

- confirms that the alternative, collaborative, detached or other non-traditional education program does not offer any athletic participation opportunity.
- confirms the student is not eligible to participate in athletics at the attending college;
- has the authority to suspend the student from all academic programs; and
- receives daily reports of the student's attendance and achievement; and
- certifies the student is eligible by all other MIAA and local standards that must be satisfied by the student's teammates.

(The MIAA diploma granting high school principal must submit the Rule 52 waiver form and letter of agreement prior to any practice or athletic participation of the student.)

These non-traditional students may not participate if they do not meet all the eligibility standards that are required of their teammates. Principals, athletic directors, and guidance personnel should counsel students regarding athletic eligibility prior to committing to non-traditional educational pursuits.

53. Student Eligibility: Middle School Students on Senior High Teams **Middle Level Waiver Guidelines**

A middle school student is eligible to represent a senior high school on its athletic teams only when the MIAA member high school includes those grades, and they are under the direct "jurisdiction" and "supervision" of the high school principal (see Rule 51 for definitions).

Note: Consideration can only be given to middle level students when school district residency creates the direct path to a single high school and does not require application for admission or have any other conditions impacting a students' matriculation.

PENALTY – If this rule is violated, all contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated will be forfeited.

54. Student Eligibility: Home Educated Students and Commonwealth Virtual School Students

54.1 Home Educated Students

A home-educated student is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics if the following conditions are met:

- The local school committee of a MIAA public school member institution has adopted a policy regarding participation of home educated students on the high school teams, and the local building principal has indicated such on the annual MIAA membership form while including all home schoolers in the MIAA enrollment report.
- The Educational Plan for the home-educated student has been approved by the public-school Superintendent or designee.
- The principal has determined appropriate high school grade level placement (9-12) for each home educated student in conjunction with chronological age and educational plan.
- The student resides in the school district that serves the high school and is living with their parents or legal guardians in the family residence. In multiple school districts, a

home-educated student must be assigned to the school of record in the same manner as other students.

- The principal is satisfied that the student meets the standards for athletic participation required for all other students as defined in the current MIAA Handbook. This includes, but is not limited to, those rules governing transfers, academic eligibility, age requirements, and the number of consecutive seasons of athletic eligibility beyond grade eight.
- MIAA requirements relative to academic eligibility must be certified by the principal at the same times that all other student-athletes are to be certified as academically eligible.

If the principal determines that all eligibility standards detailed above have been met, the principal may declare the student eligible to participate in interscholastic competition. The rights, privileges, and responsibilities associated with all other student-athletes attending MIAA member schools will apply to home educated students who have satisfied the requirements above.

Note: In January of 2011 the MIAA Board of Directors affirmed that home school student access to a MIAA member school athletic program is limited to the traditional comprehensive high school within the district in which the student resides. In multi comprehensive high school districts, the home school student access is limited to the school pre-determined by that school district's protocol or process as adopted by that school committee.

54.2 Commonwealth Virtual School Students

Commonwealth virtual school students residing in Massachusetts are eligible to apply to the Superintendent of Schools of the school district in which the student resides, and if approved, shall be able to participate in interscholastic athletics within the district. *(BOD approved this language on 11/13/23)*

55. Student Eligibility: Membership in School

- 55.1 When a student disenrolls from or drops out of a school and then decides later to return to the same school, student cannot become eligible for athletics until a report card has been issued and until the expiration of a minimum of two calendar months from the date of student's return to the same school.
- 55.2 Except as may be otherwise specified by statute or state regulation, a student must be a resident of and domiciled in a municipality which normally contributes student population to the school.

56. Student Eligibility/School Requirements: Physical Examinations/Concussion Training/Medical Coverage

- 56.1 All students must pass a **physical examination** prior to participation in High School Athletics. A physical exam covers the student for 13 months from the exam date. A student's eligibility will terminate once a physical has reached the 13-month limit.