

soccer contests.

NOTE: *Violation of any of the above regulations may cause a student to be ineligible for the AAA-sanctioned AHSCA All-Star Games.*

Rule 11. SUNDAY INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS. There shall be no interscholastic athletic contests on Sunday.

NOTE: *The executive director shall have the authority to schedule championship games on Sunday if inclement weather postpones an event.*

Rule 12. APPROVED SCOUTING AND VIDEO RECORDING.

A. When hosting regularly scheduled competitive events, member schools shall grant admission to at least two scouting representatives from other member schools that are scheduled to compete with either of the participating schools at a later date.

No filming or videotaping by a third party member school shall be allowed unless both competing schools grant permission.

B. Filming/Videotaping. Each school when engaging in regular events shall have the right to make films or videotapes for educational or historical purposes, and such films or tapes may be shared with other member schools for scouting purposes. The host school may also permit the use of non-commercial cameras and video recorders to record events for families and friends of participants.

Rule 13. BROADCAST AND TELEVISION RIGHTS.

A. For regularly scheduled local interscholastic events, only the host school shall have the right to grant permission for public broadcast by radio, television, or audio/video webstreaming.

B. Conference, Region, or State Events. The AAA shall have the rights and authority for controlling the scouting, filming, videotaping, or broadcasting, either by radio, television, or audio/video webstreaming, at all elimination events leading to a state championship endorsed or sponsored by the association, except those games approved by the AAA bylaws to be played as regularly scheduled events.

Rule 14. VENDORS. The AAA-approved merchandise vendor shall have exclusive rights to sell commemorative merchandise in connection with AAA regional and state championship athletic events involving all AAA-member schools. The AAA Board of Directors and staff will seek to identify responsible vendors and negotiate contracts with those vendors to produce and sell quality commemorative items and souvenirs for these events.

ARTICLE III ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1. ATHLETIC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

A. Participation in competitive interscholastic activities as a part of a school's educational program is a privilege and not a right. The eligibility rules of this association are designed to promote the educational values derived from participation in interscholastic activities, prevent exploitation of youth by special interest groups, and to ensure that interscholastic activities shall remain an integral part of the educational program.

B. Students wishing to participate in interscholastic activities shall have the opportunity to become eligible for these activities when they meet ALL eligibility rules. They will remain eligible for the opportunity to participate provided they do not: (1) exceed any limitations, (2) fail to meet any minimums, or (3) violate any other rules of the association. They may, however, regain their opportunity to participate at a later date by correcting any deficiencies that caused the ineligibility.

C. Students who exceed the junior high age rule or junior high semester rule limitations may have the opportunity to be eligible for senior high activities.

NOTE: *Students who exceed the senior high age rule or the senior high semester rule limitations shall have no further opportunity to be eligible.*

D. Eligibility rules apply to students in grades 7-12 inclusive; specific rules for junior high schools apply to students in grades 7-9 inclusive; specific rules for senior high schools apply to students in grades 9-12 inclusive. A ninth grade program is considered to be the varsity junior high team regardless of where

the students are housed.

NOTE: *In the rules that follow, the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular as the context requires or permits. Where appropriate, personal pronouns refer to either gender.*

Rule 1. DOMICILE.

A. Public Schools.

1. A student's eligibility for interscholastic athletics shall be in the public school district of the parent's domicile. Refer to other domicile and transfer rules for limitations and situations. The AAA recognizes only one domicile for eligibility. A change in domicile consists of a complete and bona fide move from one domicile to another.
2. A student may meet the domicile requirement at another AAA member school after attending said member school for one calendar year (365 days from initial enrollment).
3. A student shall also meet the domicile requirement if the student receives a legal transfer (school board to school board) from one public school to another. Board to board transfers must take place by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-12.
4. For eligibility purposes, all transfers must take place by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-12 for public schools or grades 7-10 for boarding schools and require that CSAP forms be signed for all transfers.
5. Students transferring after July 1 shall not be eligible for the current school year unless there is a bona fide move from one public school district into the public school district that the student will be attending.
6. When a public school is closed, any student from the closed school may transfer by school choice or legal transfer (school board to school board) by July 1 of the calendar year in which their resident district is closed and shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. If the transfer is by school choice, the CSAP form has to be completed and filed with the receiving district and AAA.

B. Nonpublic Schools.

1. Students who enroll at a nonpublic school must do so by July 1 before entering the 7th grade to be immediately eligible for interscholastic athletic participation. When a nonpublic school does not offer enrollment for grades 7 and/or 8, the student may become immediately eligible by enrolling by July 1 prior to the lowest grade offered by that school provided the CSAP form is signed. Students enrolling in a nonpublic school after the period provided for immediate eligibility above shall be ineligible for 365 days.
2. After July 1 prior to entering the 7th grade year, a student whose parents live outside a 25-mile radius of a nonpublic school must make a bona fide move within a 25-mile radius of the school that the student will attend to become eligible.

- C. Complete and Bona Fide Change of Domicile.** Under the domicile rule, a complete (total) and bona fide change of domicile (move in good faith) shall occur when a student's parent(s) abandons their former home as a domicile and makes a permanent move into a home that is their sole domicile in another school district/attendance zone. A change of domicile shall be made with the intent that it is permanent.

Two legal domiciles shall not be allowed for eligibility purposes under the complete and bona fide change of domicile rule.

A change of domicile for the purpose of creating interscholastic athletic eligibility shall not be considered a complete and bona fide change of domicile and the student shall be declared ineligible at all AAA schools for one (1) calendar year.

Under the domicile rule, when a complete and bona fide change of domicile is made, the student may remain at the AAA school he/she has been attending and shall retain his/her eligibility, if he/she has been in attendance at the school for at least one (1) calendar year and has not enrolled in another school during this time.

Determination of what constitutes a complete and bona fide change of domicile shall depend upon the facts of each case, but in order for a change of domicile to be considered complete and bona fide at least the following facts shall exist:

1. The original domicile shall be abandoned as a domicile. It shall be either sold, in the process of being sold, or rented to a non-family member on a long-term lease (1 year).

2. It shall not be used as a domicile by any member of the family.
3. If the original domicile is not in the process of being openly advertised for sale or rent, the family shall have all the utilities disconnected in this domicile.
4. The parent(s) or family shall take all personal belongings, household goods, and furniture unless the original domicile is rented furnished and a legal lease agreement shall state exact furniture/ items to remain in the domicile.
5. The parent(s) shall change their mailing address to the new address, assess property in the new district, register to vote in the new district, change all records to the new address, secure insurance covering property at the new address, place utilities in their name at the new address, register automobiles and/or boats at the new address, change their drivers license to the new address, stop mail delivery at the previous address, and completely abandon their relationship to the previous domicile.

D. Legal Attendance.

1. A student's eligibility for interscholastic athletics with respect to the domicile rule may be in the public school that the student is legally attending provided the transfer was by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-12 and the CSAP form has been completed and filed with the receiving district and AAA.
2. Domicile, transfer, and legal attendance rules apply only to students whose parents reside in the state of Arkansas, transfer within the state of Arkansas, or meet the Changing Schools / Athletic Participation (CSAP) guidelines. CSAP forms may only be used by schools within the state of Arkansas.

E. Transfers.

1. A student changing schools under the **Freedom of Choice** law, transferring other than a legal transfer (school board to school board) or any circumstance other than public school domicile rules 1 through 6 above, is assumed to have changed schools for athletic purposes if the student participated in athletics the previous year.
2. **Same Sport Season.** A student changing schools for any reason who has been a member of an athletic team may not participate in the same sport at the receiving school during the same defined sport season.
3. To gain eligibility through the legal attendance rule or the transfer rule, the following criteria must be met by using the CSAP (Changing Schools/Athletic Participation) form.

F. CSAP Forms. In accordance with ACT 768 of 2023, the following guidelines apply for CSAP forms.

1. A Changing Schools/Athletic Participation (CSAP) document stating that the student was not recruited and did not change schools for athletic purposes must be signed **prior to participation** by:
 - a. The superintendent of the previous school.
 - b. The superintendent of the new school.
 - c. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s), witnessed by the new (receiving) school's superintendent or a notary public.
2. CSAP forms may only be used for the eligibility of public school students who are enrolled in the receiving school by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-12.
3. CSAP forms may only be used for the eligibility of boarding school students who are enrolled in the receiving school by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-10.

G. JV CSAP Forms. A student meeting all eligibility requirements except the transfer requirements shall be eligible to participate in junior varsity competition as long as the JV CSAP form is signed by both school superintendents and parents before the student participates interscholastically.

H. Athletic Release Form. An **Athletic Release Form** must be completed prior to a student attending or participating in a camp, clinic, private or group instruction/training, or on a non-school team that is organized, led, or coached by any person affiliated with a AAA member school other than the school in which the student is currently enrolled. The Head Coach of each school team is responsible for ensuring every coach, registered volunteer or anyone who assists in any capacity with the coaching or training of the school team completes this form prior to working with any student who is not enrolled in your school or feeder school. Failure to complete this form prior to working with a student who is not enrolled in your school or feeder school may result in the school being placed on warning, probation or suspension and/or fined up to \$200.

- I. **Non-School Coach.** Article III, Section 1, Rule 1, I. Non-School Coach. A coach, registered volunteer, or anyone who has assisted in any capacity with the coaching or training of a school team (within the last 365 days) who also coaches a non-school team or assists in any capacity with the coaching or training of a non-school team, organized program, or individual training (within the last 365 days) is defined as a non-school coach. A school that allows a student to participate who has transferred, moved or for any reason is attending a new school where the student's non-school coach is a school coach is subject to action against the school through one of the following penalties: warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion.
- J. **Return to Resident District** A student who transfers back to the public school district of his parent's domicile within the first eleven days of the fall or the spring semester of that district shall become eligible after attending one day of classes if the student would not be in violation of the Same Sport Season rule. (Bylaws, Article III, Section 1, Rule 1-6)
NOTE: *This rule does not apply to magnet, specialty, competitive entry, or public charter schools because they do not have specific attendance zones.*
- K. **Public Charter School.** For athletic eligibility purposes, a public charter school student must be enrolled by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-12 and requires that CSAP forms be signed. Students enrolling after July 1 shall not be eligible for the current school year.
- L. **Home School.** In accordance with ACT 630 of 2023, a home school student shall be given the opportunity to try out for an athletic or non-athletic competitive activity or team in their resident public school district, any other public school district, or a private school if the following criteria are met:
1. Inform the principal of the resident school district in writing of their request to participate in the interscholastic activity before the signup, tryout, or participation deadlines established for students enrolled in the resident school district.
 2. Inform the principal in the request that the student has demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining: a minimum test score of the thirtieth percentile on The Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition, or another nationally recognized norm-referenced test in the previous (12) months, or a minimum score on a test approved by the State Board of Education.
 3. In order to be eligible to participate, the student must be enrolled within the first (11) days of the fall or spring semester.
 4. Meets the same requirements as enrolled students in regards to practice times, required drug testing, permission slips, waivers, physical exams, and participation fees.
 5. Required to be at school only when participation in the interscholastic activity requires other students who participate in the interscholastic activity to be at school.
 6. Be transported by the resident school district to and from interscholastic activities as the resident school district transports other students who are enrolled in the resident school district; and enrolled by his or her resident school district in a nonacademic class period that coincides with the interscholastic activity in which the homeschooled student participates in order for the resident school district to receive an amount equal to one-sixth (1/6) of the state foundation funding.
 7. A homeschooled student may participate in interscholastic activities at a public school other than the homeschooled students' resident public school by mutual agreement between the resident public school and any other public school where the home-schooled student wishes to participate, if the homeschooled student has not participated in an athletic activity at a AAA member school. **However**, a homeschooled student may participate in an interscholastic activity at a public school other than the homeschooled students' resident school without a mutual agreement, as required, if the homeschool student's resident school does not offer the interscholastic activity; AND the superintendent of the other public school district agrees to allow the homeschooled student to enroll in the interscholastic activity.
 8. A student who withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association member school and enrolls in a home school shall immediately be eligible to participate in any interscholastic activity at the public school. **However**, a homeschooled student shall not be eligible to participate in an interscholastic sports activity if he or she withdrew from an interscholastic sports activity at the resident school district during the previous 365 days.
 9. A student who withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association member school to be homeschooled shall be eligible to participate in any interscholastic activity in a private school. **However**, a homeschooled student shall not be eligible to participate in an interscholastic sports activity in the private school if he or she withdrew from an interscholastic sports activity at an Arkansas Activities Association member school during the previous 365 days.

Go to: <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/SearchCenter/Pages/historicalact.aspx> for a complete version of the ACT. Select the 94th General Assembly Biennium and type in "630" in the "Act Number" box and press enter.

NOTE: Students who are dually enrolled as home schooled students and enrolled in non-member, non-public schools that; **A.** charge tuition or fees or **B.** have an administrative structure or **C.** require student attendance for onsite instruction or **D.** have a structure for grade promotion, would be considered a student of a non-member school and would not qualify for the opportunity to compete at AAA member schools as provided under Article III, Section 1, Rule L, M, N.

Rule 2. DISTRICT CONVERSION CHARTER SCHOOL. Any student that is enrolled in a public school approved as a school of innovation pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. SS6-15-2801 et seq. or authorized as a district conversion charter school pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. SS 6-23-101 et seq. may, at the discretion of the local school board of directors, be eligible to attend any class, academic program, or participate in any extracurricular activity or program offered by another school in the district, if the public school in which the student is enrolled does not offer the same or similar class, academic program, or extracurricular activity program.

The school of innovation or district conversion charter school shall participate at the same classification as the highest classified school in the district.

Rule 3. ELIGIBILITY IN OTHER SITUATIONS.

A. Foreign Student Eligibility. A foreign student attending an AAA member school may be eligible for competitive interscholastic participation for a maximum of one school year or two consecutive semesters under ONE, but not both, of the following circumstances.

1. **J-1 Visa.** A foreign student who holds a valid J-1 Visa and who is in a recognized exchange program must meet all eligibility rules except the domicile requirement, which shall be waived the first year of school attendance in the United States. Recognized exchange programs are those listed for the current year on the Council of Standards for International Education Travel (CSIET) Advisory List. Such students shall be eligible for only one school year beginning with their initial enrollment.
2. **F-1 Visa.** A foreign student who holds a valid F-1 Visa and who attends an AAA member school shall not be eligible for interscholastic competitive participation until he meets the domicile rule requirement established after attending said member school for one calendar year (365 days from initial enrollment). Such students shall be eligible for only the next two consecutive semesters. The student must also meet all other eligibility requirements.

NOTE 1: *Additional periods of eligibility shall not be recognized when a student extends school attendance under a different visa or for any other reason. Eligibility requirements also include: bona fide student, dropout, semester, age, amateur, tryout, and scholarship (academic) rules.*

NOTE 2: *A foreign student who has graduated in his home country shall not be eligible.*

NOTE 3: *Foreign student eligibility applies to athletic competition.*

NOTE 4: *The AAA will only recognize the legal adoption of a foreign student that occurs in a U.S. court.*

NOTE 5: *The Foreign Exchange Student Eligibility Form must be completed and returned to the AAA Office.*

B. Foreign Student Residency. No member of the school's administration, coaching staff, or athletic director, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the host family for any foreign students who participate in athletics.

C. Legal Adoption. A student legally adopted and attending school in the district in which his adoptive parents reside meets the domicile requirement.

D. Parental Custody.

1. A student whose parents are divorced or legally separated meets the domicile requirement in the district in which the parent having primary legal custody resides.
2. In the case of joint custody, the student is eligible in the district of the parent with whom the student is living at the beginning of the school year.

NOTE 1: *A legal separation is one requiring court action by a judge.*

NOTE 2: *Legal guardianship cannot be used for eligibility purposes.*

E. Boarding School. A student residing at a school consisting 50% or more boarding students

meets the domicile requirement when enrolling in school by July 1 prior to entering grades 7-10. If a student is coming from an Arkansas school, CSAP forms must be signed.

F. **Training Schools.** A student attending the training schools operated by the State of Arkansas or privately operated schools recognized by state courts or social services as serving the same purpose as a training school meets the domicile requirement on his initial enrollment in the public school assigned by these institutions.

G. **Arkansas Virtual Academy.** The eligibility for interscholastic athletics and activities for students of Arkansas Virtual Academy, Arkansas Connections Academy or any other virtual school located in the state of Arkansas and approved by the Arkansas State Department of Education shall be in the public school district of the parent's domicile provided the student meets all AAA eligibility rules with the exception of the bona fide student rule.

NOTE: *The student must be enrolled at least one period a day in the AAA-member public school district of the parent's domicile to be covered by the AAA catastrophic insurance.*

H. **School Board Actions Recognized.**

1. When a public school district has a School of Innovation that does not offer an athletics program, the public school district board of education may assign a student to compete at a school within the district with a specific attendance zone. Magnet, specialty, or competitive entry schools do not apply because they do not have specific attendance zones.
2. When a school's board of education discontinues a nonpublic school, a student meets the resident requirement in the district of his parent's domicile or at another private school in the area.

I. **Providing Incorrect Domicile Information.** If a parent or guardian either knowingly or unknowingly provides incorrect information concerning a student's domicile, the association may declare the student ineligible for athletic competition with any AAA member school for a period of up to 365 days from the date of the action on ineligibility.

NOTE: *If false domicile information is provided to the school, the school may not be required to forfeit games.*

J. **Transfers Involving Nonpublic/Nonmember Schools.**

1. **From Public to Nonpublic School.**

- a. A student transferring from a public school to a nonpublic school may meet the domicile requirement and be immediately eligible for interscholastic athletic participation if the student enrolls by July 1 before entering the 7th grade. When a nonpublic school does not offer enrollment for grades 7 and/or 8, the student may become immediately eligible by enrolling by July 1 prior to the lowest grade offered by that school provided the CSAP form is signed. Students enrolling in a nonpublic school after the period provided for immediate eligibility above shall be ineligible for 365 days.
- b. After July 1 prior to entering the 7th grade, a student whose parents live outside a 25-mile radius of a nonpublic school must make a bona fide move to within a 25-mile radius of the school that the student will attend to become eligible.

NOTE: *CSAP procedures as listed in the AAA Handbook (Bylaws, Art. III, Section 1, Rule 1G) must be followed if the student participated in athletics the previous year.*

2. **From Nonpublic to Nonpublic School.**

- a. A student transferring from one nonpublic school to another nonpublic school may meet the domicile requirement and be immediately eligible for interscholastic athletic participation if the student enrolls by July 1 before entering the 7th grade. When a nonpublic school does not offer enrollment for grades 7 and/or 8, the student may become immediately eligible by enrolling by July 1 prior to the lowest grade offered by that school provided the CSAP form is signed. Students enrolling in a nonpublic school after the period provided for immediate eligibility above shall be ineligible for 365 days.
- b. After July 1 prior to entering the 7th grade, a student whose parents live outside a 25-mile radius of a nonpublic school must make a bona fide move to within a 25-mile radius of the school that the student will attend to become eligible.

NOTE: *Students transferring to nonpublic schools who do not meet the nonpublic transfer rule, may become eligible after attending the nonpublic school for one year, (365 days).*

3. **From Nonmember to AAA Member School.**

- a. A student attending a non-member school in Arkansas (including a home-schooled student) who returns to the public school district of his parents' domicile shall become eligible immediately after attending one day of classes.

- b. A student meets the domicile requirement upon transferring to an Arkansas nonpublic member school if the student has attended one full year at the non-member school in Arkansas and if the transfer occurs by July 1 of that school year.

Rule 4. PENALTY FOR USE OF INELIGIBLE PLAYER.

- A. The use of any ineligible participant/student in any interscholastic contest will result in one or more of the following actions based upon the facts and findings:
 1. Forfeiture of the contest
 2. The specific sport during which the ineligible player was used will be placed on probation status for up to one (1) calendar year
 3. The ineligible participant/student may be suspended from further competition and any activity, as determined by the Executive Director
 4. The school may be fined up to \$500.00
- B. In determining the penalty concerning the use of an ineligible participant/student, the Executive Director may consider whether the participant/student had a significant impact on the game. What is a significant impact will vary with the sport and circumstances of the contest; however, such facts as follows will be among the items considered:
 1. Amount of participation
 2. Whether the ineligible participant/student scored points or participated in other plays that had an impact on the winning or losing of the game.
 3. What the school could have or should have known
 4. Whether a school self reports

If the ineligible participant/student has provided the school false information upon which the student was certified to have been eligible, a penalty against the school may be set aside or modified. However, in the cases of transfer students, where legitimate errors or omissions in the official school transcript as received are proved, such player must be withdrawn from participation upon discovery of the error without penalty to the school.

Ineligible players may not dress out for interscholastic competitions.

Rule 5. RECRUITMENT.

NOTE: *The term administrator refers to superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, or assistant principal.*

- A. Recruitment of students or attempted recruiting of students for athletic purposes, regardless of their residence, is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of the AAA By-Laws and is expressly prohibited.
- B. "Athletic recruiting" is defined as the use of undue influence and/or special inducement by anyone connected directly or indirectly with an AAA member school in an attempt to encourage, induce, pressure, urge or entice a prospective student of any age to transfer to or retain a student at a school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
- C. Recruiting for athletic purposes is not only a violation by the student who has been recruited, but is also a violation by the school and/or the school personnel who recruited the student. It is a violation to recruit for athletic purposes regardless of a student's age or grade level. If proof is established that a school has secured an athlete under any of the conditions set forth in this section, the superintendent shall be required to appear before the Executive Committee and the Executive Director to answer the allegations against his/her school and the student(s) may be ineligible to participate in athletics for one calendar year.
- D. If a student, parent, or any person regarding a student athlete transferring to a district contacts a coach or teacher, they must be referred to a school administrator immediately. A coach shall refrain from making any comments or gestures regarding a student athlete transferring to the district and participating in athletics.
- E. A coach may not contact or be contacted by a student or the student's parents prior to enrollment in the school. If a student is to attend a camp, clinic, or tryout or participate on a non-school team with a school or school coach other than his or her domicile school, the student must have written permission from the coach and administrator of both schools using the AAA's Athletic Release Form.
- F. It shall be a violation of this rule for a student-athlete to receive or be offered remuneration or special inducement of any kind that is not made available to all applicants who apply to or enroll in the school.

- G. A school that allows a student to participate who has transferred, moved or for any reason is attending a new school where the student's non-school coach is a school coach is subject to action against the school through one of the following penalties: warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion.
- H. The penalties for illegal recruiting of students may be one or more of the following:
1. The school may be placed on probation in the sport(s) in which the violation occurred.
 2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$1,000 and billed for the cost of any investigation related to the violation.
 3. The school may be required to forfeit any contest(s) in which the student participated after the violation as determined by the executive director.
 4. A student found to be recruited in violation of this rule may be ineligible to participate in athletics for up to one calendar year (365 days).
 5. A coach or other licensed school personnel may be subject to a complaint for a violation of the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators.
 6. Other penalties may be imposed on the school to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.
- I. **Guidelines.** Evidence of undue influence or special inducement of a student or the parents or guardians of a student by anyone connected directly or indirectly with an AAA member school includes, but is not limited to the following:
1. Offer or acceptance of money or other valuable considerations such as free or reduced tuition during the regular school year and/or summer school
 2. Offer or acceptance of room, board, clothing, or financial allotment for clothing
 3. Offer or acceptance of pay for work that is not performed or is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service
 4. Offer or acceptance of employment or assistance in securing employment or contractual arrangement of any kind for which compensation may be paid for the parents/guardian in order to entice the parents/guardian to move to a certain community. It makes no difference who makes the offer. The school is guilty because it plans to use the student to build a stronger team
 5. Offer or acceptance of a residence
 6. Offer or acceptance of free or reduced rent for parents' or student's housing, vehicles or other
 7. Offer or acceptance of cash or like items, such as credit cards, debit cards, gift cards, gift certificates or coupons
 8. Offer or acceptance of gift of clothing, equipment, merchandise or other tangible items
 9. Offer or acceptance of loans or assistance in securing a loan of any kind
 10. Offer or acceptance of free transportation by any school connected person
 11. Offer or acceptance of a privilege(s) not afforded to other students
 12. Offer or acceptance of payment for moving expenses of parent(s) or assisting parent(s) with a move
 13. Offer or acceptance of help in securing a college athletic scholarship
 14. Offer or acceptance of free admission to AAA interscholastic activities in which the school is participating where an admission is being charged
 15. Offer or acceptance of payments of fees to take the ACT and/or SAT examinations
 16. Offer or acceptance of any other privileges or consideration made to induce or influence the student to transfer from one school to another because of his/her athletic ability
- J. Other inducements or attempts to encourage a prospective student to attend a school for the purpose of participating in athletics, even when special remuneration/inducement is not given, shall be a violation. It shall be a violation for a school to offer and/or grant special favors, privileges or inducements of any kind including payment of fees to a student-athlete(s) under any circumstances not offered and/or granted to a non-student-athlete(s) who attends the school.
- K. The following individuals shall be considered school-connected:
1. Employees of the school, including but not limited to the superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, assistant principal(s), athletic director(s), guidance counselor(s), faculty coaches, and teachers
 2. Non-faculty coaches (paid or voluntary) that coach any sport at the school
 3. A student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program, such as a team manager, student trainer, etc., at that school
 4. The parents, guardians, or other relative of a student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school
 5. Relatives of a coach or other member of the athletic department staff at that school

6. A volunteer worker in that school or that school's athletic program
 7. Members of the school's athletic booster club(s)
 8. Members of the school's alumni association
 9. Any independent person, business, or organization acting at the request or direction of the school to include students, parents, junior high coaches, former students, and other such individuals
 10. Any independent person, business, or organization that is otherwise involved in promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program
 11. Any independent person, business, or organization that is representative of the school's athletic interests when a member of the school's administration or athletic department staff knows or should know that the person, business, or organization is promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program
 12. Any independent person, business, or organization that makes financial or in-kind contributions to the athletic department or to an athletic booster organization of that school
 13. Any independent person, business, or organization that contributes money to a school that is used to provide legal financial assistance to a student-athlete attending the school
- L. Specifically prohibited contact by school employees, athletic department staff members, and representatives of the school's athletic interests with a student who does not attend that school includes, but is not limited to, the following:
1. Visiting or entertaining the student or any of his/her relatives in an attempt to pressure, urge, or entice the student to attend the school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
 2. Sending, or arranging for anyone else to send, any form of written or electronic communication to the student or any of his/her relatives, in an attempt to pressure, urge, or entice the student to attend the school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
 3. Suggesting or going along with any effort by any person, whether a school employee or other representative of the school's athletic interests, or any other person such as an alumnus of the school, a coach or other person affiliated with a non-school athletic program (e.g., AAU team, club team, travel team, recreational league team, etc.) a coach or recruiter for a collegiate athletic team, or a scout for a professional team, to pressure, urge, or entice the student to attend the school to participate in interscholastic athletics, or to direct or place the student at the school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
 4. Making a presentation or distributing any form of advertisement, commercial or material that promotes primarily or exclusively the school's athletic program or implies the school's athletic program is better than the athletic program of any other school or suggests that the student's athletic career would be better served by attending that school.
 5. Answering an inquiry by the student or any of his/her relatives about athletic participation opportunities at the school with any response that pressures, urges or entices the student to attend that school. The student or his/her relatives instead should be immediately referred to the principal.
 6. Providing transportation to the student or any of his/her relatives to visit the school, to take an entrance examination for the school, to participate in an athletic tryout at the school, or to meet with a school employee, athletic department staff member or other representative of the school's athletic interests as part of an effort to pressure, urge to facilitate the student's attendance at that school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
 7. A coach may not contact or be contacted by a student or the student's parents prior to enrollment in the school.
 8. School-connected individuals shall refrain from statements to prospective student athletes such as, "we would like to have you play for us", "you would look good in our uniform", "you could make a difference for our team," etc. These types of statements are not normal or appropriate and could be considered recruitment.
 9. Any prospective student or parent/guardian who visits an AAA member school may only meet with the school's administration or guidance counselor. Athletic directors and coaches, paid or voluntary, may not conduct tours of school facilities.

NOTE: *This rule attempts to provide a thorough explanation of the AAA recruiting rule. While there are many explanations involved, this rule does not cover every conceivable example of recruiting .*

Rationale - *Recruiting an athlete is a serious offense as it creates an unfair advantage.*

- M. **Tuition and Financial Aid Procedures.** If tuition is charged, it must be paid by parent, legal guardian, or other family member. If a parent, guardian, or other family member secures a loan for

payment of tuition, it must remain an obligation of the parents, guardian, or other family member to repay the principal and interest in full with no exceptions. Financial aid will be allowed under the following conditions:

1. Financial aid may only be awarded on the basis of need. Proof of need must be filed in the AAA office on forms approved by the Executive Director. In order to determine the basis for need, all schools awarding financial aid shall use one of the following agencies: Financial Aid Independent Review (FAIR); Community Brands (acquired Tuition Aid Data Services [TADS] & School and Student Services [SSS]); FAST (ISM); FACTS Grant in Aid Agency; and Clarity. The use of any unapproved agency is a violation of Rule 5, Recruitment and is subject to the penalties under Rule 5.
2. Any loan program, grant program, educational foundation, scholarship, or similar program that is established and/or administered, in whole or in part, by a school or official of a school is considered financial aid.
3. Schools shall remove any student from athletic eligibility whose accounts with the school are 60 days overdue.

All records pertaining to financial aid or tuition assistance shall be open to the AAA upon its request. Each school shall be responsible for securing necessary authorization to allow the AAA to review or audit such records.

- N. In addition, nonpublic member schools providing financial assistance programs for athletes shall present to the Executive Director of the AAA by October 1 of each year the following documents: Financial Aid For Non-public School Athletes and Financial Aid Form Supplemental List. Nonpublic member schools must also submit to the AAA a Student-Athlete Financial Aid Report Form for fall sports by December 7 of each year and a Student-Athlete Financial Aid Report Form for winter and spring sports by May 8 of each year.

Rule 6. BONA FIDE STUDENT.

- A. A student participating in interscholastic activities must be a bona fide student of the school; a bona fide student is one who has not graduated from a high school nor received a GED or equivalency of a high school diploma and who is enrolled in and regularly attending at least four academic courses in the school. These courses shall be from those identified in the Arkansas Department of Education Standards of Accreditation. If a student is enrolled in the school through an online program, the student must attend at least one period a day at the school.
- B. Concurrent college courses may be used to meet the bona fide student rule.
- C. A local school may make an exception for a student in the last semester of the senior year provided the student is enrolled in and attending regularly at least one academic course and is meeting all requirements for graduation.
- D. The Arkansas Activities Association in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Education makes an exception to the bona fide student rule for students in the Arkansas School for Math, Science and Arts.

Because the ASMSA is an ADE accredited school, is a boarding school located in the Hot Springs School District, and is a member of the Arkansas Activities Association, students from ASMSA may participate at Hot Springs High School in those sports or activities not offered by the Arkansas School for Math, Science and Arts.

Rule 7. DROPOUTS. A student dropping out of or leaving school, suspended with no credit, or expelled from school at any time during a semester must re-establish eligibility by returning to an Arkansas Activities Association member school and meeting the scholarship requirements for one full semester.

If, however, the last semester attended was completed, eligibility shall be based on that semester.

NOTE: One full semester is considered to be either the fall or spring semester.

NOTE 2: If an expelled student accepts the school's offer to enroll in digital learning or alternative educational courses while expelled, the student remains ineligible to participate in activities throughout the duration of the expulsion. Furthermore, the student may regain eligibility upon satisfying the scholastic requirements through digital learning or alternative educational courses during the expulsion.

Rule 8. SEMESTERS.

- A. **Junior High.** A student has six semesters of opportunity for eligibility. A student repeating either the seventh or eighth grade for any reason shall not have the opportunity for eligibility during the complete year that is repeated.
- B. **Senior High.** A student is limited to eight consecutive semesters of opportunity for eligibility beginning with the student's first enrollment in the ninth grade (or earlier as defined in Rule 9. Age, Note).

NOTE 1: *A ninth grade student may compete for the junior high or for the senior high in the same member school district with separate campuses with permission from the involved principals. (Refer to Bylaws, Art. II, Section 7, Rule 1 - Classification of Students.)*

1. If a ninth grade student competes for the junior high, the student may then compete at the senior high level after the completion of that junior high sport season. A ninth grade student may not compete for the senior high and return later to compete for the junior high in the same sport.
2. Semesters are applied toward the limitations regardless of the following:
 - a. if the school doesn't offer a sport; or
 - b. if the student doesn't participate, or
 - c. if the student isn't eligible; or
 - d. if the student's earlier enrollment was in a different school system.

NOTE: *The fifth and sixth semesters (normally the 9th grade) are applied toward both the junior and senior high limitations. This is due to the rule allowing the school's administration to permit a 9th grade student to participate at either level. (Refer to Bylaws, Art. II, Section 7, Rule 1 - Classification of Students.)*

3. A 7th or 8th grade student who is ineligible for junior high athletics due only to the age or semester rule may be eligible to participate in senior high. (Refer to Bylaws, Art. II, Section 7, Rule 1 - Classification of Students.)
4. A student is limited to a total of 12 semesters of opportunity for eligibility upon entering the seventh grade. The final eight semesters shall be consecutive.

Rule 9. AGE.

- A. **Junior High.** A junior high student is not eligible for junior high competition if the student's 16th birthday is on or before August 1.

NOTE: *In the year a student in junior high school becomes too old for junior high participation, the student may be allowed to participate for the senior high if all other eligibility rules are met.*

- B. **Senior High.** A senior high student is not eligible for interscholastic participation if the student's 19th birthday is on or before August 1.

Rationale - *The age rule and the semester rule are both attempts to equalize competition among athletes in AAA member schools as well as to encourage athletes to graduate with their class.*

Rule 10. AMATEURISM.

- A. The AAA endorses the general principle of amateur athletics that prompts an individual to participate in activities solely for the pleasure and physical, mental or social benefits derived from the activity.
- B. A student that violates the amateur rule in any AAA Sponsored Sport may lose eligibility in that sport for up to 365 days.
- C. **Violations.** A student may not:
1. Compete under an assumed name.
 2. Directly or indirectly accept monetary awards or compensation other than the actual or reasonable cost of necessary meals, lodging or transportation in connection with participation.
 3. Directly or indirectly accept gifts, products, awards or monetary compensation for permitting his/her name, picture, or person to be used to advertise, promote or recommend a product, service, commercial venture or political venture.
 4. Compete for or directly or indirectly accept gifts, awards, or monetary compensation in any form for participation in an event except for those permitted in the amateur rules of the governing body of that specific sport.
 5. Student apparel or equipment to be used at a competition site may not be used to advertise, promote or recommend a product, service, commercial venture or political venture. Uniform and equipment manufacturer names, logos or marks are permitted.

- D. Students may receive reasonable fees or compensation commensurate for their duties performed for officiating, instructing, coaching or supervising events or athletic activities.
- E. Notwithstanding this rule or any other rule herein, a student may exercise such rights as are provided for under the Arkansas Student-Athlete Publicity Rights Act, Arkansas Code Ann. Sec. 4-75-1301, et seq.

NOTE 1: *An athlete may be named a player of the week or game and be presented a certificate or plaque.*

NOTE 2: *Since it is impossible to cover all instances of possible violations to the amateur rule, it is suggested that the Executive Director be consulted in any questionable case.*

Rule 11. TRYOUTS – TEAM SPORTS.

- A. A student may not play with a college or a professional team without losing eligibility for up to one year in the sport played.
- B. A tryout consists of a sport specific demonstration in front of college or professional scouts. This does not include the playing of games where scouts are present. This would include placing students in front of college coaches or professional scouts to perform drills specific to that sport, independent of the playing of a game. A tryout may be conducted for athletes to be selected for a non-school team. This includes all sports. Try-outs held in connection with camps or clinics may be conducted only as permitted by the Athletic Camps rule (Bylaws, Article II, Section 8, Rule 11).
- C. The tryout rule does not prohibit an athlete from trying out in front of college coaches or professional scouts if:
 - 1. There is no cost;
 - 2. There is no loss of class time including travel, and
 - 3. The tryout is held outside of the sport season.

The tryout rule applies to team sports of football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, and softball.

NOTE: *A tryout consists of athletic demonstrations relative to a specific sport in the presence of a coach, scout, or official representing an institution or club.*

Rule 12. SCHOLARSHIP (ACADEMICS).

- A. **Junior High.** A student promoted from the sixth to the seventh grade automatically meets the academic eligibility (scholarship) requirements. A student promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade automatically meets the academic eligibility requirements for the first semester.

The second semester eighth grade student and the first semester ninth grade student meet the academic eligibility requirements for junior high by successfully passing four (4) academic courses the previous semester as specified by the Arkansas Department of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools.

First semester ninth grade students must pass four academic classes to be eligible second semester of the ninth grade.

Ninth grade students must meet senior high academic eligibility by the end of the second semester in order to be eligible to participate the fall of their tenth grade year.

Students who have finished two semesters of the ninth grade must follow all senior high (10-12) academic requirements.

NOTE: *After the second semester of the ninth grade, students who have not earned enough credits to be classified as a sophomore must meet the scholarship requirements for senior high (10-12) eligibility.*

- B. **Senior High.** The requirement for senior high (10-12) eligibility shall include:
 - Passing four academic courses; and
 - A minimum semester GPA of 2.0 for the previous semester.

The student must have passed four academic courses in the previous semester. Any of these four courses for which concurrent high school credit is earned may be from an institution of higher learning recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education.

- 1. **Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP).**

- a. To participate in interscholastic competition, students passing four academic courses but failing to meet the 2.0 GPA requirement must be enrolled in and attending 100 minutes per week a Supplemental Instruction Program meeting established criteria and approved by the AAA. The Supplemental Instruction Program must be submitted to the AAA office for approval prior to the start of the school semester.
- b. If a student's GPA drops below 2.0 at the end of any semester, the student must immediately enroll in and attend the SIP at the beginning of the next concurrent semester. If a student fails to enroll in the SIP at this time, the student must attain a 2.0 GPA to regain eligibility.
- c. In the first semester of SIP the student must meet the stated requirement (2.0) at the end of that semester in order to become fully eligible again OR meet the requirement to remain in the SIP one additional semester.
- d. To maintain eligibility under the Supplemental Instruction Program and be eligible to continue for a second semester, the student must show improvement of at least one tenth of one point in his/her GPA after the first semester of participation in the supplemental program. To continue to participate following the second semester in the SIP, the student must have reached the 2.0 GPA as well as passing four academic courses.
- e. Maximum participation in the SIP is two consecutive semesters. If the student does not achieve a 2.0 GPA within this period, the student will remain ineligible until a 2.0 GPA is achieved. A student who has been in SIP and regained eligibility by achieving a 2.0 GPA would be eligible to enter the SIP again later if passing four courses but not earning a 2.0 GPA.

2. **Loss of Opportunity for Athletic Participation.**

- a. During participation in the SIP, the student must have no unexcused absences for the current semester or its equivalent from the SIP or regular classes.
- b. The student must have no school disciplinary action for the current semester. The school may define school disciplinary action, but as a minimum the policy shall state that a student has been disciplined when being placed on suspension where the student is out of school for a period of time.
- c. The student must have no known felony convictions during a semester in which the student is in the SIP.
- d. If at any point the student falls out of compliance with any criteria listed above during the semester, the student will be immediately suspended from competition for the remainder of the semester. In order for the student to re-establish eligibility, he/she must pass four academic courses and achieve a 2.0 grade point average.
- e. If a student fails to participate in the supplemental instruction program during any semester, then eligibility can only be regained by the student passing four academic courses and earning a grade point average of 2.0 from all academic courses the previous semester

3. **Limitation.** A student is restricted to a maximum of two consecutive semesters in the SIP any time a student's GPA falls below a 2.0 for the previous semester.

4. **Academic Course Defined.** An academic course is one for which class time is scheduled, which can be credited to meet minimum requirements for graduation, which is taught by a teacher required to have state certification in the course, and which has a course content guide approved by the Arkansas Department of Education.

NOTE: Each semester, P.E./Athletics in grades 9-12 can be used to satisfy AAA eligibility with passing the four academic courses and maintaining a 2.0 GPA.

C. **Alternate Course Credit.** A student may satisfy the requirement by successfully completing the course(s) failed or courses(s) needed or equivalent course(s) in a summer term(s) or a correspondence course(s) approved by the Arkansas Department of Education for granting credit for graduation requirements. Such credit shall be applied to the previous semester.

NOTE: When the same course is repeated, the former grade may be replaced. When a substitute course is completed, the grade shall be added to the courses for the previous semester and the GPA recomputed.

D. **Special Education (Handicapped).** A student must have earned passing grades in four academic courses of the I.E.P. for the previous semester. There is no GPA requirement for special education students.

E. **Becoming Eligible or Ineligible.** A student may regain or lose academic eligibility the first day of classes in a new semester. Eligibility shall be determined twice per year, once at the beginning of the fall semester (August/September) and once at mid-term (December/January).

Rule 13. INELIGIBLE IN ANOTHER STATE.

- A. A student who is ineligible in any sport under the rules of the state association in the state of the student's domicile will upon transfer to any AAA member school be ineligible for interscholastic competition.
- B. If Arkansas's rules are less restrictive than the rules of the state where the student has been attending, the student may become eligible to participate in interscholastic competition in Arkansas upon the approval of the Executive Director.

Rationale - *To prevent parents from shopping for a school in Arkansas when their child is ineligible in their home state.*

Rule 14. PARTICIPATION ON NON-SCHOOL TEAMS.**A. Team Sports.**

1. A student who is a member of a school's athletic team and who has engaged in interscholastic competition may not try out for, practice with, or otherwise participate with, or be a member of a non-school athletic team in the same sport, in season, without losing eligibility for up to a full year (365 days) from the date of such participation with the non-school team.
2. This limitation shall apply to the team sports of football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, and softball. However, a member of an interscholastic baseball or softball team may try out for or practice with a non-school team on days when the school team does not practice or play. This exception for baseball and softball shall not apply in weeks the school team is involved in AAA sponsored championship tournaments.
3. A student who is (1) a member of a school soccer team and (2) who has played in an interscholastic competition may participate with a non-school soccer team during the season except on days when the school team plays a game.
4. Participation on a non-school athletic team in the same sport in season shall define in season as the AAA established beginning date until the end of the state tournament in that sport for students in grades 10-12 and students in grade 9 who have participated interscholastically with the senior varsity team in the sports of football, volleyball, and basketball.
5. Students in grades 7-8 and students in grade 9 who have not participated interscholastically on a senior varsity team shall have the end of season defined as when their school's team is finished in each sport.
6. A member of an interscholastic spirit team may not compete on a non-school team during the interscholastic spirit season.

B. Non-School Teams.

1. During the school year, a school coach may not coach his or her school team in any out-of-season games.
2. Players from school teams may play in out-of-season leagues or games outside the season, but may not be school sponsored in anyway. These non-school teams may not use school equipment or uniforms. School transportation and facilities may only be used in accordance with school board policies as they relate to any other non-school groups using facilities or transportation.
3. A school team is defined as a team composed solely of players from one member school within a district or attendance zone, in the case of multiple junior or senior high schools within a district.
4. The definition of a non-school team includes one or more of the following:
 - a. A team affiliated with and scheduled for participation in an organized league.
 - b. A team participating against a team that meets criterion (1.) above.
 - c. A team identified by a name or a uniform, and which participates in contests independent from league affiliation.

NOTE: *The above rule does not apply to Special Olympics.*

Rule 15. NATIONAL TEAM, OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SPORT FEDERATION.

- A. An exception to A1 above may be granted for participation:
 1. With a national team (and the actual, direct tryouts for such), which is defined as one selected by the national governing body (NGB) of the sport on a national qualification basis, either through a defined selective process or actual tryouts, for the purpose of international competition which requires the entries to officially represent their respective nations, although it is not necessary that there be team scoring by nation; or

2. In an Olympic development program, which is defined as a training program or competition:
 - a. Conducted or sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC); or
 - b. Directly funded and conducted by the USOC member national governing body (NGB) on a national level (e.g. NGB national championship competition and the direct qualifications for such); or
3. Specifically authorized by a national governing body involving only athletes previously identified by the NGB as having potential for future participation in regional, national or international competition in the sport involved;
4. Provided in 1, 2, and 3 above:
 - a. Participation, if during the school year, is approved by the student's school administration, and the Arkansas Activities Association is notified in writing by the principal at least 30 days prior to the date of the program; and
 - b. The student makes prior arrangement to complete missed academic lessons, assignments, and tests before the last day of classes of the credit grading period in which that student's absence occurs; and
 - c. The student misses no AAA-sponsored athletic event involving a team in that sport.

Rationale – *The purpose of this rule is to prevent students from being adversely affected by conflicts in coaching philosophies during the school season and to prevent the health and well being of athletes from being negatively affected by over-participation.*

B. Participation in Individual Non-School Activities.

1. A student who is a member of a school's athletic program as a participant in a sport and who has engaged in interscholastic competition in that sport may enter non-school competition as an individual during or outside of the school season for that sport. These individual sports include: cross country, track, tennis, golf, swimming, wrestling, and bowling.
2. If a participant is school-sponsored, the activity must be sanctioned under Article II, Section 8, Rule 6, Sanction (Approval) of Events.

Rationale - *Athletes may participate on an individual basis without harm to a team since they compete by themselves. This provides opportunities for individuals to participate in a normally limited season. The health and safety of students and student athletes fall directly under school care.*

Rule 16. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. In any year that a student engages in interscholastic competition, the student shall be required to present to the coach verification of a physical examination prior to beginning practice.

NOTE 1: *A yearly physical shall reasonably be expected to be within 12-15 months.*

NOTE 2: *Starting July 2024, marching band students will be required to present verification of a physical examination. Marching band programs will also have to abide by the approved WBGT guidelines.*

Rationale - *The coaches and school administration must be assured that the athletes are physically fit prior to beginning practice as well as competition. The health and safety of students and student athletes fall directly under school care.*

Rule 17. HARDSHIP EXCEPTIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY. Upon petition from a student's school administrator, the Executive Director is authorized to waive the requirements of all eligibility rules except the age rule if the school develops acceptable proof based on the stated criteria for a hardship waiver. Hardships must be applied for and approved by the Executive Director before a student participates in interscholastic competition. Hardships shall not be retroactive. Documentation and correspondence must be through the voting representative of the school.

A. Domicile Exceptions.

1. After an investigation, a court of law has removed the student from the parents or guardians and subsequently assigned the student a place of domicile.
2. The student is an orphan or there is no record of the parent's whereabouts.
3. The student's parents are out-of-state residents and the student is attending school in a school district where the parents maintain a legal domicile (military, etc.).
4. The student's parent(s) have abrogated their responsibility toward the student as parents.
5. The student's parent's employment requires absence from home great portions of the time the student is at home, and the parent has arranged domicile with relatives or friends for the purpose of supervision.
6. The student is married and living with a spouse, has a parent with domicile in the school district or a spouse who had an established domicile in the district one year prior to the marriage.

7. A student who has lived three continuous years at any time as a bona fide member of a family may establish the family heads as substitute parents with respect to the domicile rule.
8. An extreme and unusual circumstance exists that is no fault of the student or the parents. (Examples of conditions that warrant an extreme or unusual circumstance: extreme medical or psychiatric conditions; sexual abuse or assault; or physical abuse or assault - must have supporting documentation from doctors and/or law enforcement)

NOTE 1: *The Executive Director is authorized to specify limitations or contingency conditions as needed when giving approvals, to ensure that such student shall not be induced to another school district or played under the pretense of being eligible should the eligibility status change.*

NOTE 2: *The petition shall not be authorized if the director obtains reliable information that the student is transferring to the petitioning school primarily for athletic purposes or as a result of inducement or recruitment.*

NOTE 3: *If a AAA member school drops a declared varsity team sport in which they participated in during the previous year, the domicile requirement may be waived and the students may become eligible to participate in the same varsity team sport at the nearest AAA member public school of the parent's domicile the offers the sport provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements. The student must attend and stay enrolled in all academic courses at their current assigned school. Due to the Same Sport Same Season rule, this exception does not apply if a member school drops a varsity team sport during the sport season. If the student's current assigned school resumes the sport the following year, the student must return to their current assigned school to participate.*

B. Exception To Other Eligibility Requirements.

1. **School Attendance Prevented.** There has been an extreme and unusual circumstance that is no fault of the student, the parent, or the school that has prevented school attendance sufficient to cause that student to be in violation of the dropout rule or the scholarship rule or the semester rule.
2. **Non-Recommended Courses.** The student has been identified as being in need of special education or other special programs of study as authorized by the Arkansas Department of Education regulation but is subsequently required by the school to participate in non-recommended courses.

SECTION 2. NON-ATHLETIC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

Rule 1. BONA FIDE STUDENT. (Same as athletic Rule 6.)

Rule 2. SCHOLARSHIP. (Same as athletic Rule 12.)

Rule 3. SEMESTERS. (Same as athletic Rule 8.)

Rule 4. AGE. (Senior High same as athletic Rule 9, Junior High none.)

Rule 5. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS. A student involved in a vocational education youth organization need only be a bona fide student of a school and meet the scholarship rule. The student may not participate in an interscholastic event on or after the twenty-first birthday.

Rule 6. HARDSHIP CASES. (Same as athletic Rule 17.)

SECTION 3. NON-COMPETITIVE SPIRIT TEAMS

Rule 1. ELIGIBILITY. A student participating as a member of a school's non-competitive cheer or dance team must meet eligibility requirements for interscholastic non-athletic competitive activities.

Exception: The semester rule for students in a 7-12 school shall be a total of twelve semesters.

Rule 2. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. In any year that a student tries out for or participates as a member of the school's non-competitive cheer or dance team, the student shall be required to present to the coach a physical examination verification prior to beginning an organized practice or workshop for tryouts. A physical shall reasonably be expected to be within 12-15 months.