Middle School Athletic Academic Eligibility Policy

Purpose

Participation in athletics is an extension of the educational experience. Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate commitment both in the classroom and in their extracurricular activities. Academic eligibility standards are in place to encourage strong academic performance while allowing students to benefit from the positive experiences athletics provide.

This policy is designed to align with expectations at the high school level and reflect the academic eligibility standards established by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA).

This policy mirrors the academic expectations used at the high school level under the Missouri State High School Activities Association. At the high school level, students must pass the majority of their courses in order to participate in athletics.

By requiring middle school student-athletes to pass courses, we are preparing students for the academic expectations they will encounter as high school athletes while maintaining a strong emphasis on academic responsibility.

Philosophy

Our goal is not to remove students from activities, but to reinforce the importance of academic success. Athletics provide valuable opportunities for students to develop teamwork, discipline, leadership, and perseverance. Maintaining academic eligibility ensures that students remain focused on their primary responsibility—learning—while benefiting from the positive experiences athletics offer.

Academic Eligibility Requirements

Students enrolled in middle school athletics must meet the following academic standards in order to participate in practices and competitions.

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- Students promoted for the first time into 6th grade are academically eligible for the first grading period **ONLY. (This applies only in the fall season)**
- Students must be passing **at least 5 out of their 6 classes** in order to remain academically eligible.
- Academic eligibility will be reviewed at regular grading checkpoints (progress reports, quarter or grade checks.
- Students who are failing two or more classes will be considered academically ineligible and will not be allowed to try out or removed from the team.
- Although students will be recommended to attend summer school, participation in summer school alone will not make them academically eligible.
    - Students must still meet all academic eligibility requirements outlined by the school in order to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities.

Academic Probation

If a student is failing one class, the student-athlete will be placed on academic probation.

During probation:

- The student may continue practicing and competing.
- The student must show academic improvement by the next grade check.
- Coaches and teachers may recommend additional academic support.

If the student is still failing the class at the next check, further intervention may be required.

Academic Support

Students who become academically ineligible will be required to attend after school tutoring

Tutoring may include the following:

- Completing missing assignments
- Receiving tutoring or academic assistance
- Demonstrating progress toward improving grades