

**Proposed Recommendation by  
UIL Review Advisory Committee  
to  
Standing Committee on Athletics**

**A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Recommendation**

The following recommendation would amend Section 441, *Amateur Athletic Status*.

**B. Factual and Policy Justifications**

These edits would clarify the current rules regarding athletic amateur status, and ease restrictions on athletes being able to receive reasonable fees for coaching, teaching, or officiating. The edits remove the official interpretations #11 and 12 along with language preventing parents or guardians from accepting tickets. Language is added to allow schools the choice of how and when students can receive meals.

**C. Proposed Recommendation**

Section 441: AMATEUR ATHLETIC STATUS

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

- (a) NOT AN AMATEUR. For purposes of competing in an athletic contest, a student in grades 9-12 is not an amateur if that individual, within the preceding 12 months: (INSERT BREAK & NUMBER)
- (1) received money or other valuable consideration for teaching or participating in a League sponsored school sport; or
  - (2) received valuable consideration for allowing his or her name to be used in promoting a product, plan or service related to a League contest; or
  - (3) accepted money or other valuable consideration from school booster club funds for any non-school purpose;
  - (4) ~~PARENTS OR GUARDIANS It is a violation of the athletic amateur rule for parents of student athletes to acceptED tickets to athletic contests where their children are participating. THE STUDENT PARTICIPATED; OR~~
  - (5) ~~It is also a violation for parents OR GUARDIANS of student athletes to acceptED free pass gate admission to athletic contests where THE STUDENT PARTICIPATED their children are participating unless they are at the contest in another capacity, i.e., if the parent is an employee of the school or a board member, or working at a concession booth., etc. (See Official Interpretations #11 and 12, Appendix I.)~~
- (b) EXCEPTIONS:
- (1) STUDENTS MAY ACCEPT REASONABLE FEES THAT DO NOT EXCEED 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 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 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. ~~pursuant to its Operation Gold program.~~
- (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 state-wide 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.
- ~~(e) INAPPLICABILITY TO LOWER GRADES. The amateur rule applies only to student athletes in grades 9-12. This rule does not apply to students until the first class day of their 9th grade year. From that day it is in continuous effect during the school year and summer months until all athletic competition is completed in the 12th grade.~~
- ~~(d) INAPPLICABILITY TO SWIMMING. Athletes may be paid for teaching beginning swimming and lifesaving, provided the fees do not exceed the prevailing rates for those services.~~
- (e) 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.
- (f) TEAM VIOLATION. If the team violates this section, the penalty shall be assessed against the team and not against each individual.

11. Section 441 – Athletic Amateur Rule: The following are interpretations of the amateur rule:

- (a) VALUABLE CONSIDERATION SCHOOL TEAMS AND ATHLETES MAY ACCEPT:
  - 1. Pre-Season. School athletic teams may be given pre-season meals, if approved by the school.
  - 2. Post-Season. School athletic teams may be given post-season meals, if approved by the school. — Banquet favors or gifts are considered valuable consideration and are subject to the Awards and Amateur Rules if they are given to a student athlete at any time.

~~3. Other. If approved by the school, school athletic teams and athletes may be invited to and may attend functions where free admission is offered, or where refreshments and/or meals are served. Athletes or athletic teams may be recognized at these functions, but may not accept anything, other than food items, that is not given to all other students.~~

~~(b) ADDITIONAL VALUABLE CONSIDERATION THAT SCHOOL TEAMS AND ATHLETES MAY ACCEPT: Examples of items deemed allowable under this interpretation if approved by the school, include but are not limited to:~~

~~1. meals, snacks or snack foods during or after practices;~~

~~2. parties provided by parents or other students that are strictly for a school athletic team.~~

~~12. Section 441— Athletic Amateur Rule: Students are in violation of the athletic amateur rule if they accept valuable consideration (including transportation or lodging for the student or their family) based on their participation in a UIL sponsored sport. It does not create a violation for covered school district personnel to provide occasional transportation to athletes in an emergency situation, provided it is not a habitual practice.~~

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

There should be no fiscal impact to member schools.

***E. Standing Committee Consideration***

The UIL Review Advisory Committee recommends that the Standing Committee on Athletics approve this proposal to the UIL Legislative Council for consideration.