



Memo

Date: December 9, 2015

From: John Paton, Executive Director

Re: International Travel cancellations for school sport teams

The ASAA has been asked to provide clarity regarding the impact of some school divisions cancelling international travel for the foreseeable future. At this time it is understood that various school boards are requiring all school trips outside of Canada to be cancelled. This interpretation of policy from the ASAA office will apply to those School Divisions as well as any others that may impose similar restrictions on their schools. The specific question has been asked. "What happens if a parent or community group decides they want to take a team of students from a school (or collection of schools) to a pre-booked tournament when the school staff are unable to attend because of direction from their school division?"

In brief, if a school division has withdrawn approval for school teams to travel, then those school teams do not have the support of their school to travel as a school group and are therefore not able to participate in any ASAA sanctioned activity as per our agreement with the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS is the U.S. Association overseeing high school sport and cross-border event sanctions in the United States). The following policies of the ASAA address this issue across a number of fronts:

ASAA Policy Section IV.A, (p. 40, ASAA 2015/16 Policy Handbook)

Participation on a Non-School Team

- To be eligible for high school provincial competition in the ASAA sports of basketball, volleyball, football, cheerleading, team handball and rugby, a high school student is not permitted to play on a non-school team in the same sport during the same season.*

Interpretation: if the school team does not have school, or school board approval, yet still travels outside of Canada, then it is not considered a school team - it would be considered a non-school team for ASAA Policy purposes. Any student that participates on a non-school team during the ASAA Season of Play in an ASAA Sport, either in a tournament or a one off game, is in violation of ASAA eligibility policy, and would lose ASAA eligibility to compete in provincials.

ASAA Policy Section V, Activities. B on Page 52, ASAA Policy Handbook

Interschool Competition and Invitational Events (Sanction Policy)

All tournaments or interschool competition involving students from ASAA member schools must follow all Bylaws and Policies set forth in the ASAA handbook, including eligibility and supervision requirements.



Interpretation: non-school teams do not satisfy the requirements of this policy. The ASAA would not have the authority to approve non-school teams participating in sanctioned tournaments. Students are not eligible and the teacher supervision requirements cannot be met.

ASAA Action: The ASAA office will be informing the NFHS and respective State High School Association Offices and the NFHS that it is withdrawing sanctioning approval for any team that is from the Edmonton and Calgary Public or Catholic School Divisions, and by extension, any other school division that cancels travel outside Canada.

ASAA Policy Section V, Activities. B (p. 53 ASAA Policy Handbook)

Requirements for interschool competition and invitational events

1. *Each competing team must be a school team in good standing of its own zone and provincial or state high school association and must guarantee that participation in the contest will not violate any standard of that zone and provincial or state association.*
2. *Each participant must meet the eligibility requirements of their provincial/state association. For Alberta students, please refer to SECTION IV - ELIGIBILITY, pages 37-51.*

Interpretation: non-school teams are not “School Teams” and therefore do not meet the requirements of the ASAA or the host state’s or NFHS eligibility requirements for sanctioning approval. This means that teams cannot compete in high school tournaments or against high school teams in a one off situation.

ASAA Policy Section IV – Eligibility (p. 37 ASAA Policy Handbook)

The principal of each school shall be responsible for the eligibility of the school’s competitors for any competition. The following rules regarding eligibility will apply to all ASAA sponsored activities.

Interpretation: If the School Principal is directed by the Superintendent that no school sports teams can travel outside Canada, then they cannot approve teams going. Without the Principal’s support, any traveling group would not be considered a school entity and all of the above policy interpretations would apply

Please contact ASAA Executive Director John Paton or ASAA Assistant Director Josh Boyd with any questions 780-427-8182.