



HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION BULLETIN

To: Student-Athletes and Their Parents

From: Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and

Newnan Catholic High School
(School)

Your high school is a member of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, and the rules and regulations of the WIAA govern the participation by boys and girls in school athletics and impact upon sports activities outside the school.

This information bulletin is a **summary** of the WIAA OFFICIAL HANDBOOK as it pertains to those rules and regulations. Both student-athletes and their parents should have an understanding of these requirements. Equally important is that student-athletes and/or parents talk to their principal, athletic director, or coach, if they have any question about these regulations. Or, for additional information on Rules of Eligibility see the WIAA Handbook, or visit the WIAA website at www.wiaa.org.

This bulletin does not discuss penalties for violations. The reason is that penalties vary depending upon the nature of the violation. In addition, schools often have established penalties or periods of ineligibility which are greater than the minimum prescribed by WIAA rules.

There also are exceptions and other permissive provisions in some rules. Student-athletes and their parents may want to discuss their situations with the school principal or athletic director who, if necessary, will get a decision, interpretation, or opinion from the WIAA office.

Student-athletes as well as parents are asked to read this bulletin, then sign it, after which one copy of the bulletin must be returned to the school.

These are WIAA eligibility rules:

AGE

A student-athlete must be under nineteen (19) years of age on the August 1 which precedes the start of the school year.

ACADEMICS

A student-athlete must meet school and DPI requirements defining a full-time student and have received no more than one failing grade (including incompletes) in the most recent grade reporting period.

ATTENDANCE

A student-athlete is eligible for interscholastic competition at a member school if he/she is carried on the attendance rolls as a duly enrolled full-time Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 student in that member school.

Note: A full-time student is further defined as one where the member school is responsible for programming 100% of the student's school day. The student is eligible for like or similar awards, privileges and services as all the other students and meets all obligations and responsibilities as other students, without exception.

- A. Must complete eligibility in the four consecutive years starting with Grade 9 and the three consecutive years starting with Grade 10, unless there are documented extenuating circumstances.
- B. A student is ineligible if he/she has graduated from a school offering studies through Grade 12 or its equivalent.
- C. A student who graduated in May or June retains eligibility for (a) any portion of a spring athletic schedule not completed by the end of the academic year and (b) the school's summer athletic schedule.
- D. A student is ineligible if he/she has not been enrolled in some school by the 17th day of a semester or trimester, except upon request of a school in special cases involving sickness, accident, military service, social services assignment, etc.
- E. A student-athlete may not participate in school sports in more than four different years, and a student-athlete may not participate in the same sport more than one season each school year.

DETERMINING RESIDENCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

A full time student, whether an adult or not, is eligible for varsity interscholastic competition only at the school within whose attendance boundaries his/her parents reside, within a given school district, with these additional provisions:

- A. Board of Education approved full-time student(s), paying their own tuition and residing full time with parents in their primary residence shall be afforded eligibility.
- B. The residence of a student's guardians shall determine eligibility in cases where both parents of a student are deceased. The execution of guardianship papers in situations where one or both parents are living does not by itself make a student eligible.
- C. In the event of a divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, a student's residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility. For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year'. Under this rule, a student who transfers after the beginning of the school year shall be ineligible at the new school unless approval is granted by the Board of Control in accordance with the waiver provisions as described in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers (p. 33).
- D. A student whose tuition is paid by the school within whose attendance boundaries parents reside or by the state and is enrolled in a district approved program may be eligible at either school (first priority to school of residence) but (a) may not participate at both schools in the same year and (b) academic ineligibility accompanies student upon transfer.
- E. A student whose tuition is paid by the school within whose attendance boundaries parents reside or by the state or who is participating full time in a legislated open enrollment option must meet all statutory timeline requirements. This provision extends the opportunity to decline attendance at the new school and return to his/her school of residence (school transferred from). If the student transfers back to school of residence (school transferred from) after attending one or more days of school or one or more athletic practices, he/she is ineligible for the balance of that school year.
- F. A student may continue being eligible in the same school even though parent(s) and/or student move from within that school's attendance boundaries, provided enrollment is continuous (unbroken in that school).
- G. After a student-athlete has not participated for one entire calendar year because of this rule, he/she becomes eligible.
- H. A student-athlete will not be eligible if his/her attendance at a particular school resulted from undue influence (special consideration because of athletic ability) on the part of any person.
- I. A student-athlete who has been declared ineligible at a school for disciplinary reasons retains that ineligibility status if he/she transfer to another school.
- J. A full time student whose residence in a given district and attendance at a member school does not conform with any of the provisions outlined above shall be eligible for nonvarsity competition only, for the duration of the school year, unless a waiver is provided as outlined in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers (p. 33).

DETERMINING RESIDENCE FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

A full-time student, whether an adult or not, is eligible for varsity interscholastic competition only if the student is residing full time with parents in their primary residence with these additional provisions:

- A. In the event of a divorce or legal separation, whether pending or final, a student's residence at the beginning of the school year shall determine eligibility. For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year'. Under this rule, a student who transfers after the beginning of the school year shall be ineligible at the new school unless approval is granted by the Board of Control in accordance with the waiver provisions as described in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers (p. 33).
- B. Residing full time with guardians shall determine eligibility in cases where both parents of a student are deceased. The execution of guardianship papers in situations where one or both parents are living does not by itself make a student eligible.

- C. A student may continue being eligible in the same school even though parent(s) and/or student move from within that school's traditional attendance area, provided enrollment is continuous (unbroken in that school).
- D. Students attending member residential schools shall be eligible at the member school provided they reside at the school or reside full time with parents in their primary residence.
(1) Note: Provision A above.
- E. A full time student attending a nonpublic school but not residing in accordance with any of the provisions outlined above shall be eligible for nonvarsity competition only, for the duration of the school year, unless a waiver is provided as outlined in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers (p. 33).

TRANSFERS

For the purpose of this rule, attendance at one day of school and/or attendance at one athletic practice shall determine 'beginning of school year.' Under this rule a student who transfers after the beginning of the school year shall be ineligible for varsity competition at the new school unless approval is granted by the Board of Control in accordance with the waiver provisions as described in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers (p. 33). These additional provisions relate to transfer cases:

- A. A student who transfers from any school into a member school, unless the transfer is made necessary by a total change in residence by parents, must do so before attending one or more days of school or one or more athletic practices at the school the student is leaving. If not, the student is ineligible for varsity level competition the remainder of that school year.
- B. Unless transfer, including an accompanying change of parents residence, is effective at the outset of a semester, a student cannot establish eligibility at his/her new school until the fifth calendar day of such transfer.
- C. With written consent from both schools directly involved, a first time transfer student shall be eligible for non-varsity competition only, for the duration of the school year, unless a waiver is provided as outlined in the WIAA HS Handbook under Waivers (p. 33).
- D. A student who transfers more than once in any given school year shall be ineligible for all interscholastic competition for the remainder of that school year.
- E. A student may not have eligibility in more than one member school at the same time. A parent or parents who move from a primary residence within one school's attendance boundaries, to a secondary residence within another school's attendance boundaries, may be required by the Board of Control to provide evidence of a total move.
- F. A student who transfers from any school, whether or not a member school, with a status of ineligibility for disciplinary reasons retains such status at his/her new school for the same period as decreed by the former school.
- G. No eligibility will be granted for a student whose residence within a school's attendance boundaries, with or without parents, or whose attendance at a school has been the result of undue influence (special consideration due to athletic ability or potential) on the part of any person, whether or not connected with the school.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION and PARENT'S PERMISSION

A student-athlete whether an adult or not, must have written permission of parents to participate in school athletics and he/she must have a physical examination (signed by a licensed physician or advanced practice nurse prescriber) every other school year.

TRAINING and CONDUCT

A student-athlete must follow his/her school's code of conduct (training rules) on a year-round basis.

- A. A student-athlete who violates his/her school's code of conduct during the season of a sport (start of practice to final game) must be suspended from competition for a period of time specified in the code (minimum of one meet) if the violation involves (a) use of alcohol, (b) use, including chewing, of tobacco and (c) use, possession, buying or selling of controlled substances.
- B. A student-athlete who violates his/her school's code of conduct at times other than during the actual season of a sport must be disciplined by the school, the nature of such discipline to be determined by the school as indicated in its code of conduct.
- C. A student-athlete who violates any part of the school or WIAA's code of conduct resulting in suspension of WIAA-sponsored tournament competition must be immediately declared ineligible for the remainder of tournament series in that sport.
- D. A student-athlete, disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, is also suspended from the next competitive event.

AMATEUR STATUS

A student-athlete must be an amateur in all recognized sports of this association in order to compete in any WIAA sport.

- A. A student-athlete may not receive reimbursement in any form — cash, merchandise, gift certificates, jackets, watches, billfolds, sweatshirts, etc. — for achievement related to athletics.
- B. A student-athlete may receive awards for school achievement which are symbolic (non utilitarian) in nature — trophies, medals, plaques, event T-shirts, event hats, etc.
- C. A student-athlete may not receive compensation or benefit, directly or indirectly, for the use of name, picture, and/or personal appearance, as an athlete.
- D. A student-athlete may not provide endorsement as an athlete or appear as an athlete, in the promotion of a commercial/advertisement and/or profit-making event, item, plan, or service.
- E. A student-athlete may not participate in school athletics or in sports activities outside the school under a name other than his/her own name.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

A student-athlete in a given sport may not compete in that same sport outside of school either as a team member or an individual or independent entry during the same time he/she is participating with the school team.

- A. Before and/or after the school season of a sport, a student-athlete may participate in activities outside of school in that same sport with these restrictions:
 - (1) A student-athlete must not participate in an all-star game or similar contest except for summertime activities (a) within the same league or program (e.g., softball game between divisions of same league) or (b) in which a team is selected to represent a league in post-season play (e.g., Babe Ruth league team).
 - (2) A student-athlete must not participate before or after the school season of a sport in nonschool programs, activities, camps, clinics, etc., in that same sport which is limited to individuals who are likely to be candidates for the school team in that sport in the following season, except that students may assemble voluntarily (without school/coach involvement) in any way during the summer nonschool period.
- B. A student-athlete or his/her parents must pay the fee for specialized training or instruction such as camps, clinics, and similar programs.
- C. A student-athlete may not be instructed except during the school season of a sport and approved summer contact days by the person who will be his/her coach in that sport in the following season. The sports of baseball, cross country, golf, gymnastics, softball, swimming, tennis, and track & field are exempt from this rule, BUT only (a) during the summer months and (b) if the program involved is not limited to individuals who are likely to be candidates for the school team in that sport in the following season.

WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK YOUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR.

STATEMENTS FOR SIGNATURE OF STUDENT-ATHLETE AND PARENT

I have read and understand the above regulations.

Signature of Student-Athlete

I have received a copy of the Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin.

Signature of Parent

Distribution: Two copies for each student-athlete; signed copy to be returned to the school.