

NIL LAW AS IT PERTAINS TO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES (PER GHSA)

The recently passed NIL laws will have no impact on high school athletes at this time. House Bill 617 specifically refers to “student-athletes participating in *intercollegiate* athletic programs at *post-secondary* educational institutions” & therefore does not impact high school athletes. Please be aware, the amateur eligibility restrictions summarized in GHSA By-Laws 1.90 and 1.96 remain in effect:

1.90 - AMATEUR STATUS/AWARDS

- 1.91 A student who represents a school in interscholastic athletic competition shall be an **amateur** in that activity.
- An **amateur athlete** is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived therefrom.
 - Accepting nominal, standard fees or salary for instructing, supervising, or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground or camp activity, shall not jeopardize an athlete's amateur status.
 - Reasonable compensation derived from private lessons in a sport is permissible.
- 1.92 An athlete **forfeits amateur status** in a sport by:
- competing for money or other monetary compensations except for reasonable allowances for travel, meals, and lodging. NOTE: Accepting expense allowances authorized by the United States Olympic Committee for Olympic Development Programs is acceptable for GHSA students.
 - receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the GHSA.
 - capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts with monetary value except college scholarships.
 - signing a professional playing contract in any sport, or hiring an agent to manage his/her athletic career.
- 1.93 Only **awards** approved by the GHSA may be accepted by a high school student-athlete as a result of participation in school or non-school competition in a sport recognized by the GHSA.
- 1.94 **Symbolic awards** (i.e. non-cash) presented for winning or placing in GHSA competitions are limited to \$400 per year, per student in the aggregate, paid by the local school. These are the only GHSA-approved awards for interscholastic competition. Beyond this, a student may receive one (1) school sweater or jacket presented by the school during his high school career.
- 1.95 Athletes competing in golf or tennis events are limited to awards as specified in the United States Golf Association Rules of Golf, and the United States Tennis Association Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, which includes (but not limited to) the following:
- No cash awards may be accepted.
 - Merchandise awards in tennis may be accepted up to a retail value of \$250.00.
 - Merchandise awards in golf may be accepted up to a retail value of \$750.00.
- 1.96 Players attending national camps or all-star events may keep reasonable benefits for housing, meals and transportation. Players may keep only equipment that is commemorative in nature and/or used in the process of the event's workouts.