Ohio High School Athletic Association  
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214

High School Referendum Items - Bylaws – 2016-2017

IB - Bylaw 4-1-1 – Administrative Error – Amend Note

Note: The authority to correct purely “administrative errors” is limited to correcting student eligibility issues as codified within Bylaw 4-Student Eligibility. Students who have not met the high school or middle school scholarship requirement are not “substantively eligible;” and a student who fails to register for enough credit hours, fails a class(es) or drops a class that lowers the student below the requisite number of credits, always has a shared responsibility for this shortcoming thus disqualifying such shortcoming from the “due solely to an administrative error” category. Therefore; this Bylaw shall never be used in conjunction with Bylaws 4-4-1 or 4-4-5.

COMMENTS:
1. There has been confusion around the definition of the term “substantively eligible.”
2. As students who do not meet the scholarship standard shall never be considered as substantively eligible, this clarification places that prohibition into the bylaw.

2B - Bylaw 4-2-3 – Age

An 8th grade student may, at the student's option, become eligible for interscholastic athletics at the high school level when the student attains his/her 15th birthday before August 1 of the ensuing school year. The student who chooses to commence high school eligibility while still enrolled in grade eight is eligible at the school where the student is expected to enroll at the ninth grade level. A student opting to commence her/his eligibility at the high school level shall have no more than eight semesters of high school eligibility taken in order of attendance in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-3 NOTE: This means that a student’s senior year of eligibility will be affected if the student chooses to commence high school eligibility while still enrolled in grade eight. Furthermore, if the student does not opt to become eligible at the high school level, she/he shall be ineligible on account of her/his age at the 7th-8th grade level of interscholastic competition.

COMMENTS:
1. This modification of the age bylaw provides a choice for a student who cannot meet the age requirement in grade eight and who does not qualify for an exception.
2. Such a student may choose to:
   a. Remain in grade eight and not participate due to the fact that he or she is ineligible in accordance with the age bylaw
   b. Commence high school participation at the school where he or she would be expected to enroll at grade 9.
3. If the student chooses to participate at the high school level while still in grade 8, he or she does so with the understanding that the eight-semester bylaw 4-3-3 is operational and that the student will have no more eligibility after the 8th semester even though the student would still be age-appropriate.
4. The note calls attention to the fact that the eight-semester period of eligibility begins if the semesters of high school participation begin while the student is still in grade eight.
All students participating in a school-sponsored sport must be enrolled in and attending full-time in accordance with all duly adopted Board of Education or similar governing board policies of that school.

EXCEPTION 1: A student enrolled in the ninth grade separate from the high school (grades 10-12) is eligible to participate with the school squad of the high school the student will be assigned to attend.  
EXCEPTION 2: A student enrolled in a joint vocational school is eligible at the high school where the students' records are maintained.  
EXCEPTION 3: A student enrolled in a member school who receives his/her education through a community school established under Chapter 3314 of the Revised Code that is sponsored by the city, local or exempted village school district in which the student is entitled to attend school pursuant to Section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code, is eligible to participate at the member public school that is operated by the school district sponsoring the community school, provided the student is enrolled and attending pursuant to Board of Education policy.  
 Note: Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, incoming ninth grade students who attend community schools in accordance with state law, ORC 3313.64, shall be afforded the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics only at the public school located in the district of residence of the parents. Students who were enrolled in a community school sponsored by a member school's Board of Education as per Exception 3 shall remain eligible insofar as Bylaw 4-3-1 is concerned at their current public school which sponsors the community school. This provision shall expire beginning with the 2018-19 school year.  
EXCEPTION 4: A student enrolled full time in a postsecondary institution is eligible to participate at the high school where the student's records are maintained, provided the student is receiving high school credit for a minimum of five one credit courses in the postsecondary institution.  
EXCEPTION 5: A student enrolled in an alternative school that is sponsored by a Board of Education or similar governing board is eligible to participate at the member school operated by the district sponsoring the alternative school provided the alternative school does not sponsor interscholastic athletics and the student is counted on the EMIS report for the member high school.  
EXCEPTION 6: A student who is receiving home instruction in accordance with division (A) (2) of section 3321.04 of the Revised Code is enrolled in a non-public member school in accordance with the partial enrollment policy of the governing board of that non-public school may be eligible at the non-public school where the student is enrolled and attending. Such partial enrollment policy requires that at least one of the courses be taken at the school's physical location.  
 Note: A student entering a member non-public school from a home school must do so at the beginning of the school year after having been home educated for at least one calendar year. Failure to meet this one-year provision requires the student to be enrolled for a minimum of one grading period before the student can be declared eligible.  
 Note: State law permits home educated students in accordance with ORC 3312.04 (A)(2) to be afforded the opportunity to participate at the public school in the district of residence of the parents without any enrollment obligation. If the residential public school district does not offer the sport, the home educated student MAY participate at another non-residential public school provided the superintendent of that district permits such participation.  
EXCEPTION 7: A student enrolled in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) school that is established under Chapter 3326 of the Revised Code is eligible to participate at the member school where the student would be entitled to attend, provided the STEM school does not sponsor the specific sport the student wishes to play and the student is counted on the EMIS report for the member high school.  
 Note: An incoming ninth-grade student may establish eligibility at any member school that admits him or her and establishes initial eligibility as indicated in transfer Bylaw 4-7-2. After establishing initial eligibility, students who attend STEM schools are subject to the transfer bylaw.  
EXCEPTION 8: Unless otherwise mandated within the Ohio Revised Code.  
See this document for an explanation of the current mandates:  
http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/GuidelinesForNon-EnrolledStudents.pdf
COMMENTS:
1. Exceptions 3 and 7 are no longer necessary as the participation opportunities for students attending community and STEM schools are prescribed in state law and covered under renumbered exception 6.
2. Readers are referred to a link on the OHSAA website for guidance on the current state laws which address the non-enrolled students.

4B – Bylaw 4-3-3 – Amend as follows:
After a student completes the eighth grade, or is otherwise eligible for high school athletics pursuant to Bylaw 4-2-3, the student may be eligible for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, regardless of whether the student participates or is even eligible to participate in accordance with these eligibility bylaws. A student in grade 7 or 8 who attains the age of 15 before August 1 shall be eligible only at the high school level for a period not to exceed eight semesters commencing with the semester of the student's first participation at the high school level, taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not.

EXCEPTION 1: The Commissioner’s Office or the Board of Directors may permit a student who completes the eighth semester of eligibility during the season of a sport to complete the sports season of the sport in which the student is participating provided the student is enrolled in school. If such extension is granted, the student is ineligible for further interscholastic participation when the sports season, regular and tournament, has ended.

EXCEPTION 2: If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEIA requirements and the student’s specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student’s inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner’s office if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner’s office, the Commissioner’s office determines that:
   a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
   b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
   c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
   d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

EXCEPTION 3: The Commissioner’s Office, in its sole discretion, may permit a student who began high school in another country to have eight semesters of high school eligibility in the United States when evidence can be presented that the student’s placement in high school outside the United States was inappropriate for the student’s age and academic capabilities.

COMMENTS:
1. The OHSAA has struggled with several instances of students who began high school in another country at an age that would be inconsistent with when the great majority of students commence high school in the United States and then repeat grade nine when entering a high school in the United States.
2. This exception would allow the Commissioner’s Office to evaluate requests for additional semesters of eligibility on a case-by-case basis when a student is placed back into the appropriate high school grade when entering a school in the United States for the first time.
3. The Office will request documentation from educators who made the initial placement and who are advising the current placement in a school in the USA.

5B- Bylaw 4-3-7 – Exception
If it has been determined that a student, who has been educated in a system outside the United States, has not met the substantive academic admission requirements for a college or university in the United States of the NCAA initial admission requirements.
eligibility center in regard to high school graduation (notwithstanding ACT/SAT scores or English proficiency), the student may be declared eligible at a member school at the sole discretion of the Commissioner’s office.

**COMMENT:**
1. This change more accurately reflects a waiver for a student whose international-based education would not qualify him or her for NCAA initial eligibility in terms of graduation.

### 6B - Bylaw 4-4-1 – Scholarship – Add Notes

*Add Note 3: Scholarship*  
Eligibility for the home educated student who was not home educated for an entire year, leaves a school for home education during a school year or who commences home education during the school year after being declared ineligible, shall be evaluated for eligibility based on ORC§3313.5312.  
*Add Note 4:* No student who has failed a course or was not enrolled in a course during the grading period shall be able to use that course to fulfill the scholarship requirement if the course was not a course that the student was enrolled in and passing at the conclusion of the grading period.

**COMMENTS:**
1. Note 3 expresses those concepts found in language within the ORC regarding certifying athletic eligibility.
2. The evaluation shall be conducted by the administration of the member school in which the student is seeking eligibility.
3. Note 4 restricts a school from retroactively assigning a student course work in which the student was not enrolled during the grading period so as to fulfill the requirements of the scholarship bylaw.

### 7B- Bylaw 4-7-2 - Amend definition of the 50% sit out for sports using a half, quarter or point limitation: team sports FT, BK, SO and FH plus individual sport WR

A student is considered to have transferred whenever a.) enrollment is changed from one school to another school, or b.) the student participates in a practice, scrimmage or contest with a school-sponsored squad of a school in which the student has not been enrolled unless the non-enrolled student’s participation is pursuant to O.R.C. §§ 3313.5311 (Ohio non-public school students), or 3313.537 (Ohio community/STEM school students.) If a student transfers at any time after the fifth day of the student’s ninth grade year or after having established eligibility prior to the start of school by playing in a contest (scrimmage, preview/jamboree, Foundation game or regular season/tournament contest), until the one-year anniversary of the date of enrollment in the school to which the student transferred, the student shall be ineligible for all contests (including all scrimmages, preview/jamboree/Foundation games) until after the first 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests in those sports in which the student participated (participation being defined as playing in a contest) during the 12 months immediately preceding this transfer have been competed. Once eligibility is restored, the student shall be eligible for no more than 50% of the maximum allowable contests, quarters, halves or points which are permitted in any recognized sport. Maximum allowable DOES NOT MEAN what you have on your regular season schedule if the number of such contests is less than the “maximum allowable permitted by Sport Regulations.

**COMMENTS:**
1. It has come to our attention that some students are being permitted to circumvent this transfer consequence by participating in a full season at multiple levels of a sport after the first 50% of the maximum allowable contests have been competed.
2. This amendment would make such participation impermissible as demonstrated in the table below.
3. Participation is defined as playing in a contest as described within the bylaw.
4. These changes are intended to close a “loophole” that some coaches see in the existing language whereby an athlete is permitted to cram a full season's worth of “contests” into half of the calendar
season by participating in different levels of competition and/or “A” “B” squads etc. In addition to this “loophole” violating the letter and spirit of the Bylaw, this practice by some exposes athletes to safety risks and displaces other athletes’ opportunities to participate.

*Maximum Allowable Contests in All OHSAA-recognized sports and Formula for Determining Eligibility under the 50% Transfer Consequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Maximum # of Contests as per the OHSAA Board</th>
<th>Transfer Student Ineligible Until</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>27 Games</td>
<td>Game 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball (Boys and Girls)</td>
<td>22 Games</td>
<td>Game 12 - then eligible for no more than 55 quarters for the remainder of the regular season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling</td>
<td>24 Matches</td>
<td>Match 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country (Boys and Girls)</td>
<td>16 Meets</td>
<td>Meet 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Hockey</td>
<td>16 Games</td>
<td>Game 9 - then eligible for no more than 21 halves for the remainder of the regular season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>10 Games</td>
<td>Game 6 - then eligible for no more than 25 quarters for the remainder of the regular season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>20 Matches</td>
<td>Match 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>14 Meets</td>
<td>Meet 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Hockey</td>
<td>35 Games</td>
<td>Game 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacrosse</td>
<td>18 Games</td>
<td>Game 10 - GIRLS - then eligible for no more than 23 halves for the remainder of the regular season – BOYS - then eligible for no more than 46 quarters for the remainder of the regular season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer (Boys and Girls)</td>
<td>16 Games</td>
<td>Game 9 - then eligible for no more than 21 halves for the remainder of the regular season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>27 Games</td>
<td>Game 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming and Diving(Boys and Girls)</td>
<td>16 Meets</td>
<td>Meet 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis (Boys and Girls)</td>
<td>22 Matches</td>
<td>Match 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track and Field (Boys and Girls)</td>
<td>16 Meets</td>
<td>Meet 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>22 Matches</td>
<td>Match 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>20 Points</td>
<td>Point 11 - then eligible for no more than 10 points for the remainder of the regular season.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8B – Amend Bylaw 4-7-2 – Exception one

If, as a result of a bona fide legal change of residence made by BOTH PARENTS (biological, adoptive or step-parents) from one public school district into another school district whether from outside the state of Ohio or within Ohio, the student is compelled to transfer to another high school, the Commissioner’s Office may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons. The requirement that “both parents” make
the move may be waived by the Commissioner’s Office if the marriage of the parents has been or is in the process of being legally terminated or if the parents were never married. In addition, the Commissioner’s Office, in its sole discretion, may extend conditional eligibility for up to 90 days in cases where parents are making a bona fide move into a residence that is more than 100 miles from their former residence, and there are extenuating circumstances that are presented which prevent one of the parents from making the move immediately. **This 90 day conditional provision may be extended for up to 90 more days ONLY in the case of medical or military obligations that prevent one of the parents from making the move at the same time as the other parent.**

*If the person(s) making the bona fide move is not the biological or adoptive parent or step-parent of the student, the school administrator must disclose the custodial relationship, provide the court ordered documents and advise as to the whereabouts of the student’s biological or adoptive parents.*

An Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence in the form requested by the Commissioner’s Office, must be submitted along with any request for the application of this exception.

Note: Please refer to Bylaw 4-6-1 for a definition of bona fide residence. Also, the student and the student’s parents must reside in this new residence for a period of one year from the date on which this exception was applied to a given student. The school district will have a continuing duty to monitor compliance with the residency requirements during this one year period of time. Exception one permits the choice of the public high school in the parents’ new public district of residence or any non-public high school. **If, however, the new residence into which the family has moved is more than 100 miles from the residence from which the family moved as determined by mapquest.com or such other navigational system as adopted by the Board of Directors at its August meeting (using the most direct route), the student shall have the option to enroll contemporaneously with this move into any public high school.**

**COMMENTS:**

1. Students whose parents have made a bona fide move of at least 100 miles should have the opportunity to choose a school for their children that best meets the child’s educational needs.
2. This addition was an “interpretation” within this exception for families moving in from out of state for several years after initial approval but was removed, as it was never ratified by the membership.
3. This amendment would offer the same opportunity for students who are forced to move at least 100 miles as an incoming 9th grader who has resided in Ohio.
4. At times, a student may move with a legal custodian into a school district. This information must be disclosed and documented in order for the Commissioner’s Office to make a ruling that is consistent with the intent of this exception.
5. Occasionally due to military obligations or medical circumstances, one parent may not be able to make the move at the same time as the other parent and the minor children. An additional 90-day extension may be granted in these circumstances only.

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**9B - Bylaw 4-7-2 – Exception two – clarify that the former and new custodian must live in different public school districts.**

**EXCEPTION 2:** If, as a result of a legal change of custody or guardianship as between a student's parents who live in two different public school districts, the student is compelled to transfer from one school district to another school district, the Commissioner’s Office may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons. If custody of a student is changed to a non-parent, who lives in a different school district than the previous custodian, as a result of allegations of abuse, neglect or delinquency/unruliness which allegations result in an adjudication of one or more of those allegations, the
Commissioner’s Office may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons. The granting of a change of guardianship to a non-parent will not comply with this exception.

**COMMENT:**
1. This amendment is designed to clarify that the change of custody must be between two parents/individuals who live in two different school districts.

### 10 B - Bylaw 4-7-2 – Exception three – add “educational”

EXCEPTION 3: If the high school, which is either a chartered high school in a single high school public school district or a chartered non-public high school, in which the student is enrolled closes or discontinues its *entire* high school *educational* program after grade nine,…

**COMMENT:**
1. This clarifies that we are referencing the entire educational program and not just the sports program.

### 11 B - Bylaw 4-7-2 – Exception six – clarify enrollment under this ORC provision

*The Commissioner’s Office shall have the discretionary power to waive the residence requirements for a student who has been enrolled in the district in accordance with ORC §§ 3313.64 (F)(6) or 3313.64 (F)(7). The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner’s Office.*

**COMMENT:**
1. The insertion of the ORC which permits a 90 day enrollment when a new home is under construction (F)(6) or when the parents are purchasing a home in the district (F)(7) helps to clarify that the OHSAA will only consider students for the waiver when their home is actually under construction OR –they have submitted the appropriate documentation proscribed in the law to verify the home purchase.
2. Eligibility will be extended for 90 days only after which time the family must be in residence in the home and submit the affidavit of bona fide residence in order to preserve eligibility.

### 12 B - 4-7-2 – Exception seven; Amend as follows:

If a student is a victim of harassment, intimidation or bullying as those terms are defined at ORC §3313.666 (A) (2), which harassment, intimidation or bullying has been documented to the school district in accordance with the *ORC*, and as a result of this *documented* harassment, intimidation or bullying the student is compelled to transfer, the Commissioner’s Office, in its sole discretion, may waive all or part of the 50% period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sports seasons provided;

1) The District’s Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, Anti-Bullying policies and procedures adopted in accordance with ORC §3313.666 have been strictly followed and complied with; and
2) The District provides the Commissioner’s Office with a copy of the duly adopted policies and procedures; and
3) The District secures the appropriate releases from the student/student’s parents authorizing the District to provide a complete record of the events and circumstances on which the policies and procedures were initiated including:

- a) A specific, detailed report of the prohibited incident(s);
b) An outline of the procedures used to respond to and investigate the reported incident(s);

c) A copy of the findings that were a result of the complaint process and investigation;

d) A specific, detailed disciplinary procedure for any individual found guilty of harassment, intimidation or bullying;

e) All reports of notification to parents or guardians of any student involvement in the incident(s);

f) A report of the intervention strategies and remedial action the school has undertaken to assist the student and redress the complaint.

4) The District provides the Commissioner’s Office with all of the above-referenced records.

COMMENT:

1. Adding “documented to the district” reinforces the notion that all claims must be memorialized in writing or in some mediated format to representatives of the school district where the alleged bullying has taken place.

13 B - Bylaw 4-7-2 – TRANSFER – EXCEPTION 10

EXCEPTION 10: A student who has been enrolled in and attending a member school in a school district that, through formal action by the school district’s Board of Education, has elected to effectively cease with its sponsorship of its entire interscholastic athletic programs, may transfer to any other school district/system and have his/her eligibility restored upon application to the Commissioner’s Office. Furthermore, if the school district formally elects, through Board of Education action, to resume its sponsorship of its interscholastic athletic programs, a student who transferred under the provisions of this Exception may transfer back to the member school from which she/he transferred under this provision provided this transfer back occurs prior to the start of the next school year following the school year in which resumption of the sponsorship of interscholastic athletic programs occurred. In consideration of all applications for the restoration of eligibility pursuant to this Exception, the Commissioner’s Office shall give due consideration to all factors relating to the transfer and particularly the timing of the transfer in relation to the formal actions taken by the Board of Education in either the cessation and/or resumption of its sponsorship of these programs. For purposes of this Exception, “formal action” shall mean more than the mere threat of cessation of sponsorship, and resolutions that are contingent upon a future event or happening will not be regarded as “formal action” until such contingency has been met.

No student transferring under this provision shall be eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner’s Office.

COMMENT:

1. Adding the word “member” eliminates the use of this exception for students who attend community schools that offer and then discontinue their sports programs.

14 B – Bylaw 4-7-4 – Intra-District Transfer – Add notes to exceptions 1, 2 and 5

The superintendent or person delegated by the superintendent of either a non-public or public school system may transfer students within the system without jeopardizing their eligibility only in the following circumstances:

1) The parent(s) or legal custodian of the student have made a bona fide move from one attendance zone into a new attendance zone within the school district and such move entitles the student to attend another district high school (Note: parents refers to both parents in an intact marriage and includes biological, adoptive and step-parents) OR

2) There has been a court-ordered change of legal custody from one individual to another individual living within a new attendance zone within the school district and the student shall live with the new custodian in the new attendance zone (Note: If the change of custody is to a non-parent, the custody order shall be accompanied by an adjudication of negligence, abuse or delinquency/unruliness) OR
3) The school closes or there was a mistake made in the student’s initial placement  
4) The student is a child with a disability whose program as prescribed by the student’s I.E.P. has been changed to another high school  
5) The student transfers pursuant to state or federal statutes addressing unsafe schools or academically poor performing schools, and the student can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the superintendent that the transfer is for purely academic reasons and not athletic reasons. (Note: This exception will not apply to transfers from one poor performing school to another poor performing school.)

Such transfers are eligible only after approval by the Commissioner's office.

COMMENT:
1. These notes are added to bring clarity to these exceptions and to make them consistent with the inter-district exceptions found in 4-7-2.

15 B – Bylaw 4-8-1 – International Student – add Note to exception one

For the purpose of this bylaw, an international student is a student who is not a United States citizen and who is in Ohio receiving secondary education in an Ohio school. International students are ineligible for interscholastic athletics in Ohio unless they can meet one of the exceptions below.

EXCEPTION 1: An international student may be declared eligible if the student’s parents have made a bona fide legal change of residence into Ohio and the international student is enrolled and attending an Ohio member school. The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner’s office. Note: This exception requires that both parents make the move into Ohio. If, however, the international student is moving with parents into Ohio from another high school within the United States, an affidavit of bona fide residence is support of transfer bylaw 4-7-2 exception one is required.

COMMENTS:
1. This note clarifies that when the parents move to the US and into Ohio from another country, both are required to make the move.
2. When a move is made from another state or from a community within Ohio, transfer bylaw 4-7-2 is in play.

16B - Amend Bylaw 5-1-1 – Awards Gifts and Prizes

Section 1. Awards, Gifts and Prizes— Approved

5-1-1 Awards gifts and prizes directly resulting from participation in any sport in which the student is an interscholastic athlete may be accepted by a student from any source provided the award does not exceed in value $400 per award.

Note: See Bylaw 4-1-3 that defines one’s continued status as an interscholastic squad member.

COMMENTS:
1. The former language gave the impression that the awards bylaw applied only to when the student was participating for the school.
2. Although the interpretation has always been that this bylaw is applicable to all participation, the language changes makes that concept very clear.
3. Not all items received are awards so the title is amended to include gifts and prizes.
4. It is time to raise the limit to $400
5. The note referring to Bylaw 4-1-3 simply indicates that one’s status as an athlete on a school squad continues until the start of the next season.
17 B – Bylaw 8-3-1 – Amend as follows:

Protests arising from the decisions and interpretations of the contest playing rules by officials will not be considered, and those decisions shall be final. The Commissioner’s office does not have the authority or jurisdiction to order contests replayed, or to overturn decisions of contest officials regarding the decisions and interpretations of contest playing rules. The decisions and interpretations of the rules by the contest officials are final.

**Note:** The Commissioner’s Office may consider the use of any reliable, probative and substantial evidence to correct the misidentification of a participant who was ejected for the second time when such ejection results in ineligibility for the remainder of the sports season.

**COMMENT:**
1. This note would allow the office, at the sole discretion of the Commissioner, to review credible evidence, such as video evidence, if a school claimed that a player who was ejected for the second time in a season had been misidentified.