

**Proposed Amendment to the
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Recommendation

This proposed recommendation amends Section 441, AMATEUR ATHLETIC STATUS, UIL Constitution and Contest Rules.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

This proposal amends Section 441 by defining the words “participating” and “league sponsored school sport,” as well as adding other minor language that clarifies the intent of the rule.

C. Proposed Recommendation

Section 441 of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules would be amended as follows effective August 1, 2016, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education.

The amateur rule starts the first class day of a student’s 9th grade year, and is in continuous effect during the school year and summer months until all athletic competition is completed in the 12th grade. The student at all times (whether in school or outside school) shall abide by the letter and intent of amateurism AS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION. Schools are charged with the responsibility of informing students of all applicable subsections of this rule and enforcing this rule. Administrators and coaches must insure that athletes receive only services specifically permitted by written rule. Any breach of the rule undermines the educational goals of interscholastic athletics.

- (a) NOT AN AMATEUR. For purposes of competing in an athletic contest, a student in grades 9-12 is not an amateur if that individual, within the preceding 12 months:
- (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED OTHERWISE IN THIS SECTION, received money or other valuable consideration for ~~teaching or~~ participating in a League sponsored school sport;
 - (2) received valuable consideration for allowing his or her name to be used in promoting a product, plan or service related to a League SPORT OR contest; or
 - (3) accepted money or other valuable consideration from school booster club funds for any non-school purpose.
 - (4) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, “PARTICIPATING” MEANS TAKING PART OR PLAYING ANY ROLE IN THE COVERED SPORT OR OTHERWISE BEING INVOLVED IN ANY PRACTICE, GAME OR CONTEST OF THE COVERED SPORT, AS A COACH, PLAYER, MANAGER, ASSISTANT, OR ANY OTHER INVOLVEMENT BESIDES THAT OF A SPECTATOR. A GAME OR ACTIVITY INVOLVING CHANCE NOT SPONSORED BY THE LEAGUE BUT THAT MAY ALSO INVOLVE A STUDENT USING SOME ATHLETIC SKILL OR ABILITY DOES NOT CONSTITUTE “PARTICIPATING” UNDER THIS SECTION. SUCH A GAME OR ACTIVITY WOULD BE A “HALF-COURT SHOT” CONTEST AS PART OF A MARKETING PROGRAM OR THROWING BALLS AT A TARGET FOR A PRIZE. “TEACHING” AND “COACHING” ARE SYNONYMOUS TERMS.

(5) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION A “LEAGUE SPONSORED SCHOOL SPORT” IS ANY SPORT THAT IS SPONSORED BY THE LEAGUE AS EITHER A REGULAR APPROVED UIL ACTIVITY OR PILOT PROGRAM AND THAT IS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE SCHOOL THE STUDENT ATTENDS. FOR EXAMPLE, BASEBALL IS A LEAGUE SPONSORED SPORT AND IS COVERED BY THIS RULE, REGARDLESS OF THE LEVEL OF COMPETITION INVOLVED OR ORGANIZATION THAT IS ADMINISTERING THE GAME IN WHICH THE SPORT IS PLAYED.

(b) EXCEPTIONS:

- (1) Students may accept reasonable fees that do not exceed LOCAL prevailing rates for teaching or coaching activities ~~provided they confine the work to teaching or coaching skills.~~
- (2) Students may accept reasonable fees that do not exceed LOCAL prevailing rates for officiating athletic contests.
- (3) Seniors may sign a letter of intent or scholarship agreement which contains the conditions of a scholarship with a postsecondary institution.
- (4) For purposes of competing in an athletic contest, the participant school, school district or a student’s parent(s) may provide medical examination and services, athletic insurance, transportation and other travel expenses incurred in competing away from home, or supplies and services during and in connection with a game or practice period. Jerseys or game shirts may be worn on game day as well as during practice or competition, with school district approval.
- (5) Participant schools and member school districts may permit student athletes to attend contests by permit admission through a pass gate.
- (6) A student-athlete in grades 9-12 may accept funds that are administered by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) or other national governing body.
- (7) Student athletes may accept small “goodie bags” consisting of cookies, candy and symbolic gifts from their classmates, if allowed by local school policy.
- (8) Student athletes may accept travel expenses and attend free banquets in connection with an awards ceremony to accept a national and/or statewide award, after completing their eligibility in that sport.
- (9) Meals. The local school district determines when, how and from whom student athletes can receive meals and snacks.
- (10) This rule is sport-specific. For example, if a student violates the rule in one sport, such as accepting a prize for winning a hole-in-one contest in golf, that student would be ineligible only for golf.

(c) STATUS REGAINED. If a student did not realize that accepting the valuable consideration was a violation of the amateur rule and returns the valuable consideration within 30 days after being informed of the violation, that student may regain athletic eligibility as of the date the valuable consideration is returned. If a student fails to return it within 30 days, that student remains ineligible for one year from when he or she accepted it. During the period of time a student is in possession of valuable consideration, he or she is ineligible for varsity athletic competition in the sport in which the violation occurred. Any games or contests in which the student participated during that time would be forfeited as the minimum penalty.

(d) TEAM VIOLATION. If the team violates this Section, the penalty shall be assessed against the team and not against each individual.

D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools

This recommendation would not have a fiscal impact on member schools.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2016.