

COACHING 101

ELIGIBILITY SCENARIOS

In each scenario, high school coaches, administrators, and athletic directors must navigate a complex landscape of rules, regulations, and ethical considerations to ensure eligibility for student-athletes while promoting fairness and integrity in high school sports. What action would you take as the coach?

- 1. **Academic Eligibility**:** A student-athlete fails to meet the minimum academic requirements set by the school district or state athletic association, putting their eligibility to compete in jeopardy.
- 2. **Residency Verification**:** A student-athlete transfers to a new school and must provide documentation to verify their residency within the school's attendance zone to maintain eligibility for sports participation.
- 3. **Age Verification**:** A student-athlete's age is called into question, and the school must verify their date of birth to ensure compliance with age eligibility requirements for high school sports.
- 4. **Transfer Eligibility**:** A student-athlete transfers from one high school to another and must navigate transfer rules and regulations set by the state athletic association to ensure eligibility for competition at the new school.
- 5. **Physical Examination Requirements**:** A student-athlete fails to complete the required pre-participation physical examination or submit the necessary medical forms, rendering them ineligible to participate in sports until the requirements are fulfilled. The student states that the forms are at home.
- 6. **Academic Progress Monitoring**:** A student-athlete's academic progress is closely monitored by coaches and administrators to ensure they remain eligible to compete, with interventions in place to provide academic support if needed.
- 7. **Amateurism Compliance**:** A student-athlete receives offers of sponsorship, endorsement, or compensation for their athletic achievements. The offer includes appearing in advertisements, promotional activities, and endorsements while wearing the school team uniform and identifying the school logo.

8. **Behavioral Eligibility:** A student-athlete faces disciplinary action or behavioral issues that could affect their eligibility to participate in sports, with consequences ranging from suspension to extended or permanent ineligibility.

9. **Special Education Eligibility:** A student-athlete with special education needs requires accommodations or modifications to ensure equal access to sports participation while maintaining eligibility under state and federal regulations.

10. **Social Media Postings:** A student-athlete posts on social media disparaging comments toward opponents, teammates, and members of the coaching staff.