

We, the private and parochial members of the Seattle Metropolitan High School League, commit to the following philosophies and guidelines as they relate to WIAA sanctioned athletics and the promotion and marketing of our schools.

- 1. We fully support and agree to abide by the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association's philosophy on the recruiting of student-athletes to our schools.** That philosophy, outlined in the WIAA Handbook Rule 27.0.0, states that:

"Students who demonstrate special skills and talent in any of the activities under the jurisdiction of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association should not be subjected to pressures to enroll or continue to be enrolled in a member school outside of their normal enrollment area. The rules do not prohibit legitimate school public relations, promotion or marketing. Rather, these rules prohibit capitalization upon a school's athletic program and/or a student's athletic interest, potential or proficiency as a factor in determining school attendance. Efforts to induce students to enroll or continue to be enrolled in a member school because of the students' special talent or skill is considered recruiting. Recruiting of students or attempted recruiting of students for athletic purposes is prohibited, regardless of their residence."

- 2. We fully support and agree to abide by the Metro League philosophy on the recruiting of student-athletes to our schools.** That philosophy, outlined in the Metro League Bylaws Article VI Section 1, states that:

"The member schools of the Metro League deplore any attempt, whether direct or indirect, to influence students to enroll at a certain school for athletic purposes. Any attempt on the part of coaches or other school personnel to directly or indirectly encourage or cause students to attend their high school (for athletic purposes) shall render the school subject to penalty by action of the League Director and/or the MAEC."

- 3. We fully support and agree to abide by the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association's philosophy on financial incentives designed to recruit student-athletes to our schools.** That philosophy, outlined in the WIAA Handbook Rule 27.1.0, states that:

"No student athlete may receive, or be offered, any remunerations of any kind, or receive or be offered any special inducement of any kind which is not made available to all applicants who enroll or continue to be enrolled in the school or apply to the school."

As a result of this agreement, financial aid will be granted solely on the basis of financial need. A family's demonstrated financial need is determined in accordance with the process that is established by each school. Schools may offer merit scholarships which are defined as awards based on scholastic achievement. No financial aid or merit scholarship will be offered on the basis of athletic ability.

4. We assert that each of our schools has the right to engage in promotion, marketing, and public relations efforts that are consistent with WIAA and Metro League Rules. Such efforts include, but are not limited to:

- Promotion and marketing of our schools and their total programs to the general public. Examples include, but are not limited to, advertisements with various media outlets, admissions open houses, and attendance at local or regional school fairs.
- Promotion and marketing by Metro League Catholic high schools to Catholic school "feeder" programs. Examples include, but are not limited to, attending Catholic school fairs and hosting Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) nights at athletic events.
- Direct contact with any students currently enrolled in a school's own middle school/junior high program. Examples include, but are not limited to, attending competitions and instructing during team practices during the designated season.
- Offering programs to attract students based on the overall educational and co-curricular programs of the school. Examples include, but are not limited to, admissions office staff visiting local schools and feeder schools and arranging with our admissions offices to have groups of students visit our schools.

5. We respect the rights of students and families to choose the school they believe best fits their needs. Our duty is to present them with a complete, accurate, and inspirational picture of our overall educational and co-curricular programs, then allow them to make an unfettered choice. We therefore choose to abide by the following guidelines:

- No one acting on behalf of the school athletic program will actively seek out prospective student-athletes for their schools by attending youth or middle school camps or competitions for the purpose of athletic recruiting. We believe that the motivation for being present at such events is critical. Coaches may attend such competitions or camps if: they are present for personal reasons (for example, to watch a family member), are not present for the purpose of athletic recruiting and, finally, do not give the appearance that they are present for the purpose of athletic recruiting by, for example, wearing school apparel.

- Schools may host athletic competitions or camps at their own venues and coaches may be present and involved in the management of those events.
- We will adhere to a “first contact” principle. That is, no one acting on behalf of the school athletic program may initiate contact with prospective students and/or their parents. When a coach is approached by a potential applicant or her/his family, the coach may respond to questions and engage in limited conversation, but will invite the applicant or family to contact the school’s admissions office for further information.
- While an applicant is engaged in the application process, coaches will not initiate contact with her/him or her/his family. Coaches may, however, engage in such conversations if initiated by the applicant or her/his family. This limitation on initiating contact applies until a student is officially registered in the school.
- Any effort made to encourage an applicant to attend will be aligned with efforts made for all students to attend. Special efforts will not be made to encourage applicants interested in athletics to attend unless parallel efforts are made for the applicant pool as a whole.

6. Resolution of Questions and Concerns: Should a question or concern arise between schools regarding compliance with these guidelines, the athletic directors of the schools involved will resolve the matter. If the athletic directors cannot resolve the matter, the principals of the schools involved will then seek resolution. If the question or concern cannot be resolved between the schools, the matter will be brought before the principals of the Metro League private/parochial schools and the matter will be decided by majority vote (recognizing, however, that each school is independently owned and operated and that school governance remains within the exclusive purview of each school).