



SMART Fund and IHSA Amateurism By-Law

After careful review of the USBC SMART Fund and the IHSA Amateurism By-Law it has been determined that use of the SMART Fund does not comply with the intent of IHSA By-Law 3.080 Amateurism. The reason for this is while the IHSA by-laws allow student-athletes to have funds sent to a specific college in the form of a scholarship it does not allow the students to put the money into a general fund to be used anywhere.

This is best written in Illustration 173.2 which states:

..... "Note: While a student may not directly receive a scholarship, a scholarship may be given to a college or university and the student may receive the benefits of the scholarship fund if he/she attends that university. Failure to attend the school designated by the student forfeits the student's opportunity to receive any and all benefits of the scholarship. In such an event the student may not receive any portion of the scholarship in cash."

As you can see the IHSA by-law is intended to allow students to select a college and only use the scholarship at that selected college. Athletic Directors and Coaches it is your responsibility to make sure your students are in compliance with this by-law.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1) Can students earn money to be placed in their SMART Funds prior to their entrance into high school and still be eligible in high school?
 - a. Yes, money earned prior to high school is not affected by the IHSA Amateurism by-law.
- 2) Can a student earn money toward their SMART Fund after their senior year?
 - a. Yes a student who is out of IHSA eligibility in bowling is allowed to earn money to be placed in their SMART Fund.
- 3) What happens to money a student has earned prior to this notice?
 - a. Money earned toward the student's SMART Fund while the student is a current high school bowler should be forfeited or the student could risk their high school eligibility.
- 4) If a current high school bowler enters a tournament outside of their high school season and wins the scholarship money what can they do with it?
 - a. The student can have that money sent to the college or university that they chose to attend upon high school graduation in their name. If they do not attend that college or university the money they sent in their name will be forfeited.
- 5) Is there any situation in which money can be added to a student's SMART Fund while the student is still in high school?
 - a. Yes, if a student earns a scholarship based on academic evaluation, that money can be placed in their SMART Fund.