

**Section 11 – Penalties for Violations.** A violation of these eligibility rules may result in one or more sanctions, as decided by the BoD in its sole discretion. These sanctions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- forfeiture of any VISAA team or individual championships of which the ineligible student was a member;
- forfeiture of all games played by the school team of which the ineligible student was a member against VISAA opponents or by the school team declared ineligible by its conference;
- forfeiture of any VISAA team championship by the school or team declared ineligible by its conference, and
- ineligibility for VISAA championship competition in the sport in which the violation occurred during the school year in which the violation occurred and possibly for the following school year.

## **ARTICLE VI – Recruitment or Inducement**

The Mission of the VISAA is to provide accredited member schools the resources and competitive environment in education-based programs that establish a foundation for excellence founded on integrity, sportsmanship, and leadership. The BoD believes that recruitment or inducing any student to attend a VISAA school for athletic purposes is in violation of this Mission. Recruitment of any student for athletic purposes is not permitted.

**Section 1 – General Rule.** A VISAA member school (and persons affiliated with a member school) shall not recruit or induce a student to attend their school based primarily on the enhancement of the competitive level of the school athletic teams.

Coaches, teachers, administrators, other school employees, or persons affiliated with a VISAA member school shall not initiate contact with any student-athlete for the purpose of encouraging the student to attend their school primarily for athletic purposes. This rule should not be interpreted as a restriction of the school's regular student recruitment programs (e.g., the use of newspaper advertisements, direct mail or email campaigns, media presentations, and open houses).

If a student and his or her guardian have made contact with the school's admissions office and indicated their interest in the school, coaches or other school representatives may approach the student about all school programs.

**Section 2 – Student Transfers.** If a student transfers from one VISAA member school to another during the current school year and wishes to participate in VISAA Events, a statement of release must be signed by the heads of both schools.

**Section 3 – Financial Aid.** Any VISAA member school having a financial aid program based on demonstrated need must have in place a written policy/procedure approved by the school

governing board for calculating and documenting awards. Financial aid may not be awarded based on athletic participation.

Merit-based aid programs must be made available to all students who meet the qualifications. Any financial aid or merit award offered to a prospective student may not exceed the typical amount awarded to any student of similar need/qualifications regardless of athletic participation.

**Section 4 – Specific Examples.** Inappropriate contact and inducement include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The student is asked by a member of the school faculty, a coach, or member of a “booster club” to transfer from one school to another.
2. Special privileges are given to parents and/or students.
3. Financial aid is given for transportation, room, board, or tuition outside of a regular financial aid package. For the purpose hereof, a regular financial aid package shall mean financial aid pursuant to a financial aid procedure/plan that:
  - is in writing and on file in the school’s administrative office;
  - has been approved by the school board or governing organization of the school;
  - contains details qualifying the financial need criteria for aid;
  - includes all students in the grade structure of the school;
  - demonstrates through documentation the application and approval process of financial aid requests;
  - shows evidence of including non-athletes in the award process of financial aid;
  - providing any consideration not afforded to all students.

**Section 5 – Penalties for Violations.** A violation of these rules may result in one or more sanctions, as decided by the BoD in its sole discretion. These sanctions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ineligibility of the student to participate in VISAA Events for one year;
- forfeiture of any VISAA team or individual championships of which the student was a member;
- forfeiture of all games played by the school team of which the student was a member against VISAA opponents; and
- ineligibility for VISAA championship competition during the following school year in any sport.

A second incident demonstrating blatant disregard of this rule may result in a VISAA member school’s expulsion from the VISAA.