

## INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The St. Mary Parish School Board believes that the competitive athletic program is a part of the overall educational program of the school system. It also believes that the athletic program should be closely coordinated with the general instructional program of the school, and that the aims achieved through athletics should justify its inclusion in the overall educational program.

### ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Interscholastic athletics may be made available for students in the schools of the school district. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop and maintain an athletic program in the school district that emphasizes participation of all students. The conduction of all athletic programs within the school district shall comply fully with regulations of the *Louisiana High School Athletic Association* (LHSAA) and policies of the School Board. The Board shall allow students to participate in as many sports activities and academic activities as he/she is capable of participating in without fear of reprisal.

The School Board shall require the home team principal to provide police security for all high school football and basketball games, excluding freshman games, and any other athletic event that he/she (the principal) deems necessary.

### PARTICIPATION OF STUDENTS IN HOME STUDY PROGRAMS

A public school shall not disqualify a student from participating in interscholastic athletics solely because the student is enrolled in an approved home study program, so long as the student lives in the attendance zone of the public school, and meets the qualifications as detailed in policy *IDCH, Home Study Program*.

### PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

No student shall be permitted to practice or participate in any interscholastic athletic program in any public school of the St. Mary Parish School Board until such student shall have furnished to the principal of the school documentation that he/she has met the following requirements:

1. Evidence of having had a physical examination by a licensed physician who shall have completed documentation as required by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA).
2. Properly complete a *School Entrance and General Health Exam Form/LHSAA Medical History* and pass a medical examination by a licensed physician prior to the first time he/she participates in a sport in a LHSAA school. Physicians may continue to use the original *LHSAA Sports Physical Form* in performing sports physicals. In addition, parents shall be required

to complete the *Authorization for Release of Confidential Information*.

3. Once a student passes the initial medical examination and completes an *LHSAA Medical History Form* prior to the sports season in which he/she participates, he/she shall annually pass any medical screening or medical examination required by a licensed physician and shall update his/her *LHSAA Medical History Form* as required.
4. A copy of all completed and signed medical examination and participation/release of information forms (and any others required by the School Board) must be on file at the school for every student before he/she practices or participates in interscholastic athletics during that school year.
5. An agreement signed by the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to hold the School Board and its members, employees, agents, assigns and insurers harmless from and against any liability for any accidents involving the student while participating in such athletic activities and any injuries suffered by the student during, or as a result of, such participation. The agreement shall also authorize team physicians to treat the student in the event of an injury requiring emergency treatment.
6. Students shall sign a form consenting to random drug screening and must obtain the written consent of their parent(s) or guardian(s) for said tests in order to be eligible to participate in any athletic activity. (See policy *IDFAA, Interscholastic Athletic Drug Testing*)

### RULES VIOLATION

Adherence to the rules of athletic representation and participation shall be strictly enforced by the Board. Any violations of athletic rules shall be immediately reported to the Superintendent by the principal. In the event that a member school, member school principal, or member school coach is penalized or cited by the LHSAA due to a violation, the athletic director, principal, and coach involved shall provide a full report to the Superintendent. If found warranted, the Superintendent in turn shall make a report to the School Board with pertinent recommendations for disciplinary action.

### SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS

The School Board endorses the scholastic eligibility requirements as a condition for participation in high school extracurricular activities as stipulated by the LHSAA. Scholastic requirements shall be as follow:

1. To be eligible for the first semester of the school year, a student shall have earned at least six (6) units from the previous school year, which shall be listed on the student's transcript, and shall have at least a "C" average as determined by the School Board when considering all "graded" subjects.

2. To be eligible for the second semester of the school year, a student shall pass at least six (6) subjects from the first semester. A senior must take the number of courses which allows him/her to earn a minimum of four (4) half Carnegie units or a total of two (2) Carnegie units per semester.
3. The LHSAA includes specific eligibility rules for special education students which must be met for their participation.
4. Block Scheduling

The following process shall be used to determine the scholastic eligibility of students enrolled in schools that schedule classes for one full credit during one semester of classes:

- A. In determining the scholastic eligibility of a student at the end of the first semester of a school year, a subject's Carnegie unit value and the grade points earned in that subject shall be multiplied by two when calculating the student's grade point average.
- B. In determining the scholastic eligibility of a student at the end of the school year for the first semester of the next year, a subject's Carnegie unit value and the grade points earned in that subject shall count as earned (no multiplication required.)

Individual schools or the School Board may set higher, but not lower scholastic requirements for interscholastic athletic participation.

All LHSAA Guidelines and Eligibility Requirements shall be applied.

#### JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in athletics at the junior high school level, one cannot reach the age of fifteen (15) before September 1st of the school year. A student who reaches the age of fifteen (15) on or after September 1st will be eligible for the entire school year, and must have a minimum grade point average of 1.5. In the traditional seven-period schedule, a student shall have no more than two (2) F's in any major subjects, no more than one (1) F in a major subject and two (2) F's in minor subjects.

In the 4 x 4 block scheduling, if a student has one (1) F on a major subject, the student must have passing grades in all other subjects attempted; or a student cannot fail more than two (2) minor subjects. All junior high/middle school students shall begin each school year eligible for athletics. To ensure continued eligibility grades shall be calculated after each nine-weeks grading period for eligibility/ineligibility for the following nine-weeks period. The date for change of eligibility status for the second, third, and fourth nine-weeks grading period shall be the report card day preceding the respective nine-weeks grading period.

#### INSURANCE COVERAGE

Athletes shall have either school student insurance or a signed statement from the parent showing that the student is otherwise covered for any accident or injuries that may occur during any athletic participation. No students shall be allowed to practice or participate in interscholastic athletics until this requirement has been met.

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Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:169, 17:176, 17:176.2, 17:236.3; Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, Bulletin 741, Louisiana Department of Education; Official Handbook, Louisiana High School Athletic Association; Board minutes, 3-12-98, 4-9-98, 3-9-00, 12-14-00, 9-9-10, 9-8-11, 10-10-13, 8-8-24.