

Montana High School Association (MHSA) Handbook Excerpt

ARTICLE II

Requirements for Eligibility for Participation in an Association Contest

INTRODUCTORY NOTE: The Executive Director is responsible for the interpretation and enforcement of the eligibility rules. This interpretation and enforcement must be uniform and consistent. The Executive Director does not have the power to modify eligibility rules or to make new eligibility rules. At times the enforcement of these rules may appear to result in injustice to a student or a school in a situation arising from lack of familiarity with the rules, misunderstanding of the rules, or negligence on the part of some individual. In such a case, it must be recognized that the Executive Director cannot, through sympathy, permit exceptions to the rules. He/she has no such power. The Executive Board shall hear all appeals of decisions by the Executive Director and shall have the authority to grant relief if the Executive Board determines that the purpose or intent of the by-law/rule is not being served.

Section (1) ASSOCIATION CONTEST

1.1 The definition of an "Association Contest" is an athletic contest between teams representing two high schools, which are members of the Association involving any group of students playing under the supervision of the school. All rules and

regulations that apply to an Association Contest shall apply to any athletic contest engaged in by a member school.

- 1.2 Any game or part of a game (scrimmage, practice, warm-up, tune-up or similar activity), in which the students participate as a representative team of their school with any other sanctioned or non-sanctioned team, shall be considered an Association contest and shall be counted as a part of the season game limit for the school's athletic classification.
- 1.3 No Association Contest may be played before the starting date of the first allowable competition in each particular sport.
- 1.4 Any member school will not be permitted to participate in any interschool athletic contest with a school, club team or other groups (teams) that are not accredited by the State Board of Public Education in the state of Montana and, hence, not eligible for membership in the MHSA, if more than two schools would be participating in the event. If a member school does participate in an interschool contest with a non-accredited school, club team or other groups (teams) and more than two schools are involved, the member school or schools will be subject to penalties under Article VIII.
- 1.5 If a member school wishes to invite a non-accredited school or accept an invitation from the school to participate in a two-school contest, this would not be a violation of this section.

Section (2) ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in an Association Contest, a student shall meet all of the following criteria:

- 2.1 A student must be enrolled in twenty hours per week and in regular attendance in ten hours per week at the school where the student participates. Regular attendance is defined as actual physical presence in the building (bricks and mortar). A home school student is not eligible to participate for an MHSA member school.
- 2.2 A grading period is defined as one semester. A semester is defined as one half of a school year (approximately 18 school weeks or 90 school days). This definition is applicable to all schools regardless of the type of class scheduling format utilized (i.e. block, traditional, trimester etc.).
- 2.3 A student must have received a passing grade and received credit in at least twenty periods of prepared class work or its equivalent in the last previous semester, at the school where the student participates; except that any ninth grade student enrolled and attending any junior high, in the same school system as the senior high school, may be eligible to participate on that senior high school's athletic teams. If the school prohibits participation by ninth grade students, this action by the local school will not be subject to review by the MHSA or its Executive Board.
- 2.4 A student must have received a passing grade and received credit in at least twenty periods of prepared work per week or its equivalent during the last preceding semester in which he/she was enrolled.
- 2.5 If a student is assigned an "incomplete" or a "condition" in a subject, he/she has not received a passing grade in this subject. The record at the end of the semester is final.
- 2.6 In the case of two or more schools entering into a cooperative sponsorship of activities, a student enrolled as a student and otherwise satisfying eligibility requirements would be eligible to participate in any activity sponsored by the school, regardless of whether the activity is sponsored only by the school or in conjunction and cooperation with another school, without being in violation of Article II, Section 2.
- 2.7 No student may establish eligibility concurrently at two member schools. Dual enrollment is not recognized for the purpose of eligibility in MHSA activities.

2.8 This rule is not applicable to IDEA '04 and Section 504 students when their individual education plans (IEP) under IDEA or their educational accommodation plans under Section 504 certify that the students are not required to meet this minimum academic to have passed 20 hours of prepared work per week. However, all students must be enrolled in twenty hours per week and in regular attendance in ten hours per week. Special education or Section 504 certification that the student is not required to meet the minimum academic requirements may not be enacted retroactively (after grades have been assigned at the end of the previous semester).

2.9 The second semester begins on Monday morning following the week in which the first semester ends. A student who becomes eligible the second semester would then become eligible on Monday morning. A student who becomes ineligible the second semester would become ineligible on Monday morning.

INTERPRETATIONS

1. A student may not compete "unattached" or "independently." He/she must compete for and be eligible to represent his/her member high school.
2. Schools may be more stringent in their policies.
3. Twenty hours of prepared class work is defined as four subjects that grant one unit of credit each for the full school year, or their equivalent (e.g., three classes carrying one unit of credit for the school year and two classes carrying one-half unit of credit for the school year) or the equivalency in a block/trimester schedule would meet this requirement.
4. Only school district-approved course work can be used to compute the 20 periods of prepared work.
5. The scholastic record at the end of the semester shall be final and deficiencies may not be made up in any manner. Deficiencies, including incompletes, conditions and failures for the previous semester may not be made up during a subsequent semester, summer session, night school, correspondence, or tutoring for the purpose of establishing or maintaining MHSA eligibility.
6. The intent of the rule prohibiting incomplete grades from being made up is not to prohibit incomplete grades which were given in cases of illness, injury or attending school authorized functions.
7. A student attending an alternative school not housed within the high school is considered eligible for competition if the student a) is academically eligible from the previous semester, b) is enrolled and in regular attendance for twenty hours per week of approved high school classes, c) is eligible to receive a diploma from the high school for which he/she is competing, and d) the principal of the high school verifies that the student meets all other eligibility requirements such as age, semesters etc. and is in good standing.

Section (3) PHYSICAL EXAM

3.1 A physical examination is required for each student in order to be considered eligible and to be approved for participation in an Association Contest. Physical examinations must be completed prior to the first day of practice. This examination must be certified by a licensed medical professional acting within the scope and limitations of his/her practice. This certification is valid for a period of one school year. A physical examination conducted before May 1st is not valid for participation the following school year. The physical examination form developed by the MHSA Medical Advisory Committee and approved by the MHSA Executive Board must be used. A current form may be obtained from the Montana High School Association.

NOTE: Whenever the Association's Rules and Regulations specify that physical examinations shall be required or that doctors shall be present at certain events or that reports or physical examinations or certificates of physical fitness shall be furnished to an official of the Association, the rules and regulations shall be deemed complied with if the services are performed within the scope and limitations of his/her practice. This complies with Section 33-22-111 of the Laws of Montana which provide for freedom of choice of practitioners.

Section (4) GRADUATE STUDENTS

- 4.1 Any student who meets any of the following criteria shall be ineligible to participate in any Association Activity:
- a. The student is a graduate of a regular four-year high school.

- b. The student is a graduate of a secondary school which has the same requirements for graduation as a regular four-year high school.
- c. The student has earned enough credits to entitle him/her to be graduated from the high school and has completed eight semesters of high school.
- d. The student has received a high school equivalency diploma (e.g. GED/HiSET).

INTERPRETATIONS

1. A student who graduates the first semester is ineligible the second semester.
2. A student who has earned enough credits to graduate the first semester but remains enrolled and graduates on the regular date remains eligible to participate.
3. Senior students who are currently eligible in their eighth semester (4th spring) will continue to be eligible for all interscholastic activities even though graduation exercises precede the completion of interscholastic activities for that specific year.

Section (5) STUDENTS BELOW NINTH GRADE

- 5.1 No student who is enrolled in a grade below the ninth shall be eligible to participate in an Association Contest, except as noted in 5.3 or eighth grade students meeting the following requirements:
- a. Eighth grade students may play on a high school volleyball, track relay and/or basketball teams.
 - b. Permission for eighth grade participation must be requested by the school and authorization granted by the Executive Director of the MHSA. Once granted approval, those eighth grade participants are eligible to participate in varsity and JV competition.
 - c. Any eighth grade student allowed to participate will have eight semesters of high school eligibility remaining.
 - d. All eighth grade students participating must meet the academic requirements.

The official MHSA waiver form must be used.

- 5.2 A ninth grade student may not play on a 7th and/or an 8th grade team.
- 5.3 Any student who is at least fifteen (15) years old on or before midnight August 31 may be declared eligible for participation in Montana High School Association contests by the Executive Director. The Montana high school for which the student will participate must file a request with the Executive Director for consideration. Any student who is declared eligible under this section must participate in athletics at the high school level (grades 9-12) only.

Section (6) PARTICIPATION ABOVE SECONDARY SYSTEM

- 6.1 No student who has ever participated in athletics in an institution of learning higher than secondary rank shall be eligible to play under the rules of this Association.

Section (7) AGE RULE

- 7.1 No student is eligible to participate in an Association contest who has become nineteen (19) years old on or before midnight, August 31, of a given year. Therefore, a student who becomes nineteen (19) years old after midnight, August 31, of a given year, will be permitted to compete in all Association contests throughout that school year, under the provisions of this section.

- 7.2 A student who is ineligible by reason of this age rule may seek a waiver from the MHSA under the following conditions and procedures.

The student, his/her school, parent/guardian or other representative shall submit a written application for a waiver. For fall sports, the application shall be submitted by March 15th of the preceding school year so that, if necessary, the request can

be considered by the Executive Board prior to summer recess. For all other sports seasons, the application shall be submitted at least 60 days prior to the first activity for which he/she seeks the waiver.

- 7.3 It will be the burden of the student to prove:
- the student does not create a safety risk to other players, and
 - the student does not skew the overall competitiveness of the particular activity(ies) for which the student will participate, and
 - the student's participation will not result in the exclusion of other eligible players, and
 - the student meets all other criteria necessary for participation in MHSAA activities.
- 7.4 The Executive Director is vested with the authority and responsibility to make the initial waiver determination. In making the initial determination, the Executive Director shall consider such evidence as is provided by the applicant; and the Executive Director may request the applicant to provide specific information or additional information; and the Executive Director or staff may make an independent investigation of the facts. The Executive Director shall then make a determination as to each activity for which a waiver is sought and notify the applicant.
- 7.5 Upon initial receipt of the waiver application, the request shall be scheduled for hearing before the Executive Board at the next scheduled meeting. It shall be scheduled neither sooner than 30 days nor more than 60 days from the day the application is received. If the Executive Director thereafter grants a waiver, the scheduled hearing will be vacated. If the Executive Director refuses to grant the requested waiver, then the student will be so notified and can proceed to present his waiver request to the Board. At the hearing, the Board will consider all documentary evidence previously considered by the Executive Director together with any additional evidence submitted.

Section (8) SEMESTER RULE

- 8.1 A student will be eligible to participate in Association Contests for four (4) consecutive years [eight (8) consecutive semesters] after entering the ninth grade. Enrollment of twenty (20) pupil instruction days during a ninth grader's first semester in high school constitutes his/her first semester of attendance. A ninth grader who is enrolled fewer than twenty (20) pupil instruction days in his/her first semester of high school does not begin his/her eight (8) consecutive semesters unless he/she has participated during this time in an Association contest. Such a period of fewer than twenty (20) pupil instruction days is not considered to be "the last previous semester attended" under Section (2).

INTERPRETATION

This rule also applies to a student who has been declared eligible under Section 5)C (Students below ninth grade).

Section (9) DEADLINE FOR ENROLLMENT

- 9.1 A student shall have been regularly enrolled in at least twenty hours of prepared class work per week and in attendance for ten hours per week no later than fifteen (15) school days after the beginning of the semester to be eligible during that semester. This rule shall not apply to transfer students who have met the attendance requirements in the school last attended. Regular attendance is defined as actual physical presence in the building (bricks and mortar).

Section (10) TRANSFER RULE

- 10.1 Any student who transfers from one member high school, home school, or non-member school to a member high school is ineligible to participate in a varsity Association Contest for **half the number of P.I. days in the current school year of the school to which he/she transfers** from the date of enrollment (first day he/she attends classes) in the school to which he/she transfers. A student and his/her parents or legal guardians must

reside in the attendance area of the school in which he/she is enrolled except for a student enrolling in ninth grade for the first time (see Section (12) Record of Transfer.) This rule applies to a student who transfers after twenty (20) days of enrollment or after he/she participates in an athletic contest while enrolled in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, **EXCEPT** the following students may be declared eligible:

- A student who moves into a new district or school attendance area upon a corresponding change of residence by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) with whom the student was living during his/her previous school enrollment. The legal guardianship must have been established at least one calendar year before the transfer. If the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) move to a new location a student must follow within a calendar year of the move to be eligible for varsity competition after proper certification by his/her principal.
- Students transferring from one high school to another under any bona fide foreign exchange program will be eligible for two (2) consecutive semesters of eligibility for participation in activities under the administration of any NFHS member association, after the principal properly certifies that they meet all eligibility requirements. The exchange student will not be eligible beyond these two semesters even if he/she chooses to stay at that school, transfer to a different high school or remain under a bona fide program. The student would be ineligible for **half the number of P.I. days in the current school year at the school he/she attends** following the two consecutive semesters of eligibility. A student who returns to the school at which he/she was enrolled directly before attending a bona fide foreign exchange program will be eligible immediately upon re-enrollment. (A student who has graduated from a high school in his/her own country and is now in the United States under a foreign exchange program would not be eligible.) Refer to Article II, Section (4).

- A foreign exchange student is an international student who attends high school in the U.S. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics in the U.S., such student must be under the auspices of and be placed with a U.S. host family by an international student exchange program that has been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and be recognized by the U.S. Department of State. The foreign exchange program must assign students to host families by a method that ensures that no student, or his/her parents, school or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic purposes. The foreign exchange student may not be selected or placed on any basis related to his/her athletic interests or abilities.
- A foreign exchange student is considered to be placed with a host family when written notice of placement is provided by the exchange organization to the student and his/her parents, and to the host family. Neither the school the student attends nor any person associated with the school shall have input into the selection of the student.
- The foreign exchange student must possess a current J-1 or F-1 visa, issued by the U.S. State Department.
- The foreign exchange student must comply with all eligibility requirements set forth by the state high school association of which the school he/she attends is a member.

When a foreign exchange student changes his/her attendance from one high school to another, eligibility for MHSAA activities will be determined by

the Executive Director after receiving a petition for Waiver of the Transfer Rule (Hardship).

- c. A student who marries and establishes a new residence in a new district or school attendance area.
- d. A student in attendance at a school designated by the governing body of that school as a result of reorganization, consolidation or annexation or a student ordered transferred within a school system, for other than interscholastic competition purposes, by a board of education or the governing body of a private or parochial school system.
- e. A student who moves from parent to parent or legal guardian to legal guardian the first time in his/her high school career will be eligible upon verification to the MHSA office that this is the first move and certified by the administrators involved that the move was neither athletically motivated nor was the move because of recruitment. The legal guardianship must have been established at least one calendar year before the transfer.
- f. A student who transfers to another school for the primary purpose of participating in a sport(s)/activity(ies) not sanctioned by the Montana High School Association (and does not participate in an MHSA sanctioned sport at that school) and returns to the school from which he/she transferred.
- g. A student who transfers from a home school to an MHSA member school in the same school district for the first time in his/her high school career and has never attended high school.
- h. A student who has attended high school and resides in a district other than where the student's parent(s) resides, and who subsequently returns to live with the student's parents becomes immediately transfer eligible for varsity competition in the parent's district. This can be applied only one time during the student's career.

INTERPRETATIONS

1. *Date of enrollment means the first day he/she attends classes.*

2. A transfer student who changes high schools without the corresponding change of residence by parents or legal guardian (legal guardianship must be established at least one calendar year before the transfer) is eligible to compete as a member of a non-varsity team, only, if his/her school is in a contest against non-varsity teams, only, of other member schools, providing he/she meets all other eligibility requirements. No student may compete unattached or independently.

NOTE a: Athletes participating in cross-country, track and swimming will be allowed to compete in the contests where varsity and sub-varsity team members compete at the same time to conserve time and expense, but are scored separately. Example: cross-country meet where varsity and sub-varsity runners run at the same time but are identified and scored separately.

NOTE b: The following interpretations apply only to transfer students and their eligibility for varsity Association contests:

3. A change of residence is the actual physical relocation by the parents or legal guardians of a student at a new residence and termination of all occupancy of a previous residence. The change in residence must be bona fide, include other minor siblings and involve transfer from one school district attendance area to another school district attendance area. For the purpose of eligibility, there can be only one residence.

4. If a transfer student enters after the beginning of a semester he/she will become eligible after the expiration of *half the number of P.I. days in the current school year* in the school he/she is now attending.

5. Guardianship is not recognized for the purpose of these rules, when either parent is living and legally competent unless such guardianship has been legally established at least one calendar year before the transfer.

6. If a family moves to a new location, a student should attend the school within the attendance area. If, however, the new home is geographically more convenient to an out of district school, attendance may be allowed, with MHSA approval, without reference to school district or county boundaries. Under these conditions a student would become eligible as soon as his/her principal properly certifies in writing to the MHSA office that he/she is eligible. Should he/she later decide to return to his/her home school after an attendance of 20 days or more in the school away from home, he/she would be considered the same as any other transfer student and would lose one semester of eligibility.

7. For the purpose of these rules a student cannot establish a residence apart from his/her parents. If he/she habitually makes his/her home with a relative and the

student changes schools because the relative changes residence, the student will lose eligibility time in accordance with the transfer rule. A student, both of whose parents are deceased and who has no legal guardian, may change high schools without loss of eligibility time. However, a student may not change school systems within a city or school district.

8. A student may enroll in a new high school in anticipation of a change of residence on the part of his/her parents. After his/her parents establish residence at the new location, he/she will become varsity eligible as soon as the principal of the school to which the student transfers properly certifies in writing to the MHSA office that he/she is eligible.

9. When two or more high schools have been established within one school system and under the administration of one board of trustees, the district shall be divided into a corresponding number of high school attendance areas. Students shall attend the high school of the designated attendance area.

10. Each year the board of trustees shall designate a school attendance area for each high school under its jurisdiction not later than the opening date set for fall sports, such boundaries must not be changed during any current school year.

11. Students transferring from one high school to another in the same school system but in a different attendance area are ineligible for *half the number of P.I. days in the current school year after enrollment*, unless there is a bona fide corresponding change of residence on the part of the parent(s) or legal guardian (legal guardianship must be established one calendar year before the transfer) from the previous attendance area to the present attendance area.

12. A student who enrolls at MSDB for the first time may become eligible after the principal certifies that the student meets all eligibility requirements.

13. A student attending an alternative school not housed within the high school is considered eligible for competition if the student resides in the attendance area of the high school for which he/she competes and if all other eligibility requirements are met.

10.2 Transfers from one school system to another within the same city or town: In the cities or towns which have more than one high school system (e.g. both a public high school and a private high school), a student must complete **half the number of P.I. days in the current school year** of attendance before being eligible when transferring from one high school system to another within such city or town, even though the parents or legal guardian with whom the student has been living during the period of his/her last high school enrollment moved into the immediate vicinity of the new school.

10.3 **Hardship Rule:** A high school student who, because of circumstances beyond his/her control such as broken home conditions, death of parents or guardian, abandonment or other exceptional circumstances, finds it necessary to change high schools may be declared eligible by the Executive Director provided the principal of each high school involved files a statement with the Executive Director that the change was necessary, was not athletically motivated, and there was no known undue influence. If the transfer of any student from one school to another is approved by the Executive Director under the foregoing circumstances, he/she shall be eligible provided he/she meets all other eligibility requirements. Appeals on Petitions for Waiver of the Transfer Rule under the Hardship Rule shall be acted upon by the MHSA Executive Board at any regular or special meeting, including conference phone calls, provided the school or individual requesting, agrees to pay the cost of the call.

The official MHSA waiver form must be used.

Section (11) ELIGIBLE TRANSFERS

11.1 A student who transfers enrollment, but retains eligibility pursuant to Section (10), shall be considered eligible as soon as the principal of the school to which the student transfers properly certifies in writing to the Montana High School Association office that the student is eligible to represent the school in an Association Contest.

(The principal's certification verifies that the student has met all eligibility requirements in Article II of these By-Laws.)

11.2 A transfer student shall not be eligible to participate as a member of his/her new school's athletic team if he/she transfers after the last scheduled regular-season Association contest for a given sport during a specific sport season.

Section (12) RECORD OF TRANSFER

A student received by transfer shall not be eligible to participate in an Association Contest until the principal of the school shall have filed with the Executive Director of the Association a record of the transfer on the official MHSAA transfer form. This section does not relieve the student from eligibility requirements arising from his/her change of high schools.

INTERPRETATIONS

1. Any student enrolling in the ninth grade for the first time in either a 3-year junior high school or a 4-year senior high school is not to be considered a transfer student except under the following conditions:

- a. A ninth grade student who has been enrolled in another school for twenty days or more.
- b. A ninth grade student who has been enrolled in another school for fewer than 20 days but has participated in an interschool athletic contest.
- c. A ninth grade student transferring from any accredited junior high school to any other junior high school.

2. Any student enrolling in the tenth grade directly from the ninth grade from a junior high school in the same school system is not to be considered a transfer student under this Section.

Section (13) PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPATION

No student shall be eligible to participate in an Association Contest who has been out of school one or more semesters, if during said non-enrollment he/she has been a member of a professional team. If during such non-enrollment he/she takes part in semi-professional athletics, he/she shall not become eligible again until he/she has been in attendance two full semesters.

Section (14) PENALTY FOR A PLAYER ASSAULTING AN OFFICIAL

14.1 Any athlete who makes physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the sports official or causes reasonable apprehension of bodily injury to the sports official in connection with an Association Contest shall immediately become ineligible for further interscholastic competition. It shall be the responsibility of the tournament manager or principal of the school hosting the event to notify as soon as possible the Executive Director or a member of the Executive Board of the incident. The official involved must report the incident in writing to the MHSAA office within three days of its occurrence.

14.2 The coach of the student involved is responsible for keeping that student from further interscholastic participation, pending a ruling by the Executive Board of the MHSAA. The Executive Board shall have the power to suspend the violating participant from further interscholastic competition for a period not to exceed two semesters from the date of the infraction.

Section (15) AWARD RULE

15.1 No award exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00) in value shall be given per event in any MHSAA sanctioned sport or in any MHSAA sanctioned interscholastic activity by a member school, by any person or by an organization to a student in recognition of that student's achievement or participation in any interscholastic activity. An event is defined as a sports camp, an invitational tournament/meet, a post season recognition function (i.e. sports banquet), or a fund raiser or similar function. Special awareness functions (i.e. pink week) are included as defined events with the following limitation: merchandise retained by students in conjunction with awareness events is restricted to disposable items such as basic t-shirts, socks, headbands/wristbands and similar items. Cash cannot be awarded. A single Association Contest is not considered an "event" for the purpose of this rule.

INTERPRETATION

1. Schools may provide training apparel for practice and/or workouts that will be fully depreciated and have no intrinsic value at the end of the season. These items may be provided by the school and/or its boosters, including general or team fundraisers, provided that the items are school-approved and are supplied on a gender-equitable basis. Allowable items are limited to one of each of the following: practice shirt, practice shorts, spandex, tights and a pair of socks.

2. The acceptance of awards and/or prizes in non-sanctioned sports or activities shall not endanger member schools' students' eligibility.

15.2 Awards of \$5.00 or less in value may be provided to individuals based on sportsmanship exhibited in any single Association contest. Awards of \$3.00 or less in value may be provided to individuals based on satisfactory completion of tasks set forth for fundraising activities such as pop hoop shoots, passing accuracy contests etc.

15.3 When a student is selected by chance or random drawing, to participate in a halftime or pregame contest involving a sport skill (e.g. throwing, kicking, or shooting a basketball), he or she may receive cash or merchandise prize from the contest, without affecting eligibility under MHSAA Awards and Amateur rules.

Random drawing of names or lucky numbers in a program determining the participant would not be a violation. Examples include, but are not limited to, booster club fund-raisers, drawings to shoot a half-court or three point shot, or passing a football to win a prize. During the season of activity, a player from a school team is permitted to participate in such contests, provided the selection occurs randomly.

15.4 Individual miniature trophies for first and second place MHSAA state championship events may be purchased from the Association's awards provider.

15.5 Penalties shall apply when:

- a. The student accepts any award exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00) in value from a commercial club or other civic organization.
- b. Any type of cash is accepted.

Penalties shall not apply when:

- c. The award is purchased and presented by the student's parents.
- d. The award is purchased by the student with money earned or secured through his/her own individual efforts.

15.6 Violation of the award rule will render the student ineligible in the MHSAA-sponsored sport or activity for which the student received the award.

The Executive Board will follow the same procedure for restoring the eligibility status as provided in the last paragraph of the Amateur Rule, Article II, Section (19) of the By-Laws.

Section (16) AMATEUR RULE

16.1 All contestants in the Montana High School Association must be amateurs. An amateur is one who engages in athletics for the educational, physical, mental and social benefits he/she derives therefrom, and to whom athletics are nothing more than an avocation. To remain an amateur, the student may not:

- a. Accept remuneration directly or indirectly for playing on athletic teams.
- b. Play or manage under an assumed name.
- c. Receive donations or gifts for participation outside the MHSAA award rule.
- d. Knowingly accept payment for excessive expense allowances. It is not permissible for an athlete to receive money from coaches for unidentified or unspecified expenses.
- e. Sell a prize won in competition.
- f. Bet on a contest in which he/she is to participate.

16.2 A student who becomes a professional in an MHSAA-sponsored sport is considered a professional in that sport only and is ineligible for further high school athletic competition in that sport only until such time as returned to amateur status in that sport.

16.3 A student may be reinstated as an amateur by the Executive Board after not less than one calendar year has elapsed since