined - Each case is dependent upon its facts, but as a general guideline, the Executive Board will use the following criteria:

15.14.1.1 An unforeseeable, unavoidable, and uncorrectable act, condition, or event, over which the student and his/her family has no control; and

15.14.1.2 Which has caused a severe burden upon the student or his/her family; and

15.14.1.3 Which has caused the student's noncompliance with the eligibility rule(s) involved.

15.14.1.4 Whether athletics plays a role in the circumstances involved in the hardship request.
NOTE: Where it is determined that athletic motivation is present; this would be sufficient, in and of itself, for denial of the hardship request.

15.14.1.5 Loss of eligibility in itself is not to be considered a hardship.

15.14.2 Burden of Proof - The burden of providing evidence of hardship shall be on the student. Full particulars must be given by the student and the school principal must certify that the information given is correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

15.14.3 Enrollment Limitation Hardship - A ninth grade student applying for admission or a student transferring who is denied enrollment because of lack of space may be declared eligible.

15.14.4 Age Rule Exemption - In individual cases the AIA Executive Board may, at their discretion and upon such terms and conditions as may be imposed, waive or modify the age rule (15.6.1), utilizing the information and process set out in Form 15.14.

15.14.5 Upon request by the Executive Director or designee, the sending school shall provide a representative during the hardship appeal hearing(s) before the Hardship Appeals Committee and/or the Executive Board. Failure of the sending school representative to attend shall not prevent or otherwise delay any hearing or decision on the appeal, but the failure to appear SHALL be considered a violation of the AIA Bylaws and may result in sanction as determined by the Executive Board.

15.15 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ELIGIBILITY – Prefatory Statement: In an effort to preserve and promote interscholastic competitive opportunities for Arizona students and further the goals of competitive fairness, and recognizing the concerns of AIA member schools related to displacement of Arizona students by students from foreign countries, the following bylaw addresses the interscholastic eligibility status of international students attending an AIA member school:

15.15.1 **Foreign Exchange Students** – A foreign exchange student is a student that is in the U.S. under a J-1 Visa, and who is placed in a school by an educational exchange program approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). A foreign exchange student is eligible at a school in the attendance zone of the home in which the student is placed. A foreign exchange student must meet all other eligibility requirements and is eligible for a maximum of one school year.

15.15.2 **International Students** – An international student is a student who is in the U.S. under any Visa or document other than a J-1 Visa and who is attending an AIA member school. Except as stated below with regard to domicile, an international student must meet all eligibility requirements of any regularly enrolled student. An international student is eligible only for non-varsity level competition, which may include only 9th through 11th grade, and is not at any time of enrollment eligible for varsity level competition. With regard to domicile, an international student's non-varsity eligibility shall be at a school in the attendance zone of the home in which the student is placed.