

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

Item	Description
<b>Policy Title</b>	Interscholastic Athletics
<b>Policy Category</b>	Athletics (ATHL)
<b>Policy ID</b>	ATHL-001
<b>Policy Date</b>	<del>12/07/2023</del> <u>07/01/2024</u>
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<b>Statutory Reference</b>	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
<b>Administrative Procedures Act (APA)</b>	16 NCAC <del>06E-.0204</del> <u>06E .0201</u>

**INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

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) “Aggrieved party” means a student, coach, participating school, PSU, or other party that is directly and adversely affected by a final decision of an administering organization that applies or enforces the rules and policies of the State Board of Education related to interscholastic athletics. Such rules and policies include a determination of ineligibility under ATHL-003, a penalty imposed under ATHL-004, or a finding of undue influence or a recruiting violation under ATHL-008. If a student is affected, the student’s parent shall be allowed to appeal the final decision pursuant to ATHL-010.
- (3) “Bona fide purpose” means for a purpose not primarily related to participation in interscholastic athletics.

~~(1)~~(4) “High school” means a public school offering education in Grades 9 through 12 or 10 through 12.

~~(2)~~(5) “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)~~(6) “Interscholastic athletics” or “interscholastic athletic activity” means any extracurricular athletic activity that:

- (A) Involves students in any ~~grade between 6 and 12;~~Grades 6 through 12;
- (B) Is sponsored by an individual school, PSU, or administering organization; and
- (C) Includes students from more than one school or PSU.

~~(7)~~ “Junior high school” means a public school offering education in Grades 7 through 9.

~~(8)~~ “Local superintendent” means the superintendent of a local school administrative unit, as provided in Chapter 115C, Article 18 of the General Statutes, or the staff member with the highest decision-making authority for a PSU, if there is no superintendent.

~~(9)~~ “Middle school” means a public school offering education in Grades 6 through 8.

~~(4)~~(10) “Parent” means the parent or legal guardian of a student participating or seeking to participate in interscholastic athletics activities.

~~(11)~~ “Participating school” means a middle school, junior high school, or high school that elects to ~~offer participate in~~ interscholastic athletic activities.

~~(5)~~(12) “Principal” means a school administrator employed as the principal of a school, as provided in Chapter 115C, Article 19 of the General Statutes, or the staff member with the highest decision-making authority at a school, if there is no principal.

~~(13)~~ “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.

~~(6)~~(14) “Student” means a person enrolled in Grade 6 through 12 in any public school.

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