**Loyalty to the High School Team: Bona Fide Team Members**

A. Any student who violates this standard **twice** becomes ineligible for the MIAA tournament(s) for that season.

B. The regular season portion of the penalty for a violation toward the end of a season will carry over to the very next high school season in which the student is a legitimate participant. For example, a soccer player who violates the rule by missing the last high school match would serve the required suspension (**25% of season**) at the start of basketball season, if that student is a legitimate basketball participant.

C. Optional Practice” called by a coach CANNOT be used to circumvent this rule.

D. A waiver of the bona fide team rule excusing the student from the school activity that day and allowing the student to participate in a non-school event is possible under the guidelines set forth below. Waivers will be considered by MIAA on an individual basis, and on the merits of each case. The above points should be addressed in the waiver request, which must be forwarded to the MIAA prior to the non-school event. **Bona Fide waiver requests for Saturday and Sunday practices only do not need submission to the MIAA rather approved and determined by the High School Principal or principal’s designee.** Before a waiver (see White Book forms located in Members Only) request is submitted the following considerations must be present:

1. The request for a waiver must have the written support of the school principal, the athletic director and the high school coach.

   Among other factors that also will be considered:
   a. The amount of time being missed from school.
   b. The number of school team activities being missed.
   c. Schools may limit the number of times that a student could qualify for a waiver.

E. **MIAA Bona Fide waivers are only allowed during the pre-season or regular season. The MIAA will not accept any Bona Fide Team Member Waivers (for missing any practice or game) during MIAA post-season play. Student-athletes “quitting” CANNOT be used to circumvent this rule.**

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