

ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Students who desire to participate on interscholastic athletic teams do so on a volunteer basis with the understanding that it is a privilege and not a right to be a member of a school team. Students shall be allowed to participate in school-sponsored interscholastic sports based on their physical condition, skills and desire, subject to appropriate, non-discriminatory selection procedures, such as tryouts, fitness tests, etc.

I. Eligibility: Before participating on any interscholastic athletic team (including any school-sponsored club team), students must meet and satisfy the following eligibility requirements.

A. General:

1. All standards of eligibility under rules or guidelines of the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) or other such governing organization.
2. All standards of eligibility for co- or extracurricular activities as set forth in:
 - i. any rules that may be school, athletic program, or team-specific;
 - ii. applicable administrative regulations or procedures (e.g., **JJA-R**);
 - iii. applicable Board policies (e.g., **JJA**).

B. Registration Documentation:

1. Registration form with emergency contact and any special medical information.
2. Parental consent form.
3. Participation fee (parents may request a fee waiver).
4. Student's birth certificate.

C. Physical:

1. A completed "Physical Preparticipation Evaluation" signed by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant in collaboration with a physician. The district may require additional information from a healthcare provider before allowing a student to participate in athletics if the district is aware of an injury or illness that could be exacerbated by participation.
2. All middle and high school students must complete baseline neurocognitive testing based upon the current testing protocol's recommended time frame.

D. Academic: In addition to the academic requirements set forth in the requirements of the NHIAA, Board policy **JJA**, and administrative procedure **JJA-R**, students must meet the following academic requirements below to participate in interscholastic athletics. Eligibility for each marking period is determined by grades received in the previous grading period. Semester and/or yearly grades have no effect on eligibility.

1. Students who lose their academic eligibility while participating in an athletic activity in which the season extends beyond the marking period will not be allowed to continue participating. Students participating in

athletic activities who do not meet academic requirements will lose eligibility at the time that the report card is issued.

2. Transfer students' academic eligibility for participation in an athletic activity will be determined initially by their incoming GPA. These eligibility criteria will apply through and include the student's first marking period of attendance in the school district. Transfer students whose incoming GPA does not meet the academic requirements will be denied academic eligibility during their first marking period in the school district, after which, the academic requirements above shall apply.
3. A special education student who is working toward a special diploma/certificate must make standard progress in those courses taken as determined by the student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP). A special education student who is working toward a standard diploma must meet the same academic standards for participation in athletic activities.
4. The Superintendent or designee may develop additional procedures intended to monitor academic performance of student-athletes, with the object of early intervention.

III. Severability: If any provision of this policy is held to be invalid for any reason, such action shall not invalidate the remainder of this policy. If any provision of this policy conflicts with any provisions in any other Board policies, the provisions of this policy shall prevail, except to the extent such provisions contravene any applicable state or federal law.

IV. Records: The Superintendent shall establish regulations and procedures to ensure:

- A. records supporting a student's eligibility consistent with this policy are collected and maintained (in original or summary form);
- B. necessary data related to ineligible students is collected and reported as required by law;
- C. cultural traditions of students are considered when establishing or enforcing rules related to participation in extracurricular activities; and
- D. other requirements of this policy are met.

Legal References:

RSA 193:41 School Athletics

Adopted: 1/06/2025

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