House Bill 2615: STUDENT ATHLETES

A new bill was passed during the 2016 legislative session relating to student-athletes and their families. Please review the guidelines listed below very carefully and feel free to contact the District Administration Office at 405-247-6605 with any questions.

A. Except as provided for herein, no person shall give, offer, promise or attempt to give any money or other thing of value to a student-athlete or member of the immediate family of a student-athlete:

\* to induce, encourage or reward the application, enrollment or attendance of the student-athlete at a public or private institution of post secondary education in order to have the student-athlete participate in intercollegiate sporting events, contests, exhibitions or programs at the institution; or

\* to induce, encourage or reward the participation in an intercollegiate sporting event, contest, exhibition or program by the student-athlete.

B. No person shall enter into or solicit directly or through an agent a transaction with a student-athlete if the person has, or could reasonably be expected to have, knowledge that the transaction would likely cause the student-athlete to permanently or temporarily lose athletic scholarship eligibility, the ability to participate on an intercollegiate athletic team or the ability to participate in one or more intercollegiate sporting competitions sanctioned by:

\* A national association for the promotion and regulation of intercollegiate athletics;

\* An athletic conference or other sanctioning body; or

\* The institution of post secondary education itself as a reasonable self- imposed disciplinary action taken by the institution to mitigate sanctions likely to be imposed by an organization as a result of the transaction or as a violation of the rules of the institution.

C. The aforementioned rules do not apply to:

\* Any public or private institution of post secondary education or any officer or employee of the institution when the institution or officer or employee of the institution is acting in accordance with official written policy of the institution which is in compliance with the by laws of the National Collegiate Athletic Association;

\* Any intercollegiate athletic award approved or administered by the public or private institution of post secondary education;

\* Grants-in-aid or other full or partial scholarships awarded to a student-athlete or administered by a public or private institution of post secondary education;

\* Members of the immediate family of the student-athlete; and

\* Money or things of value given by a person to a student-athlete or the immediate family of a student-athlete that do not exceed $100.00 in value in the aggregate on an annual basis.

D. Any person who violates the rules stated above shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and if convicted, shall be subject to a fine of NO LESS THAN $5,000.00, or imprisonment not to exceed 1 year, or both.

\*Please note that the guidelines stated above do not apply to intramural athletic programs sponsored by the district.