

## Athletic Eligibility / Grade Checks- High School

**It's vital that our student-athletes are meeting eligibility requirements.** Trying to determine if a student-athlete is eligible can get very confusing so we'll try to break it down into several categories with the hope that this clarifies.

### A. Athletic eligibility

Prior to all seasons student-athletes must be deemed eligible (cleared) to play. This means that the student-athlete is:

1. Meeting WIAA Requirements- **Passing at least 5 out of 6 classes (or equivalent)**. Seniors on track to graduate and taking less than 6 classes must pass ALL classes!
2. Meeting Sumner-Bonney Lake School District (SBLSD) Requirements- **Minimum "current" 2.0 GPA AND passing all classes.**

NOTE: Though SBLSD requires student-athletes to pass all classes while the WIAA only requires 5 out of 6, both are listed because some grades are tied to each separately, and the penalties for not meeting each standard differ.

**Procedures for determining athletic eligibility vary for each season as follows:**

#### **FALL SPORTS -**

**For initial interscholastic competition eligibility use the *previous spring semester's grades.***

#### **SBLSD Academic Standards/Athletic Probation Period/Academic Suspension-**

- **All student-athletes must pass all classes and have a minimum 2.0 GPA.**

**Any student-athlete who failed 1 class last semester (9th-12th) OR was below a 2.0 will be placed on SBLSD academic probation.** They can play, grade check on the fourth (4th) Saturday of September **(September 27th in 2024)** to see if they are meeting standards. If they are not meeting standards, they are placed on academic suspension for 10% of the WIAA contest limit for their sport (i.e. for volleyball the WIAA contest limitation is 18 contests. So 10% of 18 is 1.8 contests. If the math results in a decimal .5 and above round up, less than .5 round down. So, the suspension period for a volleyball player is two (2) contests/matches). This suspension is to be served at the primary level that the student-athlete will be participating in. Once the suspension period ends the student-athlete can return to interscholastic competition as soon as they are meeting SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND a minimum 2.0 GPA).

#### **WIAA Academic Standards/Athletic Probation Period/Academic Suspension-**

- **All student-athletes must pass 5 out of 6 classes or equivalent.**

**Student-athletes (grades 10-12) not meeting WIAA Requirements (passing 5 out of 6 classes or equivalent) are placed on WIAA athletic probation through the fourth Saturday in September **(9/27 in 2025)**.** Any student-athlete who failed 2 or more last semester (10th-12) is placed on WIAA academic probation. They can play, grade check on the fourth (4th) Saturday of September **(September 27th in 2025)** to see if they are meeting WIAA standards (5 out of 6 classes or equivalent). If not, they are placed on academic suspension for three (3) weeks and are ineligible for interscholastic contests. Once the suspension period ends the student-athlete can return to interscholastic competition as soon as they are meeting SBLSD requirements (passing all classes and a minimum 2.0 GPA).

NOTE: Failing a Running Start class that is 1.0 credits is equivalent to failing two 0.5 HS classes.

- **Fall in season Grade Check #1-** All student-athletes must meet SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND have a minimum current 2.0 GPA). Student-athletes are suspended from interscholastic competition until they meet SBLSD requirements.

Procedures:

- Email notification to families and coaches on **September 19th** alerting them to the upcoming grade checks.
  - Start Check- **Thursday, September 25th**
  - New Eligibility List Generated- Between **Friday September 26th and Monday September 29th.**
  - Student-athlete sits out starting- **Monday, September 29th**
- **Fall in season Grade Check #2-** Same requirements/process as fall in season grade check #1 above.
  - Email notification to families and coaches on **Monday, October 27th** alerting them to the upcoming grade checks.
  - Start Check- **Thursday, November 6th**
  - New Eligibility List Generated- Between **Thursday, November 6th and Monday, November 10th.**
  - Student-athlete sits out starting- **Monday, November 10th.**

### Winter Sports -

**For initial interscholastic competition eligibility use previous semester grades for student-athletes that didn't participate in the fall to determine if they meet WIAA requirements (passed 5 out of 6 classes or equivalent), AND first quarter grades for all student-athletes to determine if they meet SBLSD Requirements (minimum current 2.0 GPA and passing all classes).**

### **SBLSD Academic Standards/Athletic Probation Period/Academic Suspension-**

- All student-athletes must pass all classes and have a minimum 2.0 GPA. Any student-athlete who failed 1 class last semester (9th-12th) OR was below a 2.0 will be placed on SBLSD academic suspension and are ineligible for interscholastic competition for 10% of the WIAA contest limit for their sport (i.e. for basketball the WIAA contest limitation is 20 contests. So 10% of 20 is 2 contests. If the math results in a decimal .5 and above round up, less than .5 round down). This suspension is to be served at the primary level that the student-athlete will be participating in. Once the suspension period ends the student-athlete can return to interscholastic competition as soon as they are meeting SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND a minimum 2.0 GPA).

If the student-athlete played a sport in the fall and served a suspension then, they would not have to serve another suspension unless their first quarter grades are not meeting SBLSD requirements. For example, Aaron's spring grades from last year didn't meet requirements. He played football in the fall and served a suspension (either WIAA or SBLSD). Now he is playing basketball in the winter. As long as his first quarter grades meet SBLSD requirements he is not required to serve another suspension. If, on the other hand, his first quarter grades show that he isn't meeting SBLSD requirements then he would serve another SBLSD athletic suspension (10% of the WIAA contest limitation for their sport). Student-athletes that haven't played a sport yet this school year are to serve the SBLSD athletic suspension if they aren't meeting SBLSD or WIAA requirements on either last spring's grades OR first quarter grades.

If the student-athlete is meeting SBLSD requirements at the end of their suspension period, they can return to interscholastic competition immediately. Student-athletes are

not eligible to participate in interscholastic competition until they meet SBLSD requirements.

### **WIAA Academic Standards/Athletic Probation Period/Period/Academic Suspension-**

- **All student-athletes must pass 5 out of 6 classes or equivalent.**

**Student-athletes (grades 10-12) not meeting WIAA Requirements (passing 5 out of 6 classes or equivalent) are placed on WIAA athletic probation through Thursday, January 8th.**

Any student-athlete who failed 2 or more last semester (10th-12) is placed on WIAA academic probation. They can play, grade check on Thursday, January 8th to see if they are meeting WIAA standards (5 out of 6 classes or equivalent). If not, they are placed on academic suspension. If they are not meeting standards, they are placed on academic suspension for 10% of the WIAA contest limit for their sport. Once the suspension period ends the student-athlete can return to interscholastic competition as soon as they are meeting SBLSD requirements (passing all classes and a minimum 2.0 GPA).

- **Winter in season Grade Check #1-** All student-athletes must meet SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND have a minimum current 2.0 GPA). Student-athletes are suspended from interscholastic competition until they meet SBLSD requirements.

Procedures:

- o Email notification to families and coaches on December 11th alerting them to the upcoming grade checks.
- o Start Check- Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>
- o New Eligibility List Generated- Between Friday, January 9th and Monday, January 12th.
- o Student-athlete sits out starting- Monday, January 12th.

- **First Semester Grade Check-  
WIAA Requirements/Athletic Suspension**

Student-athletes not meeting WIAA Requirements (passing 5/6 classes or equivalent) are placed on WIAA athletic suspension through the 5 week WIAA Suspension period (first 5 weeks of second semester- so through March 2nd in 2026) and are not eligible for interscholastic competition. They are to be placed on suspension because the grading period ended during the same school year (i.e. second semester for a winter or spring athlete).

### **SBLSD Requirements/Suspension**

Student-athletes not meeting SBLSD Requirements (minimum current 2.0 GPA AND passing all classes) are placed on SBLSD athletic suspension and are ineligible for interscholastic competition for 10% of the WIAA contest limitation for their sport (i.e. for basketball the WIAA contest limitation is 20 contests. So 10% of 20 is two (2) games- If the math results in a decimal .5 and above round up, less than .5 round down). This suspension is to be served at the primary level that the student-athlete will be participating in. Once the student-athlete has served the suspension they regain their eligibility IF they are meeting SBLSD requirements. If not, they remain suspended until they are meeting SBLSD requirements.

**NOTE FOR RUNNING START STUDENTS-** Their "semester" grades are the grades shown on their transcript for the most recent grading period. If they aren't meeting WIAA or SBLSD standards then they serve the penalties listed (i.e.

WIAA 5 week suspension). We still also pull their current grades for this semester check HOWEVER if their current grades aren't meeting standard they can regain eligibility once they are meeting standard (similar to an in season grade check).

NOTE: Failing a Running Start class that is 1.0 credits is equivalent to failing two 0.5 HS classes.

Procedures:

- o Email notification to families and coaches on **January 16th** alerting them to the upcoming grade checks.
- o Start Check- **Thursday, January 29th**
- o New Eligibility List Generated- Between **Friday, January 30th and Monday, February 2nd.**
- o Student-athlete sits out starting- **Monday, February 3rd.**

### **Spring Sports-**

**For initial interscholastic competition eligibility we will use Semester 1 grades for all student-athletes to determine if they meet SBLSD Requirements (minimum current 2.0 GPA and passing all classes).**

#### **SBLSD Academic Standards/Athletic Probation Period/Academic Suspension-**

- All student-athletes must pass all classes and have a minimum 2.0 GPA. Any student-athlete who failed 1 class last semester (9th-12th) OR was below a 2.0 will be placed on SBLSD academic suspension and are ineligible for interscholastic competition for 10% of the WIAA contest limit for their sport (i.e. for baseball the WIAA contest limitation is 20 contests. So 10% of 20 is 2 contests (if the math results in a decimal .5 and above round up, less than .5 round down). This suspension is to be served at the primary level that the student-athlete will be participating in. Once the suspension period ends the student-athlete can return to interscholastic competition as soon as they are meeting SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND a minimum 2.0 GPA).

If the student-athlete played a sport in the winter and served a suspension then, they would not have to serve another suspension unless their current grades are not meeting SBLSD requirements. For example, Kelli's First Semester (Semester 1) grades didn't meet requirements. She played basketball in the winter and served a suspension (either WIAA or SBLSD). Now she is playing fastpitch in the spring. As long as her current grades meet SBLSD requirements she is not required to serve another suspension. If, on the other hand, her current grades show that she isn't meeting SBLSD requirements then she would serve another suspension. (10% of the WIAA contest limitation for her sport). Student-athletes that didn't play a winter sport are to serve the SBLSD athletic suspension if they aren't meeting SBLSD ~~for current grades or WIAA~~ requirements for semester 1 grades.

If the student-athlete is meeting SBLSD requirements at the end of their suspension period, they can return to interscholastic competition immediately. Student-athletes are not eligible to participate in interscholastic competition until they meet SBLSD requirements.

- **Spring in season Grade Check-** We will use third Quarter grades. All student-athletes must meet SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND have a minimum current 2.0 GPA). Student-athletes are suspended from interscholastic competition until they meet SBLSD requirements.

Procedures:

- o Email notification to families and coaches on **Monday, March 23rd** alerting them to the upcoming grade checks.
- o Start Check- **Thursday, April 2nd**
- o New Eligibility List Generated- Between **Friday, April 3rd and Monday, April 4th.**
- o Student-athlete sits out starting- **Tuesday, April 14th.**

### **Coach initiated “in season” grade checks**

If a coach does grade checks on their own (outside of WIAA/SBLSD required grade checks) they must notify their Building Athletic Coordinator.

If a grade check shows that one of their student-athletes is not meeting SBLSD requirements (minimum current 2.0 GPA and passing all classes) they must notify their Building Athletic Coordinator immediately and the student-athlete is to be placed on athletic suspension. The student-athlete is ineligible for interscholastic competition and remains ineligible until they are meeting SBLSD requirements.

### **Communication to athletes, coaches, families about academic Eligibility Requirements for next year**

- Email notification to families on June 1st alerting them to grade requirements for the fall season.

**Revised Aug 13, 2025**