

RECRUITING GUIDELINES

WIAA rules prevent the recruitment of students for athletic reasons. The specific rule in question states: "No eligibility will be granted for a student whose residence within a school's attendance boundaries, with or without parents, or whose attendance at a school has been the result of undue influence (special consideration due to athletic ability or potential) on the part of any person, whether or not connected with the school."

It's important to note that persons not connected with the school can violate this rule, resulting in a loss of eligibility. Schools are ultimately responsible for the eligibility of all of their students and the school needs to communicate rules and pay close attention to the circumstances that bring students to the school.

Obviously, public schools and private schools encourage students to enroll and this certainly can be done without violating the undue influence rule. The following gives some examples of acceptable and unacceptable practices. This list cannot be considered all-inclusive, but should be helpful as an example.

Acceptable

- High school personnel visiting a middle school/elementary school to explain programs and encourage all interested students to attend.
- Inviting all interested students from a middle school/elementary school to visit.
- Providing game tickets to all interested students and/or team members from a middle school/elementary school or area youth teams.
- Providing informational pamphlets which describe the high school to all interested students at a middle level/elementary school.
- Providing tuition reduction to prospective students, based on need and/or scholastic achievement.

Unacceptable

- High school personnel visiting a middle school/elementary school sport team to encourage players to attend.
- Inviting selected students, because of athletic potential or ability, to visit.
- Providing game tickets to selected students, based on athletic potential or ability.
- Providing promotional pamphlets to selected students, based on athletic potential or ability.
- Providing tuition reduction to selected students, based wholly or in part on athletic potential or ability.
- Community or booster club member(s) contacting a potential student, because of athletic ability or potential, and encouraging attendance.

Additional Examples

- Interpretation of this provision now allows youth athletic teams to receive invitation/complimentary admission to high school sporting events and to be acknowledged or introduced at those events.
- Teams may also perform and/or scrimmage in connection with a high school event
- Under no circumstances may a youth team be introduced, etc., at more than one contest per season.
- This interpretation provides for admission, acknowledgment and performance and/or scrimmage opportunity.
- These events may not extend or prolong the contest or periods beyond the limits provided by rule.
- Participating in the high school team's game preparations is not permitted (e.g. pregame, half-time, sidelines, locker room).
- Under no circumstances will it be considered acceptable to single out any individual youth/middle level student athlete separate from or disproportionate to the remainder of the team.

It is the responsibility of schools to contact other schools and report any possible violations of WIAA rules. The WIAA is always willing to provide rules clarifications and, where necessary, will impose sanctions on schools and programs. It is far better for schools to provide leadership and control to prevent problems than to have to deal with these issues after the fact.