



In accordance with Senate Bill 311, students in grades 9-11 may be excused from the physical education (PE) requirement for graduation by participating in District-sponsored interscholastic athletics, marching band, or cheerleading/cadets for at least two seasons. If the physical education requirement is waived, the student will be required to complete one half-unit, consisting of at least 60 hours of instruction, in another course of study.

Should a student not complete the season for ANY reason, he/she must find an alternate way to satisfy his/her PE requirement. If a student is injured during the season, they may still complete the season by attending all practices, games, and any other team commitments for the remainder of the season. Participation in Fitch athletics, marching band, or cheerleading/cadets prior to the fall season of the 2015-2016 school year does not apply. Participation in interscholastic athletics, marching band, and cheerleading is a privilege, and not a right. This policy shall not in any way be construed as granting a student the right to participate in such district-sponsored activities. Board rules and policies including the Code of Conduct continue to apply. In addition, any student participating in this policy shall be subject to any athletic fee and random drug testing.

Procedure for Documenting Physical Education Course Exemptions:

- 1. Prior to participating in a full-season of a sport, marching band, or cheerleading and by the dates listed below, the student should complete and turn in the PE Application Intent Form to the high school Guidance Office, then complete and turn in the PE Waiver Intent Form to the Athletic Office. PE Waiver forms can be obtained in the Guidance Office or downloaded from the Athletics link on our website.**
- 2. The application intent forms will be kept in the guidance office and the waiver intent form will be kept in the athletic office until the seasons are completed. Forms will then be verified by the athletic director, coach of the sport, and/or marching band director.**
- 3. The guidance counselor will add the PE Waiver to the student’s official transcript.**

Note: The Ohio Core Graduation Requirements mandate participation for at least two (2) full seasons of an approved activity in order to waive the PE requirement. Participation in only one (1) full season cannot be combined with 0.25 credits of PE to meet the PE requirement for graduation.

The following due date will apply for the PE Application Waiver form:

Fall/Winter/Spring Sports - May 1st

Any student who has not fulfilled the PE requirement prior to the beginning of his or her senior year will be scheduled into the necessary PE classes required for graduation. Participation in an athletic team, marching band or cheerleading will not qualify for the waiver during senior year without the approval of the administration.

Approved Interscholastic Athletic Teams:

Baseball	Basketball	Bowling	Cheerleading/Cadets	Cross Country
Football	Golf	Soccer	Softball	Swimming and Diving
Tennis	Track and Field (Outdoor)		Volleyball	Wrestling



Frequently Asked Questions

What constitutes a “full season” in Austintown Local Schools? A full season for athletic/cheerleading purposes is defined by the OHSAA as from the first day of practice until the last event or banquet per the athletic handbook. A full season of Marching Band will be defined from the first day of Band Camp until the completion of the last varsity football game.

For Physical Education (PE) Exemption, will other activities (show choirs, non- school-sponsored athletics, etc.) which involve physical activity on the part of students be counted toward the two semesters of PE? No. The statute specifically limits the participation to interscholastic athletics, marching band, cheerleading, and JROTC. There is no authority granted to a board of education to include any additional participation.

A student has participated in marching band and/or sports for two seasons, but has not completed a PE Waiver request. Can the student seek to receive credit retroactively? No.

Are there any other requirements students must meet beyond the two full seasons of participation in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading? Yes. Exempted students must also complete one-half unit in another curricular area. This one-half unit in another curricular area maintains the 21 required credits for graduation.

What if a student is cut or ruled ineligible, quits, or has an athletic/activity code violation during the season? The statute requires participation “for at least two full seasons.” The season during which a student is cut or ruled ineligible, quits or has an athletic/activity code violation cannot be used to meet the two-season requirement.

If a student participates in only one full season of an approved activity, can the student be excused from .25 units of PE and thus have to take only .25 units of PE to complete his or her PE requirement under the Ohio Core? No. The statute requires participation “for at least two full seasons.” There is no provision in the law that would permit any type of a partial waiver.

What happens if a student is injured during the season? Injury will not prevent the completion of one season if the coach/ director concedes that the student attended all mandatory practices, games, and team-related activities.

Can team managers or statisticians complete the waiver? No, Fitch team managers and statisticians are not eligible for the waiver. Only students physically participating in interscholastic athletics, marching band, and cheerleading are eligible.

What if a student is “cut” from a team, can he/she join another team that same season and have that count as a season toward the PE Waiver? Yes. As long as the student is able to join the team within three weekdays after being cut and the PE Waiver form is immediately updated.

If I transferred into Fitch from another school district, can I retroactively ask that the extracurriculars that I participated in my former high school be considered for PE Waiver at Fitch? It depends. If your former school did not have a PE Waiver available, then you could submit the Fitch forms with verification from your former school administrator and Fitch for approved activities beginning the fall season of 2014. If your former school had a PE Waiver available and you elected not to request it there, then you cannot request it at Fitch.



Application Intent Form

I, _____, understand that the following requirements must be fulfilled in order to receive the Physical Education Waiver for Austintown Fitch High School and State of Ohio graduation requirement of one-half credit of physical education.

STUDENT, PLEASE INITIAL ON THE LINE BELOW EACH STATEMENT

→ I must complete TWO full seasons of an approved interscholastic athletic sport, cheerleading, or Marching Band.

→ I understand that a full season is defined as one sport season (fall, winter, or spring) that begins with the established OHSAA season start date or one academic season of marching band.

→ I understand that if I drop marching band, am cut from the team, quit the team, am ruled ineligible during the season, or have a violation of our athletic code during the season, the waiver applied for that year will no longer be valid.

→ I understand that by receiving this waiver, I will need to complete one additional half-credit elective course and it will be noted on my transcript that I have completed the Physical Education requirement via waiver.

→ I understand participation in interscholastic athletics, Marching Band, and cheerleading is a privilege and not a right. This policy shall not in any way be construed as granting me the right to participate in such district-sponsored activities. Board rules and policies including the Code of Conduct continue to apply. In addition, any student participating in this policy shall be subject to any athletic fee and random drug testing.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____



Waiver Intent

Please print your responses to the following requested information. Complete and return to the Guidance office PRIOR to the following dates established for each season:
Fall/Winter/Spring Sports-May 1st.

Name: _____

Graduation Year _____

PE Waiver Season Completion: (Circle One) 1 or 2

Activity _____ Coach/Advisor _____

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT TWO SUCCESSFUL SEASONS MUST BE COMPLETED TO WAIVE THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADUATION REQUIREMENT AND THAT NO CREDIT IS EARNED FOR THE WAIVED ACTIVITY.

Student's signature: _____

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____

This Portion should be Completed by the Athletic Director or Marching Band Director

Verification that the above-named student has successfully completed each season of activity.

Activity: _____ Date of Completion: _____

Athletic Director's/Marching Band Director's signature: _____

Head Coach's Signature: _____

Date: _____