

MEMORANDUM

TO: CYO Coaches and Athletic Directors

RE: High School Recruiting Rules

Below you will find the approved rules and interpretations from the Michigan High School Athletic Association regarding "Undue Influence" or recruiting. These rules apply to **ALL** high schools, Public and Non-Public and can involve the suspension of coaches **AND** athletes. You will note, among other things, that any financial assistance that is based in any way on athletics is illegal. I strongly recommend that coaches, parents and athletes be aware of what is appropriate. **Schools** and their designated staff members "recruit" students; athletics are one attraction to students to attend the school. Neither coaches, nor their representatives, should be **recruiting athletes.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the CYO office (963-7172) or the Catholic High School League Office (237-5960).

UNDUE INFLUENCE RULE - M.H.S.A.A. REGULATION 1, SECTION 10:

- A. The use of undue influence for athletic purposes by any person or persons, directly or indirectly associated with the school, to secure or encourage the attendance of a student or the student's parents or guardians as residents of the school district, shall cause the student to become ineligible for a minimum of one semester and a maximum of one year. The offending school shall be placed on probation for one year and the offending coach or coaches not permitted to coach at that school for a one-year period and shall not coach for a one-year period at any other member school in any MHSAA tournament in any sport. Examples of undue influence would include, but not limited to, offers of or acceptance of: financial aid to parents, guardians or student; reduced or eliminated tuition and/or fees; any special privileges not accorded to other students, whether athletes or not; transportation allowances; preference in job assignments; room, board or clothing, promotional efforts and admission policies for athletes which are in excess of efforts for other students. (1975)

INTERPRETATIONS - M.H.S.A.A. REGULATION 1, SECTION 10:

1. Funds which have been donated to schools by clubs and individuals may be given as financial aid to students through the normal financial aid program of the school **for all students**, without regard to athletic potential. Financial aid based even partially on athletic potential or performance **is not permitted** from the school or from groups that exist because of or for the benefit of the school (eg. Booster Clubs). (MHSAA #89)
2. Individuals not exclusively representing athletic interests of a high school may make general presentations (not just athletic) to seventh and eighth grade students (not athletes). There should be a diversity of presenters, speaking on a variety of topics to students of all interests. (MHSAA #90)

3. It is a violation of this section for a coach or any other unauthorized representative of a school to suggest or promise that any part of tuition will be waived for a prospective student for any reason, including financial need. The only person who may address the possibility of fee reduction is that person who has specific responsibility for admissions and financial aid policies and procedures. (MHSAA #91)
4. If it is a faculty member's responsibility to recruit students (not just athletes) and that person makes such contact irrespective of athletic eligibility, such contact is permitted. However, anything done for athletes that is not done in a comparable fashion for all students is undue influence. (MHSAA #92)
5. When a student at a junior high/middle school or other high school, or the parents of that student, contacts the coach about attending the coach's school, the coach shall refer the student or parent to the appropriate school personnel (those who have the responsibilities for seeking and processing prospective students). (MHSAA #93)
6. A high school coach may not initiate contact with a student at a junior high/middle school or other high school, or the parents of that student, about attendance at the school. It is not a violation for a coach to have normal community contact with a student who attends a junior/middle school of the same system that is a feeder to the high school. (MHSAA #94)
7. It is a violation of the undue influence regulation if coaches or their representatives call, send questionnaires, cards or letters or visit prospective athletes and their families at their homes. (MHSAA #95)
8. High School coaches or their representatives may not attend grade school games for the purpose of evaluating and recruiting specific prospective athletes. (MHSAA #96)
9. High school coaches and administrators may not request booster clubs, players or alumni from the high school to discuss the merits of their athletic program with prospective athletes or their parents by phone, in person or through letters. (MHSAA #97)
10. Any high school may allow all students of any junior high/middle school to attend its athletic events without charge. (MHSAA #98)
11. A coach may conduct an athletic camp at his or her school or another site during the summer if enrollment at the camp is open to all students at all schools. The coach is subject to the limitations of Regulation II, Section 11(G). (MHSAA #99)
12. Persons "indirectly associated with the school" include but are not limited to parents of players and booster club members. Such persons are prohibited from providing or performing any of the examples of undue influence listed in this Section and its Interpretations. (MHSAA #100)
13. Only those schools which qualify as boarding school under Section 9 (Interpretation No. 82), may provide any assistance for room and board and only if based on financial need. In no other schools may room and board expense be included in the determination of school expenses and financial need. (MHSAA #101)