

**Policy on Participation of Non-Seaside School-Enrolled Students in
Seaside School Athletic Programs**

Purpose: To ensure Seaside School prioritizes the needs of its enrolled students while adhering to state regulations for athletic participation.

Policy: Seaside School may consider allowing private or home school students to participate in its athletic programs if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The private school is NOT a member of the FHSAA.
2. The private school has less than 200 enrolled students per equivalent grades served (per state law).
3. The private school the student attends does not offer the sport in question.
4. The student resides within the Walton County School District and would otherwise be zoned for a public school in Walton County.
5. The student's parent or guardian requests in writing for the student to participate in the specific sport at Seaside School by the annually approved deadline for participation.
6. The student has not played that sport for any other scholastic team that academic year.
7. Seaside School's enrollment does not exceed the 90% threshold required under Controlled Open Enrollment, and such participation does not impact enrolled Seaside School students' access to athletic opportunities (Home School Students Only)
8. The roster for the Seaside School's specific interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity has not reached the activity's identified maximum size and the coach for the activity determines that the student has the requisite skill and ability to participate.
9. The student meets all student athletic eligibility criteria, including academic and behavioral requirements, as outlined by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) and The Seaside Way Student Performance Contract

Statement of Possible Participation: Seaside School agrees to accept participation on a case-by-case basis, considering liability, eligibility, equity, and program capacity. Although, Seaside School reserves the right to deny participation requests to ensure the integrity of its programs and prioritization of enrolled Seaside School students, it must allow the student the opportunity to comply with qualifying requirements.

Approved: January 26th, 2025

Procedure:

Athletic Director Process for Handling Requests:

Note: The Athletic Director determines the cut off date for all sports for private school student participation. This date is added to the school website athletic page for fall, winter and spring sports.

Step 1: Initial Request

- Direct all inquiries from private school students or families to complete the Athletic Participation Request Form.
 - Letter stating how the student meets all qualifications of eligibility in addition provides a copy of current academic transcripts and status as a private school student.
 - Proof of residency
 - Copy of academic transcripts
 - Verification of private or home school enrollment
- Verify that the private school the student attends has less than 200 students, does not offer the sport in question, and confirm their zoning for a district school without the program.

Step 2: Capacity Check

- Confirm the Seaside School is operating above the 90% enrollment threshold under Controlled Open Enrollment (Home school students only).

Step 3: Eligibility Screening

- Review the student's academic and behavioral records to ensure compliance with FHSAA and Seaside School standards.
- Ensure the student meets any additional team-specific eligibility requirements.

Step 4: Liability and Compliance Review

- Collaborate with the school's legal and insurance representatives to confirm coverage for non-enrolled students.
- Verify that allowing participation aligns with all FHSAA and state regulations.

Step 5: Administrative Decision

- Present findings to the school's administration for a final decision.
- Notify the family of the decision in writing, clearly stating the reason for approval or denial.

Step 6: Annual Review

- Reassess this policy and procedure annually to address evolving concerns and ensure compliance with legal and operational requirements.