

## **FAQs Concerning 1009 DIAA High School Interscholastic Athletics**

### **FAQs Concerning 1009.1.4 (Contracts)**

1. What happens if a school discontinues sponsorship of a team before the start of a season? If a school discontinues sponsorship of a particular team prior to the start of the competitive season in that sport, regardless of the presence of a master contract or a signed individual contract, the contracted games shall be considered “no contests.” No forfeits shall be awarded and those games shall not count as either wins or losses for the purpose of conference standings or selection and seeding in the state tournament.
2. What happens if a school discontinues sponsorship of a team after the start of a season? As required by 1009 1.4 (above), in the absence of a contract appropriately submitted to DIAA, all games remaining on that school’s schedule after dropping the team will be considered “no contest”. If a contract has been appropriately submitted to DIAA, the opponent may appeal to DIAA for a forfeit. If a game is considered “no contest” and provided tournament regulations do not prohibit doing so, schools are free to schedule replacement contests.

### **FAQ Concerning 1009.1.5 (Equivalency Rules)**

1. May officials be compensated for working scrimmages held as part of a “play day”?  
For purposes of this question a “play day” is defined as a preseason event involving a series of scrimmages held during the legal practice period for that sport season involving multiple member schools. All games played during “play days” must be competed under the criteria included in 1.5.1.1 (above). This means that officials may not be compensated for working individual games. However, DIAA recognized officials’ associations may develop an agreement with “play day” sponsors for a lump sum contribution to the officials’ association in return for services provided. DIAA recognized officials’ associations may use such funds to: reimburse officials for event associated expenses such as meals and travel; and, to fund association activities such as training, recruitment, and recognition programs. In accordance with DIAA Regulation 1009 1.5.1.1, the funds may not be used to pay officials a game fee for each game worked.

### **FAQs Concerning 1009.2.3 (Eligibility, Enrollment and Attendance)**

1. What is the eligibility of a student attending an alternative school for transitional purposes? A student who is being transitioned for a return to his/her home school from a correctional facility should be considered as having been assigned to the alternative school for disciplinary reasons and would be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics until he/she was in regular attendance at his/her home school.
2. What is the eligibility of a student assigned to homebound instruction for disciplinary reasons? A student is ineligible to practice, scrimmage, or compete in interscholastic athletics during the time he/she is assigned to homebound instruction for disciplinary reasons.
3. What is the eligibility of a student assigned to an Intensive Learning Center (ILC)? All ILC students in grade 7 through 12 will participate in interscholastic athletics at the school in which the ILC is located. If that school does not sponsor interscholastic in any sport, ILC students will be permitted to participate at their home school. Students who are assigned to an ILC and students who are reassigned to their home school from an ILC are not subject to the provisions of 2.4 and are immediately eligible to participate provided they are in compliance with all other DIAA eligibility requirements.

### **FAQ Concerning 1009.2.4 (Eligibility, Transfers)**

1. What is the eligibility of a return transfer student to the original sending school? A student who withdraws from school A and registers at school B but does not attend class at school B or participate in a try out, practice, scrimmage, or contest at school B, will not be subject to the applicable period of ineligibility if he/she returns to school A. However, if the student either attends class or participates in interscholastic athletics at school B, then he/she will be ineligible for applicable period of school days if he/she returns to school A.

## FAQs Concerning 1009.2.6

1. How do incompletes on grade change affect a student's eligibility?
  - A. If a student receives an incomplete because he/she was unable to complete the required assignments in a particular course due to illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstances and consequently becomes ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics (when marking period grades are published or issued), that student will regain his/her eligibility when the required assignments are submitted and a passing grade is recorded.
  - B. If a student receives a failing grade in a particular course and consequently becomes ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics (when marking period grades are published or issued) but it is determined that a mistake was made in the computation of the grade, that student will regain his/her eligibility when the correct passing grade is recorded. During the time that the matter is being resolved, he/she is ineligible to practice, scrimmage, or compete in a contest at any level of competition.
  - C. If a student receives a failing grade in a particular course but is permitted to retake a test, rewrite a paper, submit an additional assignment for credit, etc. after the end of the marking period and his/her grade is subsequently changed to a passing grade, that student will become ineligible when marking period grades are published or issued or remain ineligible if report cards have already been issued regardless of the grade change.
  - D. If a student receives an "M" or other medical grade due to injury or illness the grade will be equivalent to an incomplete. Eligibility will be determined as per 1009.2.6 1.A.
  
2. How is eligibility determined for students with one-semester and nine-week courses?  
 In order to determine if a student who is taking either a semester course(s) or a nine-week course(s) is passing the equivalent of five (5) credits with two (2) credits in the core academic areas, multiply the credit value of a semester course(s) by a factor of 2 and multiply the credit value of a nine-week course(s) by a factor of 4. Block scheduling would not affect the calculation of credit equivalences.

Example:	1st Nine-Week Marking Period	2nd Marking Period	Final Grade
Course #1 (full year, 1.0 credit)	C	C	
Course #2 (full year, 1.0 credit)	C*	B*	
Course #3 (full year, 1.0 credit)	C*	C*	
Course #4 (full year, 1.0 credit)	D*	F*	
Course #5 (semester, .5 credit)	C	C	C
Course #6 (semester, .5 credit)	F*	D*	F*

The student in the example above would be eligible during the second marking period because he/she passed courses #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5 during the first marking period which would be considered the equivalent of five (5) credits. However, the student would be ineligible during the third marking period even though he/she passed courses #1, #2, #3, #5, and #6 during the second marking period because the final grade takes precedence over the marking period grade (see 2.6.3.1). The student passed only the equivalent of four (4) credits and consequently would be ineligible to practice, scrimmage, or compete during the third marking period.

3. How is eligibility determined for a student classified as an 11th grader but graduating at the end of the school year? A student who was classified as a junior but had declared his/her intention to graduate at the end of the school year and was taking the courses necessary to do so (either during the regular school day or outside of the regular school day) should be held accountable to the 12th grade academic eligibility standard. Therefore, the aforementioned student would be required to pass all courses necessary for graduation in order to practice, scrimmage, or compete rather than five (5) credits with two (2) credits in the core academic areas.
4. What are the local academic requirements and timelines for losing/regaining eligibility? A student who was in compliance with DIAA academic eligibility requirements but had lost his/her eligibility as a result of noncompliance with a local academic eligibility requirement (2.6.5 permits member schools

to adopt additional or more stringent academic eligibility requirements; e.g., a minimum GPA) would regain his/her eligibility when he/she had satisfied the local requirement in accordance with the timelines used by that particular district or school. If a student became ineligible due to noncompliance with DIAA academic eligibility requirements, then that student would regain his/her eligibility on the date that report cards were issued as stated in 2.6.4. Member schools should use local timelines for enforcing additional academic eligibility requirements and DIAA timelines for the academic eligibility requirements stipulated in 2.6.1 and 2.6.2.

5. What are the local academic requirements and forfeiture? An offending school would not be required to forfeit the contest if a student who was in compliance with DIAA academic eligibility requirements but was ineligible as a result of noncompliance with a local academic eligibility requirement was inadvertently allowed to participate.
6. What are the eligibility requirements for an 8th grader participating on a high school team? An 8th grader who is permitted to participate on either a subvarsity or varsity high school team must be held accountable to the same eligibility requirements as a student in grades 9 thru 12. Therefore, an 8th grader must be passing the equivalent of five (5) credits with two (2) credits in the core academic areas before being allowed to try out for either a subvarsity or varsity high school team or before being moved up from a middle school team to either a subvarsity or varsity high school team.
7. What is a computer literacy credit? Whenever a student earns the computer literacy credit by testing out during the school year, it shall be added to the total number of credits accumulated at the end of that school year and used to determine eligibility for the first marking period of the subsequent school year. If the computer literacy credit is earned between the end of one school year and the first official school day of the subsequent school year, it shall be added to the total number of credits accumulated during the previous school year and again used to determine eligibility for the first marking period of the subsequent school year.
8. How is eligibility determined for a student who successfully completes a correspondence course during a marking period? A correspondence course which is successfully completed during a marking period shall be considered the equivalent of a passing grade at the end of that marking period and shall be used to determine eligibility for the subsequent marking period. However, a correspondence course which is successfully completed between the end of one school year and the first official school day of the subsequent school year shall be considered the equivalent of a course passed during the previous school year. The credit earned shall be added to the total number of credits accumulated at the end of the previous school year and used to determine eligibility for the first marking period of the subsequent school year.
9. How is eligibility determined for a special education student who is noncompliant due to modifications in their course of study? If it is not possible for a student who is receiving special education services to satisfy the academic requirements stipulated in 2.6.1 (must pass five (5) credits per marking period with two (2) credits in the areas of English, mathematics, science, world language, or social studies) due to modifications in his/her course of study, then the principal will determine the student's eligibility based on whether he/she is making satisfactory progress in accordance with the requirements of his/her IEP. An example would be a student who is taking fewer than two (2) credits in the aforementioned core academic areas. The key word in 2.6.1.1 is "precluded." If a student fails to satisfy the academic requirements stipulated in 2.6.1, he/she is ineligible and that determination is not left to the principal's discretion. If a student who is receiving special education services is taking a minimum of five (5) credits with at least two (2) credits in the core academic areas, he/she is expected to satisfy the academic requirements stipulated in 2.6.1 in order to be eligible to scrimmage or compete in interscholastic athletics.
10. What are the minimum academic requirements for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders to be eligible to participate in fall sports? Students that have been promoted or assigned to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade are immediately eligible to participate in athletics. Individual school districts may to implement more restrictive academic standards.
11. When is the credit for driver's education counted toward athletic eligibility? The driver's education credit shall be issued in the quarter when the 44-hour course is complete and the final grade is issued.

### **FAQ Concerning 1009.2.7 (Eligibility, Years of Participation)**

1. Are students who have passed the GED exam eligible? In accordance with Department of Education regulations, students who have passed the GED exam in Delaware, Virginia, Indiana, Utah, Nevada, and Washington are not considered postgraduates and consequently, may enroll at a public, vocational-technical, or charter school and may participate in interscholastic athletics at any member school provided they are in compliance with all other DIAA eligibility requirements. However, students who have passed the GED exam in other states are considered postgraduates because they have received or will receive when they become 18 years of age, a bona fide high school diploma. They are not permitted to enroll at a public, vocational-technical, or charter school and may not participate in interscholastic athletics at any member school unless they refuse the diploma or return it to the appropriate state department of education. Whenever a student transfers from an out-of-state correctional school, member schools should investigate the possibility that the student has passed the GED examination.

### **FAQs Concerning 1009.2.8 (Eligibility of Foreign Exchange and International Students)**

1. What are the eligibility exceptions for foreign exchange students?  
Foreign exchange students who are participating in a two-semester, CSIET recognized program are immediately eligible to compete in interscholastic athletics at their host school provided they are in compliance with all applicable DIAA rules and regulations.
  - A. Foreign exchange students in a two-semester, CSIET recognized program are exempt from certain requirements of 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4. More specifically, they are eligible to compete in interscholastic athletics even though they have not enrolled and been in regular attendance by September 20; they are not living with their custodial parent(s) or court appointed legal guardian(s) in their host school's attendance zone; and their transfer to their host school was not the result of a change in residence by their custodial parent(s) or court appointed legal guardian(s).
  - B. Foreign exchange students in a two-semester, CSIET recognized program must comply with all other DIAA eligibility requirements including 2.1, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, and 3.1.
2. Foreign exchange students in a two-semester, CSIET recognized program who have graduated from their home schools are not considered postgraduates if they are only in their twelfth year of attendance. These students must pass five (5) credits per marking period, including two (2) from the core academic areas, in order to be academically eligible. However, if they are in their thirteenth year of attendance, they are considered postgraduates and may not participate in interscholastic athletics at a DIAA member school.
3. Foreign exchange students who are being sponsored by an organization not recognized by CSIET must present evidence to the Executive Director that the program is a bona fide educational exchange program before they are considered eligible to compete in interscholastic athletics.
4. In accordance with 2.8.3.1 and CSIET Standard 4, the placement of foreign exchange students in a host school should not involve athletic considerations. Coaches and other athletic personnel should not be involved in recruiting or selecting a host family.
5. For a complete list of CSIET recognized programs and program criteria please visit <http://www.csiet.org/>

### **FAQs Concerning 1009.3.1 (Physical examinations)**

1. What is the DIAA Approved Concussion Policy?
  - A. If an athlete exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with a concussion, they shall be removed from play immediately. A qualified health care professional must then determine whether or not an apparent concussion has occurred. If a qualified healthcare professional is not present, the injury must be treated as a concussion and the student not be allowed to return to practice/game until determined otherwise by a qualified healthcare professional. If the qualified healthcare professional is unable to rule out a concussion, the athlete must be referred for further evaluation and written clearance before the athlete may return to play. If a potential concussion, loss of consciousness or apparent loss of consciousness has occurred, the athlete may only return to practice/game after the administrative head of school or designee receives written clearance from

a qualified physician. No athlete shall return to practice or play (RTP) on the same day of a concussion. Any athlete with a concussion should be evaluated by their primary care provider or qualified healthcare professional that day.

- B. A qualified healthcare professional shall be defined as a MD or DO; or school nurse, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or athletic trainer, with collaboration and/or supervision by a MD or DO as required by their professional state laws and regulations. The qualified healthcare professional must be licensed by their state, be in good standing with the State of Delaware, and if the evaluation is provided on site must also be approved or appointed by the administrative head of school or designee, or the DIAA Executive Director.
  - C. "Written Clearance from a qualified physician" for return to play after a concussion shall be a MD/DO only. The preferred method would be to use the form that is attached. [ACE Care Plan]. After medical clearance, return to play should follow a step-wise protocol with provisions for delayed return to play based upon the return of any signs or symptoms.
  - D. Failure to comply with medical requirements found in DIAA regulation section 3.0 shall result in that individual or school being considered "ineligible" and shall be penalized according to DIAA regulation 1009.2.10.
  - E. Each student athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian shall annually sign and return a concussion information sheet prior to initiating practice or competition.
  - F. Each certified and emergency coach shall complete an approved concussion training course once every two years. The NFHS online concussion course "Concussion in Sports – What you need to Know" is an approved training course. [[www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)]
2. What is the Official's duty when dealing with a possible concussed athlete?
- A. The officials will have no role in determining consciousness other than the obvious situation where a player is unconscious or apparently unconscious. Officials will merely point out to a coach that a player is apparently injured and advise the coach that the player should be examined per the DIAA Concussion Protocol.
  - B. Officials are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion. [[nfhslearn.com](http://nfhslearn.com)]

#### **FAQ Concerning 1009.3.2 (Wrestling Weight Control Program)**

1. When is the 2-pound growth allowance for wrestling in effect? The 2-pound growth allowance begins the on or after December 26<sup>th</sup> each year. Only wrestlers who have previously certified are eligible to receive the 2-pound growth allowance. The 2-pound growth allowance cannot be used to certify at a lower weight class.

#### **FAQs Concerning 1009.4.1 (Sports Seasons)**

1. What are the first allowable competition dates for each sport season? Unless a waiver has been granted by the DIAA Board of Directors the first date of competition for each sports season is as follows:
  - Fall Sports: the first Friday after Labor Day each year
  - Winter Sports: the first Friday of December each year
  - Spring Sports: March 22<sup>nd</sup> of each year
2. What is allowed during the first three (3) days of football practice?
  - Day One - helmets, mouth guard, shoes, workout clothing. **NO CONTACT**
  - Day Two - helmets, shoulder pads, mouth guard, shoes, workout clothing. **NO CONTACT**
  - Day Three - helmets, shoulder pads, mouth guard, shoes, workout clothing. **NO CONTACT**
  - Day Four onward –full pads and contact drills/scrimmaging.

#### **FAQs Concerning 1009.4.2 (Practice Sessions)**

1. What is meant by a walk-through session?

A walk-through session is an educational/teaching period where athletes receive instruction in their sport, but no equipment [personal or sport] is permitted.

2. Can the walk-through session be conducted during the one hour recovery period? No.
3. Can the walk-through session be held prior to a practice session?  
Yes, as long as there has been a minimum of one hour of recovery time from the end of the last practice session before the walk-through session begins.
4. Can the walk-through session be conducted right after a two hour practice session?  
Yes but there cannot be more than 3 totals hours of physical activity in any one session, followed by one-hour of unrestricted recovery time after every two [or 3] hour practice session.
5. What is the DIAA heat related practice modification policy?
  - A. Go to [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)
  - B. Enter your zip code
  - C. Add the numbers of temperature and relative humidity.
  - D. If the sum of the 2 numbers is greater or equal to 150 (+/-10 depending on level of acclimatization), practice should be restricted. Such restrictions should at least include:
    1. practice time limited to 2 hrs
    2. water breaks with helmets off every 15 minutes
    3. helmets and shoulder pads only
  - E. If the sum of the 2 numbers is greater or equal to 160 (+/- 5 depending on level of acclimatization) practice should be restricted. Such restrictions should at least include:
    1. practice limited to 90 minutes
    2. water breaks with helmets off every 15 minutes
    3. helmets only
  - F. If the sum of the 2 numbers is greater or equal to 170 (+/- 5 depending on level of acclimatization) All practice should be stopped.
  - G. Any temperature above 72 degrees F, with a relative humidity of 95% or higher, produces a high risk of heat related illness. Any temperature above 95 deg. F, regardless of % relative humidity level, produces a high risk of heat related illness.

#### FAQ Concerning 1009.4.3.1 (Maximum Game Schedules)

Sport	Team Limitations		Individual Limitations	
	Season	Week	Week	Day
<b>Fall</b>				
Cross Country (B/G)	15 competition dates	3 competition dates	3 competition dates	
Field Hockey (G)	15 contests	3 contests	3 Competition dates	4 quarters
Football	10 varsity contests 9 sub varsity contests	1 contest	See Note 1	
Soccer (B)	15 contests	3 contests	3 competition dates	2 halves
Volleyball (G)	15 competition dates	3 competition dates	3 competition dates	See Note 2
<b>Winter</b>				
Basketball (B/G)	20 contests	3 contests	3 competition dates	4 quarters
Swimming & Diving (B/G)	15 contests	3 contests	3 contests	
Indoor Track (B/G)	11 contests	3 contests	3 contests	
Wrestling	18 contests See Note 3	3 competition dates	3 competition dates	5 matches
<b>Spring</b>				
Baseball	18 contests	3 contests	3 contests	See Note 4
Softball (G)	18 contests	4 contests	4 contests	See Note 5
Golf	15 competition dates	3 competition dates	3 competition dates	
Tennis (B/G)	15 contests	3 contests	3 contests	
Outdoor Track (B/G)	16 competition dates	3 competition dates	3 competition dates	
Lacrosse (B/G)	15 contests	3 contests	3 competition dates	See Note 6
Soccer (G)	15 contests	3 contests	3 competition dates	2 halves

- Note 1: The weekly limit for football is 4 varsity quarters or any combination of 5 varsity and sub varsity quarters provided no more than 3 quarters are at the varsity level.
- Note 2: The team limit for the volleyball season is 15 competition dates of which 1 date may involve more than 2 teams and may be competed over a 2 consecutive day period. The individual daily limit for volleyball is the total number of varsity games played by the team each day. For example, during dual meet competition if the JV plays 2 games and the varsity plays 5 games a player could participate in the 2 JV games and 3 of the 5 varsity games for a total of 5 games.
- Note 3: The season limit for wrestling is 18 contests of which no more than six may be non-dual meet tournaments, or five non-dual meet tournaments and one dual meet tournaments
- Note 4: DIAA Baseball Pitching Limitations - This policy is in effect for all regular season games, state tournament games and games that were postponed or suspended for any reason.

Pitches Thrown	Rest Period
1-25	None (no days)
26-50	1 day
51-80	2 days
81-105	3 days

- There is a one day limit of 105 pitches by the pitcher. However, the pitcher may finish the batter if the 105 pitch is reached during the at bat.
- A maximum of 205 pitches may be thrown in a seven (7) period day.
- There is a maximum of 85 pitches for the first six games of the season. All teams become eligible for the 105 pitch count after one team finished their sixth contest. This cannot occur before April 5, 2017.
  - Doubleheaders: A player is ineligible to pitch in the second game of the day if during the first game he/she throws 25-39 pitches in two consecutive innings and/or throws more than 40 pitches in any one inning. The pitcher starting the second game will be held to the 105 pitch limit. Any pitches thrown during the first game will be counted towards this 105 pitch limit for the day. Note 5: Four games in a week are permitted only if two are part of a doubleheader played on a non-school day

Note 6: The daily individual limit for boys' lacrosse is 4 quarters and for girls' lacrosse is 2 halves.

#### **FAQs Concerning 1009.5.1 (School and Team Competition)**

1. Can a girl participate on a boys' soccer team? A member school is considered to be sponsoring a girls' soccer team when the governing boys of the district or private school approves participation in the sport. From that date forward, girls interested in participating in soccer must play on the girls' team during the spring sports season and are not permitted to play on the boys' team during the fall sports season except as stipulated below. If a girl has been listed on a varsity, junior varsity, or freshmen boys' soccer eligibility report in the past, she may continue to participate on the boys' team during the fall sports season. However, if she participates on the boys' team in the fall, she will not be permitted to participate on the girls' team in the spring unless the governing body's decision to sponsor girls' soccer was not made until after the start of the boys' soccer season, in which case she will be allowed to complete the boys' season and also participate on the girls' team for that year only. Once a girl participates on the girls' team, she forfeits her eligibility to participate on the boys' team for the remainder of her high school career.
2. What are the minimum standards designated by the DIAA Board of Directors to be included in a member school's transgender policy? The DIAA Board has adopted the following policy:
  - A. A transgender student, defined as a student whose gender identity differs from the student's birth sex, shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics in a manner that is consistent with the student's gender identity, under any of the following conditions:

1. The student provides an official record, such as a revised birth certificate, a driver's license or a passport, demonstrating legal recognition of the student's reassigned sex, or
  2. A physician or social service provider certifies that the student has had appropriate clinical treatment for transition to the reassigned sex, or
  3. A physician or social service provider certifies that the student is in the process of transition to the reassigned sex.
- B. The determination of a student's sex-assignment for interscholastic athletics shall be made by the student's school.
  - C. The determination of a student's sex-assignment for interscholastic athletics shall remain in effect for the duration of the student's high school eligibility.
  - D. Any member school may appeal the eligibility of a transgender student on the grounds that the student's participation in interscholastic athletics would adversely affect competitive equity or safety of teammates or opposing players.
  - E. Any such appeal will be heard by the DIAA Board of Directors.
  - F. The identity of the student shall remain confidential and at the request of the student's parents the hearing will be confidential.
  - G. The DIAA Board of Directors will not consider whether the school has properly determined the student's sex assignment. Their deliberations will be limited to the question of whether the transgendered student represents a threat to competitive equity or the safety of teammates or opposing players.

#### **FAQ Concerning 1009.5.2 (Sanctioning of Competitions)**

1. What are the requirements for the member schools that cosponsor a tournament/meet? Any tournament/meet which must be sanctioned by the NFHS must also be sponsored or cosponsored by a member school of the host state athletic association. In order to be considered a cosponsor of a tournament/meet, a member school must be legitimately involved in the planning, promotion, and conduct of the event. A school would be accorded cosponsor status provided the following conditions were satisfied:
  - A. The superintendent must approve, in writing, the school's request for cosponsor status and such documentation must accompany the completed sanction form submitted to the DIAA office.
  - B. The principal, an assistant principal, the athletic director, or the head varsity coach in that sport must attend the tournament planning meetings and must have both voice and vote in any decisions related to the tournament.
  - C. The school must be assigned responsibilities commensurate with their cosponsor status; e.g., site management, in which case the school would be responsible for hiring and supervising site personnel, arranging for security, providing for crowd control, etc. as if the tournament/meet was being conducted on school premises.
  - D. The principal, an assistant principal, or the athletic director must agree to investigate any complaints from the participating schools and/or state athletic associations.
  - E. If applicable, the school must be listed as an additional insured on the event liability insurance policy.

#### **FAQ Concerning 1009.6.0 (Athletic Camps and Clinics Sponsorship, Commercial Camps and Clinics and Open Gyms, Conditioning Programs and Non School Competition)**

1. What are the obligations of member schools in publicizing instructional camps/clinics? The clinic/camp may not be restricted to students from a particular school, district, or community. It must be publicized in such a way (newspaper ad, radio spot, flyers, etc.) that students from other schools, districts, and communities have knowledge of and access to the clinic/camp.

#### **FAQ Concerning 1009.6.4 (Open Gym Programs)**

1. Are there guidelines available for member schools regarding open gym/fields? An open gym/open field program is intended to allow schools to make their school facilities available to their students for



informal recreational purposes. It is NOT intended to allow school teams to run practices or work on drills out of season.

- A. Open gym is open to your school's students only. It is not permissible to run school sponsored open gym involving students from other schools.
- B. Open gym must be advertised as open to all students in your school and thus cannot be limited to one sport's or one team's players.
- C. The students select the activity, not coaches, administration or parents. Open gym cannot be called by coaches, administration or parents, nor can attendance be mandated by coaches, administration nor parents.
- D. Student participation must be voluntary and cannot be a requirement for making a team.
- E. The open gym sessions must be unstructured and student led. (THINK RECESS) Organized drills specific to a sport are prohibited. Organized competition with fixed team rosters is also prohibited.
- F. The school must designate someone to be in charge and responsible for making sure the open gym is conducted in accordance with DIAA rules and your school's facility use requirements. It is recommended that member schools designate someone employed by the school for liability purposes. A coach may open the facility and distribute equipment but is NOT permitted to have any other involvement such as coaching; officiating; instructing; playing or organizing teams.
- G. Only playing equipment used in a game for a particular sport may be used. Equipment for a particular sport that is used only in practice (such as batting cages, pitching machines and the like) is prohibited.
- H. Outside organizations that use your facility, such as AAU for basketball or DWA for wrestling, must follow your school's normal facility usage policies including filling out the appropriate rental/use forms, paying rental fees, obtaining their own liability insurance and supervising activities

#### **FAQ Concerning 1009.7.0 (Certified, Emergency and Volunteer Coaches, Student Teaching and Coaching and Coaching Out of Season)**

1. Is a member school required to annually reopen a coaching position if that position is held by a certified coach as defined in 7.1.1? No.
2. Is a member school required to annually reopen a coaching position and advertise it in the district if that coaching position is held by an emergency coach as defined in 7.2.1? Yes.
3. Is a member school obligated to have a certified coach if that individual is determined to be unacceptable for the coaching position in question? The term "acceptable" is not addressed by current DIAA regulations and therefore the determination of who is acceptable and the justification for that decision is a local responsibility.
4. Is a member school obligated to give all certified coaches who have applied for the position in question consideration? 7.2.4 states that an emergency coach may be hired "if an acceptable certified professional staff member is not available..." Consequently, a member school is obligated to give all certified coaches who have applied some degree of consideration; e.g., screening resumes, contacting references, and/or conducting interviews. In the absence of such efforts, a member school has not fulfilled its obligation to attempt to locate an acceptable certified coach.
5. Are para-professionals considered to be professional employees certified by DOE as defined in 1009.7.1.1? No, para-professionals are not considered certificated professional employees and are not covered by 1009.7.1.1.

#### **FAQs Concerning 1009.7.5 (Coaching Out of Season)**

1. In regards to swimming what can a coach do from August 2 to the first day after the last Spring DIAA tournament event?
  - A. Can the coach provide instruction to the "12 and under," "10 and under," and "8 and under" age groups of a non-school swimming and diving team that includes one or more members of his/her high school team? Yes.
  - B. Can the coach provide instruction to the "14 and under" and "18 and under" or "unlimited" age groups of the same non-school team? No.

- C. Can the coach plan workouts, demonstrate techniques, make stroke corrections, determine lineups for meets etc. for the same non-school team? No.
  - D. Can the coach instruct the older swimmers and divers indirectly through another member of the coaching staff? No. The coach is restricted to social contact with these age groups.
  - E. If the “12 and under” and “10 and under” age groups are sharing the pool with the older swimmers during practice can the coach be on the deck? Yes, the coach may be on the deck during combined practices but may only supervise those lanes in which the younger swimmers are working out.
  - F. Can the coach be on the deck if only the “14 and under” and “18 and under” or “unlimited” swimmers are in the water during either practices or meets? No, the coach may not be on the deck.
2. Can returning players work as instructors at a camp/clinic involving their school team coaches? Returning players who are working as instructors at a camp/clinic may not participate in drills, scrimmages, and games, etc. if members of their school team coaching staff are involved in the camp/clinic. They may teach individual skills, coach teams, and officiate scrimmages or games, but they may not participate in those activities. Such participation will be considered a violation of the out-of-season coaching rule and result in sanctions against the offending coaches.
  3. Are certified, emergency or volunteer coaches permitted to conduct practices with returning school team members from the first day after the last spring DIAA tournament event to August 1<sup>st</sup>? DIAA Regulation 1009.7.5.2 permits coaches to provide instruction during formal league/tournament competition. The regulation is silent with regard to providing instruction during practices in preparation for formal league./tournament competition. For health and safety purposes, the DIAA Board of Directors has taken the position that an organizational practice for formal league/tournament competition may be permitted only as permitted by the written, pre-established rules of the formal league/tournament. In no event shall more than one organizational practice be permitted and the number of games and practice shall not exceed three in one week. If the formal league/tournament does not have written, pre-establish rules regarding practice then no practice is permitted.

#### **FAQ Concerning 1008.8.0 (Recognition of Officials’ Associations, Required Use of Officials and Attendance at Rules Clinics)**

1. What happens if an assigned official fails to appear for a contest? If the officials assigned to a contest fail to appear, the game may be rescheduled in accordance with 4.3.2. The opposing coaches may conduct a scrimmage but, in the absence of DIAA approved officials, the teams may not play an official game. A scrimmage is an informal competition in which the score is not kept and the results are not reported to the media or the state tournament committee. There is no winner or loser in a scrimmage as far as conference standings and state tournament selection/seeding are concerned. In addition, a scrimmage is considered “no contest” and neither team can offer to forfeit or accept a forfeit.

#### **FAQs Concerning 1009.10.5.1**

1. What can a member school do to promote its program and attract students?
  - A. Promotional Campaigns
    1. Is a member school permitted to conduct a promotional campaign and target specific student-athlete populations; e.g., CYO wrestlers, AAU basketball players, YMCA swimmers, etc? No.
  - B. Promotional Literature
    1. Is a member school permitted to include pictures and descriptions of its athletic facilities in its promotional literature? Yes. The DIAA Board affirmed the validity of making athletic related information available to prospective students provided it is integrated with information describing other aspects of student life. Consistent with the philosophy that interscholastic athletics should be an integral part of the overall secondary school educational program, the DIAA Board believes that athletic related information should be distributed as part of the total package of information provided to prospective students. Therefore, no promotional literature may be devoted exclusively or primarily to interscholastic athletics and a member school may not disseminate either seasonal or game athletic programs to prospective students.

2. Is a member school permitted to include pictures of its conference and state championship teams in its promotional literature? Yes, but subject to the aforementioned restrictions.
3. Is a member school permitted to include pictures of its all-conference and all state athletes in its promotional literature? Yes, but subject to the aforementioned restrictions.
4. Is a member school permitted to include references to its past conference and state championships in its promotional literature? Yes, but subject to the aforementioned restrictions.
5. Is a member school permitted to include references to its former athletes who have participated or are currently participating at the collegiate level? Yes, but subject to the aforementioned restrictions.

C. Open House/Approved Campus Visit

1. Is a member school permitted to include a scrapbook or photo display as part of its open house program? Yes.
2. Is a member school permitted to include a highlight video as part of its open house program? Yes, provided the video is not exclusively or primarily devoted to interscholastic athletics. Again, the DIAA Board believes that athletic related footage should be integrated with footage describing other aspects of student life and other facets of the secondary school educational program.
3. Is a member school permitted to display its conference and state championship trophies during its open house program? Yes.
4. Is a member school permitted to stage a team demonstration during its open house program? No. A prospective student would be permitted to observe a regularly scheduled practice session, but a member school may not conduct a team or partial team demonstration during its open house program.
5. Is a member school permitted to include a panel of current athletes in its open house program? No. A panel discussion may not be entirely of an athletic nature. A panel of students is permissible provided they are not selected exclusively because of their participation in interscholastic athletics. Again, the panel discussion must focus on other aspects of student life and may not be devoted exclusively or primarily to interscholastic athletics.
6. Is a member school permitted to present complimentary items; e.g., a baseball cap with the school name, to a prospective student during its open house program? No.
7. Is a member school permitted to offer complimentary admission to athletic events to a prospective student during its open house program? No.
8. Is a member school permitted to arrange for a same sport athlete to act as a host for a prospective student during an approved campus visit? A student host may not be chosen primarily because he/she participates in the same sport as a prospective student. However, athletes are not prohibited from hosting prospective students provided they are part of the regular pool of student hosts. Coaches and athletic directors may not arrange for a particular student to host a prospective student during an approved campus visit. Arranging a student host is a guidance or admissions office function and must be handled by the individual ordinarily assigned to that responsibility.

D. Follow-Up Contact with Prospective Student

1. Is a member school permitted to send specific athletic related information to a prospective student based on his/her responses to questions on the application? No. Follow-up contact with a prospective student is limited to a packet of general information as opposed to specific athletic related information. See 1. under Promotional Literature.
2. Is a member high school permitted to invite a prospective student to participate in an open gym or an out-of-season conditioning program? No. Only students who have completed the eighth grade, have been promoted to ninth grade, and are officially registered at that high school may participate in an open gym or out-of-season conditioning program.
3. Is a booster club affiliated with a member high school permitted to offer financial assistance to a prospective student to attend a summer instructional camp or clinic? No. The procedure for providing financial assistance to students interested in attending a summer instructional

camp or clinic is stipulated in 6.0. However, only students who have completed the eighth grade, have been promoted to ninth grade, and are officially registered at that high school are eligible for financial assistance from a school affiliated booster club.

4. Is an employee or representative of the high school in a prospective student's feeder pattern permitted to disparage the athletic program of another school in an attempt to dissuade the student from attending a school outside of the feeder pattern? No. "Negative recruiting" is an unethical practice and is a violation of 10.0.

#### E. Special Situations

1. Is a member school permitted to invite a prospective student to a school sponsored sports banquet? No.
2. Is a member high school permitted to offer free admission and/or concessions at a home athletic contest to a middle school team? No, unless those same privileges are offered to all students, both athletes and non-athletes, who attend that particular middle school.
3. Is a member school permitted to offer free admission and/or concessions at a home athletic contest to a non-school sponsored youth league team? No.
4. Is a member high school permitted to sponsor a recognition ceremony at half-time of a home athletic contest for a middle school team? No. Such ceremonies may not be sponsored by a member school or support group affiliated with a member school either before, during intermission, or after a home athletic contest.
5. Is a member school permitted to sponsor a recognition ceremony at half-time of a home athletic contest for a non-school sponsored youth league? No.
6. Are high school athletes permitted to participate in an athletic orientation session conducted by high school personnel at a feeder school? No. 10.3.1.3 allows high school personnel to conduct an athletic orientation session at a feeder school provided the restrictions stipulated in 10.3.1.2 are observed but involvement by high school athletes in such a program is not permitted.
7. Is a member school permitted to promote its athletic program during an instructional camp/clinic which is being sponsored and/or hosted by that member school, sponsored by a booster club affiliated with that member school, or sponsored by the coaching staff of that member school? No. Such a camp/clinic is instructional in nature and must not be used to showcase the athletic program of a particular school. Consequently, no promotional literature may be distributed, no championship trophies may be displayed, and no other act which could be construed as an attempt to generate interest in the athletic program of a particular school is permitted. Additionally, if returning players at that member school are working as instructors, they must be cognizant of the difference between an instructional camp/clinic and a promotional event and act accordingly. Any casual remarks regarding the advantages of participating in interscholastic athletics at that member school, the opportunities available for underclassmen to play immediately at certain positions at that member school, etc. will be considered a violation of 10.0.

Revisions  
10/5/21 – FAQ 1009.4.3.1 Field Hockey Day Limit