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Article II Eligibility

Section 21: Independent-Game Participation

Once a student's name is listed on the school's eligibility report, and/or a student participates in a school contest at any level, a student cannot participate in an independent contest prior to the conclusion of the season. If a student participates in an independent game in that sport after the first contest date allowed and before the season has closed or his/her name has been removed from the eligibility report at the request of the school principal, the student shall be ineligible at the varsity level as explained below.

Any organized game in which players not registered with TSSAA participate – regardless of whether admission is charged - is considered as an independent game. Once a violation of this rule has been confirmed, the student will be ineligible for the remainder of the season in that sport.

A student's name may be removed from the school's eligibility list (TSSAA Portal Roster) upon written request of the principal prior to the first official contest date allowed in that sport without penalty. After the first official contest allowed, a student's name may be removed from the school's eligibility list (TSSAA Portal Roster) upon written request of the principal, and he/she may then participate as an independent without penalty. If the principal requests the state office to remove a student's name after the first official contest date allowed in that sport, such student may not again be certified during the season of that sport.

Students may practice with an independent team regardless of whether or not scrimmage situations occur at the practice for the independent team as long as the scrimmage situation only involves the independent team that is conducting the practice. A group of students who are assembled to try-out for an independent team is considered a single team regardless of the number of students involved.

This rule does not apply to bowling, golf, tennis, wrestling, cross country, and track and field.

Section 22: Specialized Camps

All expenses of an athlete who attends any athletic camp where specialized instruction is offered in any sport sponsored by TSSAA must be paid by the athlete or his/her parents.

Section 23: All-Star Games

No student shall be permitted to participate in an all-star game during that sports season.