

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Policy Manual**

Item	Description
Policy Title	Interscholastic Athletics
Policy Category	Athletics (ATHL)
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Statutory Reference	<u>G.S. 115C-12(12); G.S. 116C-47(4); G.S. 115C-407.50; G.S. 115C-407.55; G.S. 115C-407.65; G.S. 115C-407.70</u>
Administrative Procedures Act (APA)	16 NCAC 06E .0204 Interscholastic Athletics (https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/b7fVQReyKGiGuZUYfze35g)

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

~~Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Charter School boards are authorized to determine whether and to what extent students in grades 6-12 may participate in interscholastic athletics; provided, however, that students in sixth grade are not eligible to participate in football.~~

a. ~~In order to qualify for public school participation, a student must meet the following requirements:~~

- ~~1. The student must meet the residence criteria of G.S. 115C-366(a). The student may participate only at the school to which the student is assigned by the LEA or, if over the age requirements, the school to which the student would be assigned at the next higher grade level.~~
- ~~2. The student must meet age requirements at each grade level to participate. The principal must have evidence of the legal birth date of the student. A student who is ineligible to participate at one grade level due to age is eligible to participate at the next higher grade level only. However, no student may participate at the high school level for more than eight consecutive semesters, beginning with the student's first entry into grade nine or participation on a high school team, whichever occurs first. No student may be eligible to participate at the middle school level for a period lasting longer than six consecutive semesters, beginning with the student's entry into sixth grade.~~

~~A. A student is eligible to participate in high school athletic contests during a school year if the student does not reach the 19th birthday on or before August 31 of that school year.~~

~~B. A student shall not participate on a ninth grade junior high school team if the student becomes 16 years of age on or before August 31 of that school year.~~

~~C. A student shall not participate on a sixth, seventh or eighth grade team if the student becomes 15 years of age on or before August 31 of that school year.~~

~~3. In grades 9-12, the student must pass at least five courses (or the equivalent for non-traditional school schedules) each semester to be eligible anytime during the present semester and meet promotion standards established by the LEA/Charter School. In grades 6, 7 and 8, the student must pass at least one less course than the number of required core courses each semester and meet promotion standards established by the LEA/Charter School. Regardless of the school organization pattern, a student who is promoted from the eighth grade to the ninth grade automatically meets the courses passed requirement for the first semester of the ninth grade. Regardless of the school organization pattern, a student who is promoted from the fifth grade to the sixth grade automatically meets the courses passed requirement for the first semester of the sixth grade.~~

~~4. The student must receive a medical examination each year by a duly licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, subject to the provisions of G.S. 90-9, 90-18.1, and 90-18.2.~~

~~5. The student may not participate after any of the following:~~

~~A. graduation;~~

~~B. becoming eligible to graduate;~~

~~C. signing a professional athletic contract;~~

~~D. receiving remuneration as a participant in an athletic contest; or~~

~~E. participating in an all-star team or in an all-star game that is not sanctioned by the association of which the student's school is a member. The student is ineligible only for the specific sport involved.~~

~~b. Each principal of a school, which participates in interscholastic athletics must certify a list of eligible students for each sport.~~

~~c. Any student-athlete, coach or school official in grades 6-12 who is ejected from any athletic contest shall at least be penalized as follows:~~

~~1. for the first offense, the person shall be reprimanded and suspended for the next game at that level of play (varsity or junior varsity) and for any intervening games at either level;~~

~~2. for a second offense, the person shall be placed on probation and suspended for the next two games at that level of play (varsity or junior varsity) and for any intervening games at either level;~~

~~3. for a third offense, the person shall be suspended for one calendar year;~~

~~4. a coach who is suspended at any level of grades 6-12 (middle school, junior high or high school) may not coach in any other grade level in grades 6-12 during the period of suspension.~~

~~5.—Penalties are cumulative from sport to sport and from sport season to sport season. If no member of the school's coaching staff is present to assume an ejected coach's duties, the contest shall be terminated by a forfeit.~~

~~d.—LEAs/Charter Schools may allow their schools to belong to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA), which has established as a minimum the rules adopted by the SBE. The NCHSAA may waive any eligibility requirement contained in this Rule, if it finds that the rule fails to accomplish its purpose, or it works an undue hardship when applied to a particular student. The NCHSAA may enforce penalties for the violation of this Rule at the high school level.~~

~~e.—The LEA/Charter School which has jurisdiction over the high school may impose additional penalties. LEAs/Charter Schools or conferences may adopt and impose penalties at the middle and junior high school levels.~~

~~f.—The Middle/Junior High School Athletic Manual is available at the following link:~~

~~[https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/k-12-standards-curriculum-and-instruction/programs-and-initiatives/nc-healthyschools/athletics\(https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/slshOwJ8dQaZ47SD16ZRvSislsA==\)](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/k-12-standards-curriculum-and-instruction/programs-and-initiatives/nc-healthyschools/athletics(https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/slshOwJ8dQaZ47SD16ZRvSislsA==))~~

The policies in this category govern the administration of interscholastic athletics for all public school units in North Carolina in accordance with G.S. 115C-12(12) and Chapter 115C, Article 29E of the North Carolina General Statutes. Public school units and administering organizations may establish additional rules and regulations not inconsistent with these policies, the North Carolina Administrative Code, and the General Statutes.

(a) **Definitions.** As used in this policy category, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) “Administering organization” means a nonprofit organization that has entered into and is in compliance with a memorandum of understanding with the State Board of Education to administer and enforce the adopted rules and requirements for interscholastic athletics at the high school level, as required by Chapter 115C, Article 17 of the General Statutes.

(2) “Initial entry” means:

(A) A student’s first day of attendance at a participating school in which the student is enrolled as recorded by that school; or

(B) The first day on which a student practices or otherwise participates as a member of an interscholastic athletics team at a participating school.

(3) “Interscholastic athletics” means any extracurricular athletic activity that:

(A) Involves students in any grade between 6 and 12;

(B) Is sponsored by an individual school, PSU, or administering organization; and

(C) Includes students from more than one school or PSU.

(4) “Parent” means the parent or legal guardian of a student participating or seeking to participate in interscholastic athletics activities.

(5) “Participating school” means a high school that elects to offer interscholastic athletic activities.

(6) “Public school unit” or “PSU” means a local school administrative unit, a charter school, a regional school, any school operated by the State Board of Education, and any school operated by the University of North Carolina that provides elementary or secondary instruction under Chapter 116C, Article 29A of the General Statutes.

(b) This policy incorporates by reference the Middle and Junior High School Athletics Manual.