

An amateur participates in athletics for the aesthetic, physical, mental, and social benefits derived there from. Therefore, the purpose of such participation is playing for the intrinsic rewards rather than for valuable consideration. The amateur rule is a safeguard against exploitation and commercialization of high school students. It poses a responsibility on the student at all times (whether in school or outside school) to abide by the letter and intent of amateurism. Schools are charged with the responsibility of informing students of all applicable subsections of this rule and enforcing this rule. Administrators and coaches must insure that athletes receive only services specifically permitted by written rule. Any breach of the rule undermines the educational goals of interscholastic athletics.

- A. **NOT AN AMATEUR.** For purposes of competing in an athletic contest, a student in grades 9-12 is not an amateur if that individual, within the preceding 12 months received money or other valuable consideration for participating in a TAPPS sponsored school sport or received valuable consideration for allowing his or her name to be used in promoting a product, plan, or service related to a TAPPS contest or accepted money or other valuable consideration from school booster club funds for any non-school purpose.
- B. **EXCEPTIONS:**
1. Seniors may sign a letter of intent or scholarship agreement which contains the conditions of a scholarship with a post-secondary institution.
  2. For purposes of competing in an athletic contest, the participant school, school district or a student's parent(s) may provide medical examination and services, athletic insurance, transportation and other travel expenses incurred in competing away from home, or supplies and services during and in connection with a game or practice period.
  3. Participant schools may permit student athletes to attend contests by permit admission through a pass gate.
  4. Valuable consideration received as a result of participation on a Select, Club, AAU or other similar organized team that is not operated by the TAPPS school or those associated with the TAPPS school is not considered a violation of the Amateur Rule. These considerations may include transportation, meals, housing for the tournament and competition and training apparel which may be offered to the student at a reduced cost.
- C. **STATUS REGAINED.** If a student did not realize that accepting the valuable consideration was a violation of the amateur rule, and returns the valuable consideration within 30 days after being informed of the violation, that student may regain athletic eligibility as of the date the valuable consideration is returned. If a student fails to return it within 30 days, that student remains ineligible for one year from when he or she accepted it. During the period of time a student is in possession of valuable consideration, he or she is ineligible for all varsity athletic competition. Any games or contests in which the student participated during that time may be forfeited as the minimum penalty.
- D. **TEAM VIOLATION.** If the team violates this section, the penalty shall be assessed against the team and not against each individual.