

## NCDPI MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC MANUAL

### 2023 Summary of Major Revisions

The chart below is intended to provide a summary of significant changes and the effect of each change. There were other changes, not included in the chart, that were made for minor clarification or to create more consistency in format.

Page/Section	Description	Effect of Change
Cover Page	Change to Cover Page: Update to July 2023	Change reflects new academic/athletic year and will match the footer on all pages
Page 2	Update Revised date to July 2023	Change shows the most recent update of the manual
Page 3 Contents	Edit/Addition Page numbers adjusted	Show correct page number of each portion of the manual
Footer (all pages)	Change: NCDPI July 2022 to NCDPI July 2023	Change shows the most recent update of the manual
Page 5 - 9	Change: Update NC Administrative Code 16 NCAC 06E.0204  (a) Definitions: (1) "Administering organization" is defined in G.S. 115C-407.50(1).	Update to latest version of administrative code

	<p>(2) "Participating school" is defined in G.S. 115C-407.50(7).</p> <p>(3) "Public school unit" (<b>PSU</b>) is defined in G.S. 115C-5(7a).</p> <p>(b) <del>Public School Units (PSUs)</del> <b>PSUs</b> are authorized to determine whether and to what extent students in grades 6 through 12 may participate in interscholastic athletics; provided students in grade 6 are not eligible to participate in tackle football. This Rule shall not apply to charter school athletic programs in kindergarten through grade 8.</p> <p>(c) To participate in public school interscholastic athletics, a student shall meet the following requirements:</p> <p>(1) A student who attends a school supervised by a local board of education shall only participate in the school to which the student is assigned under G.S. 115C-366. A student enrolled in a charter, regional, statewide public school, or school operated by the University of North Carolina, <del>must</del> <u>shall</u> meet all the enrollment criteria for that school and attend that school. If a student is over the age requirements, for the school the student attends, the student may participate at the school to which the student would be assigned or attend at the next higher grade level.</p> <p>(2) A student shall meet the age requirements at each grade level to participate. PSUs shall determine the age of participating students</p>	
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	<p>based on a preponderance of the evidence known to them. A student ineligible to participate at one grade level due to age shall be eligible to participate at the next higher grade level only, provided, no student shall 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 grade 6 and no student shall be eligible to participate at the high school level for more than eight consecutive semesters, beginning with the student's first entry into grade 9 or participation on a high school team, whichever occurs first.</p> <p>(A) A student shall not participate on a grade 6, 7, 8 team if the student becomes 15 years of age on or before August 31 of that school year.</p> <p>(B) A student shall not participate on a grade 9 through 12 team if the student becomes 19 years of age on or before August 31 of that school year.</p> <p>(d) To be eligible to participate during any semester in grades 6, 7, or 8, the student shall have passed at least one less course than the number of required core courses the <b>immediate</b> prior semester and meet promotion standards established by the PSU, provided, a student who is promoted from grade 5 to grade 6 shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirement set forth in this Paragraph to participate in the first semester of grade 6. To be eligible to compete during any semester in grades 9 through 12, the student shall have passed at</p>	
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	<p>least five courses (or the equivalent for non-traditional school schedules) the <del>immediate</del> prior semester and meet promotion standards established by the PSU, provided a student who is promoted from grade 8 to grade 9 shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirement set forth in this Paragraph to participate in the first semester of grade 9.</p> <p>(e) To be eligible to participate, a student shall receive a medical examination every 395 days by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, subject to the provisions of G.S. <del>90-9</del> 90-9.1, G.S. 90-9.2, G.S. 90-9.3, 90-18.1, and 90- 18.2.</p> <p>(f) <del>The</del> <u>A</u> student shall not participate in interscholastic athletics after any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) graduation, except that the student may continue to participate in playoff and state championship contests in spring sports after graduation</li> <li>(2) signing a professional athletic contract, except that the student may continue to participate in any sport for which the student has not signed a professional contract;</li> <li>(3) receiving remuneration as a participant in an athletic contest, except that the student may accept a gift, merchandise, trophy, or other thing of value, provided <del>that</del>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) the value does not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per student per sports season;</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
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	<p>(B) the item is totally consumable and nontransferable, or labeled in a permanent manner, for example, monogrammed or engraved items; and</p> <p>(C) the item is approved by the student's principal and superintendent; or</p> <p>(4) participating on an all-star team or in an all-star game that is not sanctioned by the administering organization of which the student's school is a member provided, the student shall be ineligible only for the specific sport involved.</p> <p>(g) Each PSU shall require the principal of a school that participates in interscholastic athletics to <del>certify</del> <u>sign and date</u> a list of eligible students for each sport. <u>The PSU shall maintain copy of the most current list in the principal's office and the office of the superintendent.</u></p> <p>(h) A PSU shall impose at least the following penalties on a student, coach, or school official in grades 6 through 12 who is ejected from an athletic contest:</p> <p>(1) for the first offense, the person shall be reprimanded and suspended from participating in the next game at that level of play (varsity or junior varsity);</p> <p>(2) for a second offense, the person shall be placed on probation and suspended from participating in the next two games at that level of play (varsity or junior varsity);</p> <p>(3) for a third offense, the person shall be</p>	
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	<p>suspended for one calendar year;</p> <p>(4) a coach who is suspended shall not coach any team for any grade level during the period of suspension.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>(i) PSUs may allow their schools to belong to an administering organization designated by the State Board of Education.</p> <p>(j) An administering organization entering into a memorandum of understanding with the State Board of Education for the purpose of administering interscholastic athletics under this Rule <del>must</del> shall apply and enforce all of the requirements of this Rule.</p> <p>(k) The State Board of Education <del>may</del> shall delegate to an administering organization its authority over participating schools to:</p> <p>(1) waive any student eligibility requirement contained in this Rule, if it finds <u>in a particular case</u> that the requirement fails to <u>accomplish its purpose, promote academic progress, health, safety, and fair play</u>, or it works an undue hardship on a student who has lost eligibility due to circumstances that made participation impossible such as prolonged illness or injury <u>or if a waiver is necessary to reasonably</u></p>	
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	<p><u>accommodate a student’s disability, as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act, U.S.C. § 1201 et seq.:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(2) adopt, apply, and enforce penalty rules that establish a system of demerits that includes reprimands, probations, suspensions, forfeitures of contests, forfeitures of titles, and disqualifications;</li> <li>(3) adopt, apply, and enforce administrative rules, as defined in G.S. 115C-407.55(5);</li> <li>(4) adopt, apply, and enforce gameplay rules, as defined in G.S. 115C-407.55(6); and</li> <li>(5) establish and collect from all its members a uniform membership fee of either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each participating school, or</li> <li>(B) one dollar (\$1.00) for each student enrolled in a participating school.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(1) An administering organization shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) enter into a memorandum of understanding with the State Board of Education no later than March 15 prior to the academic year in which it is to begin administering interscholastic athletics and before each subsequent renewal of a memorandum of understanding;</li> <li>(2) <del>be audited by a reputable independent auditing firm and submit the</del> <u>an audit report signed by an independent certified public accountant or accounting firm in good standing with the North</u></li> </ul>	
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	<p><u>Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners</u> to the State Board of Education no later than March 15 each year;</p> <p>(3) broadcast the meetings of its membership and board of directors in a manner that is announced on its website and which may be viewed electronically by any member of the public;</p> <p>(4) provide to the State Board of Education within 30 days any requested organizational records, including but not limited to, financial information, annual audit reports, and any matters related to or impacting participating schools;</p> <p>(5) enter into written agreements with PSUs that allow their eligible schools to participate in interscholastic sports, which agreements shall include an explanation of the fees to be charged, the obligations of the PSU and participating schools, penalties for the violation of this Rule at the high school level that may be imposed, and an explanation of the process to contest or appeal adverse decisions; and</p> <p>(6) publish the organization's rules through a link on the first page of its website.</p> <p>(m) The State Board of Education will appoint an appeals board to hear and act upon appeals from final decisions of an administering <del>organization</del> <u>organization, or from the Department of Public Instruction if necessary pursuant to G.S. 115C-407.60(b)</u>, regarding student eligibility, penalties, fees imposed, retaliation, or</p>	
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	<p>discrimination. Panels of no fewer than three members of the appeals board may hear and decide matters on behalf of the board. A PSU aggrieved by a final decision of the administering organization may file an appeal with the State Board of Education's Office of General Counsel within five days after receipt of the administering organization's final decision. The notice shall be mailed to the Superintendent or board of trustees of the PSU.</p> <p>(1) The administering organization's notice shall contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. findings of fact;</li><li>B. conclusions of law, including citation to any rules related to the decision;</li><li>C. a description of any penalties; and</li><li>D. a statement that the PSU may file a notice of appeal within five days of receipt of the administering organization's decision by mailing the notice to the State Board of Education's Office of General Counsel, 301 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27601, and emailing a copy of the notice of appeal to the Office of General Counsel for the State Board of Education.</li></ul> <p>(2) The PSU's appeal shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. be in writing;</li><li>B. include a description of the facts of the</li></ul>	
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	<p>dispute;</p> <p>C. include any evidence submitted to the administering organization;</p> <p>D. present an argument explaining why the PSU believes the administering organization's final decision was not based on substantial evidence <u>as defined in G.S. 150B-2(8c)</u> or <u>is</u> affected by an error of law.</p> <p>(3) The administering organization may file a response to the PSU's submissions within five days. The panel may shorten the time to for filing the administering organization's response if the decision affects a student's or coach's eligibility to participate in an intervening athletic contest. <del>All documents filed in the appeal shall be simultaneously served on all parties. Any hearing shall be recorded.</del></p> <p>(4) All documents filed in the appeal shall be simultaneously served on all parties. in the manner prescribe in <u>G.S. 1A-1</u>, Rule 5 of the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure.</p> <p>(5) Any hearing shall be recorded.</p> <p>(6) No later than 30 days after the State Board of Education's receipt of the appeal, a panel of the appeals board shall issue its decision. The panel shall affirm the administering organization's final decision unless a majority of the panel determines that the final decision is not</p>	
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	<p>supported by substantial evidence or affected by an error of law.</p> <p>(7) The panel's decision shall be final.</p> <p>(n) The PSU that has jurisdiction over a school may impose penalties in addition to those <del>imposed</del> required by an administering organization. <del>If there is no administering organization governing a group of schools, a PSU may adopt and impose penalties for schools under its jurisdiction.</del></p> <p><i>History Note: Authority G.S. 115C-12(12); 115C-12(23); 115C-47(4); 115C-407.50, 115C-407.55; 115C-407.60; 115C-407.65; 116-235(b);</i></p> <p><i>Emergency Adoption Eff. August 20, 2019;</i></p> <p><i>Amended Eff. March 1, 2021;</i></p> <p><i>Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2022.</i></p> <p><i>Amended Eff. July 1, 2023.</i></p>	
<p>Page 11 Eligibility Lists</p>	<p>Edit:</p> <p>2. <del>One copy shall be kept on file in the office of the principal. The PSU shall maintain a copy of the most current list in the principal's office and the office of the superintendent.</del></p>	<p>Matches wording in NC Administrative Code 16 NCAC 06E.0204</p>

<p>Page 27 Baseball Postponed and Suspended Contests</p>	<p>11. If the contest is to be completed, <u>it may be resumed at another date/time by mutual agreement of the principals of both schools.</u> # <u>The contest</u> will be continued from the point of suspension with the lineup and batting order of each team the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the contest.</p> <p>13. In a situation where a team does not want to make up a <u>postponed</u> contest, <del>at all</del>, the contest will be forfeited to the opponent.</p> <p>14. If any <del>rained-out postponed or suspended</del> baseball contest, that would affect the winning of a conference title, is to be played, it shall be rescheduled on the same field (<del>exception: suspended contests do not have to be rescheduled on the same field</del>), unless changed by mutual agreement by the two schools.</p> <p><u>Mercy Rule</u> <u>If agreed upon by both teams prior to the game or by conference adoption,</u></p> <p><u>16. In baseball, the game is terminated if a team is ahead by fifteen (15) runs after three innings or ten (10) after five innings.</u></p>	<p>Clarification of rules</p> <p>Mercy rule allows teams to maintain dignity of the athletes</p>
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<p>Page 28 - 29 Basketball Postponed and Suspended Contests</p>	<p><del>Make-up Games</del> Postponed and Suspended Contests</p> <p>6. Postponed games will be made up in the order of postponement on the next possible date <u>(excluding Sunday).</u></p> <p><u>Mercy Rule</u> <u>If agreed upon by both teams prior to the game or by conference adoption.</u></p> <p>8. <u>In basketball, there is a continuous clock when a team has a twenty-eight (28) point advantage over its opponent in the third quarter or later. The clock would only stop for shooting fouls, timeouts, injuries and the administration of technical fouls. The clock will continue to run for the remainder of the game, regardless of the point differential becoming closer than 28 points.</u></p>	<p>Clarification of rules</p> <p>Mercy rule allows teams to maintain dignity of the athletes</p>
<p>Page 30 Cross Country Postponed and Suspended Contests</p>	<p><del>Make-up Games</del> Postponed and Suspended Contests</p> <p>5. Postponed games will be made up in the order of postponement on the next possible date <u>(excluding Sunday).</u></p>	<p>Rules Clarification</p>
<p>Page 32 Football Postponed and Suspended Contests</p>	<p><del>Make-up Games</del> Postponed and Suspended Contests</p> <p>17. Postponed games will be made up in the order of postponement on the next possible date <u>(excluding Sunday).</u></p>	<p>Rules Clarification</p> <p>Mercy rule allows teams to maintain dignity of the athletes</p>

	<p><u>19.</u> <u>A contest called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined, or any contest called at any time for mechanical failure (i.e., artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended contest.</u></p> <p><u>20.</u> <u>If the contest is to be completed, it may be resumed at another date/time by mutual agreement of the principals of both schools. The contest will be continued from the point of suspension with the lineup of each team the same as the lineup at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the contest.</u></p> <p><u>21.</u> <u>If the game has reached at least half-time and a winner can be determined, the contest is over.</u></p> <p><u>22.</u> <u>In a situation where a team does not want to make up a postponed contest, the contest will be forfeited to the opponent.</u></p> <p><u>23.</u> <u>If any rained-out football contest, that would affect the winning of a conference title is to be played, it shall be rescheduled on the same field unless changed by mutual agreement by the two schools.</u></p> <p><u>24.</u> <u>This rule is effective upon mutual agreement of the competing schools or by conference adoption.</u></p> <p><u>Mercy Rule</u> <u>If agreed upon by both teams prior to the game or by conference adoption,</u></p>	
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	<p><u>25. In football, there is a continuous clock when a team has a twenty-eight (28) point advantage over its opponent at half time or thereafter. The clock would only stop for timeouts by coaches or officials or injuries. The clock will continue to run for the remainder of the game, regardless of the point differential becoming closer than 28 points.</u></p>	
<p>Page 34 Golf Postponed and Suspended Contests</p>	<p><del>Make-up Games</del> <u>Postponed and Suspended Contests</u></p>	<p>Wording Clarification</p>
<p>Page 35 Gymnastics Postponed and Suspended Contests</p>	<p><del>Make-up Games</del> <u>Postponed and Suspended Contests</u></p> <p>5. Postponed games will be made up in the order of postponement on the next possible date. <u>(excluding Sunday).</u></p>	<p>Rules Clarification</p>
<p>Page 35 - 36 Soccer Postponed and Suspended Contests</p>	<p><del>Make-up Games</del> <u>Postponed and Suspended Contests</u></p> <p>6. Postponed games will be made up in the order of postponement on the next possible date. <u>(excluding Sunday).</u></p> <p><u>8. A contest called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined, or any contest called at any time for mechanical failure (i.e., artificial</u></p>	<p>Rules Clarification</p> <p>Mercy rule allows teams to maintain dignity of the athletes</p>

	<p><u>lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended contest.</u></p> <p><u>9. If the contest is suspended in the first half, even if one team is ahead, contest is to pick up from the point of interruption unless coaches agree to end.</u></p> <p><u>10. If the contest is to be completed, it may be resumed at another date/time by mutual agreement of the principals of both schools. The contest will be continued from the point of suspension with the lineup of each team the same as the lineup at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the contest.</u></p> <p><u>11. If the contest is suspended at half time or beyond, the contest is over.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>• If the score is tied when the contest is suspended, then the contest ends in a tie.</u></li> <li><u>• If one team is ahead when the contest is suspended, then that team is the winner.</u></li> </ul> <p><u>12. In a situation where a team does not want to make up a postponed contest, the contest will be forfeited to the opponent.</u></p> <p><u>13. If any postponed or suspended soccer contest, that would affect the winning of a conference title, is to be played, it shall be rescheduled on the same field unless changed by mutual agreement by the two schools.</u></p>	
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	<p><u>14. This rule is effective upon mutual agreement of the competing schools or by conference adoption.</u></p> <p><u>Suspended Contest Rule</u></p> <p>If a contest is suspended due to bad weather, light failure, etc.:</p> <p><del>8. If the contest is suspended in the first half, even if one team is ahead, contest is to pick up from the point of interruption unless coaches agree to end.</del></p> <p><del>9. If the contest is suspended at half time or beyond, the contest is over.</del></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• If the score is tied when the contest is suspended, then the contest ends in a tie.</del></li> <li><del>• If one team is ahead when the contest is suspended, then that team is the winner.</del></li> </ul> <p><u>Mercy Rule</u></p> <p><u>If agreed upon by both teams prior to the game or by conference adoption,</u></p> <p><u>15. When a team leads by seven (7) goals at halftime or thereafter, the game shall be terminated.</u></p>	
<p>Page 38 Softball (Fast Pitch)</p>	<p>11. If the contest is to be completed it <del>will</del> <u>may</u> be continued <u>at another date/time by mutual agreement of the principals of both schools.</u> <u>The contest will be continued</u> from the point of suspension with the lineup and batting order of</p>	<p>Rules Clarification</p> <p>Mercy rule allows teams to maintain dignity of the athletes</p>

<p>Postponed and Suspended Contests</p>	<p>each team the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the contest.</p> <p>13. In a situation where a team does not want to make up a <u>postponed</u> contest-<del>at all</del>, the contest will be forfeited to the opponent.</p> <p><del>If any rained out softball contest, which would affect the winning of a conference title, is to be played, it shall be rescheduled on the same field.</del></p> <p>14. If any <u>rained-out postponed or suspended</u> softball contest, which would affect the winning of a conference title, is to be played, it shall be rescheduled on the same field. <del>The exception is that suspended contests do not have to be rescheduled on the same field</del> unless changed by mutual agreement by the two schools.</p> <p><del>12. In a situation where a team does not want to make up a contest at all, the contest will be forfeited to the opponent.</del></p> <p><u>Mercy Rule</u></p> <p><u>If agreed upon by both teams prior to the game or by conference adoption,</u></p> <p><u>16. In softball, the game is terminated if a team is ahead by fifteen (15) runs after three innings or ten (10) after five innings.</u></p>	
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<p>Page 39 Tennis Postponed and Suspended Contests</p>	<p><del>Make-up Games</del> <u>Postponed and Suspended Contests</u></p> <p>5. Postponed games will be made up in the order of postponement on the next possible date: <u>(excluding Sunday)</u>.</p>	<p>Rules Clarification</p>
<p>Page 40 Track and Field Postponed and Suspended Contests</p>	<p><del>Make-up Games</del> <u>Postponed and Suspended Contests</u></p> <p>5. Postponed games will be made up in the order of postponement on the next possible date: <u>(excluding Sunday)</u>.</p>	<p>Rules Clarification</p>
<p>Page 42 Volleyball Postponed and Suspended Contests</p>	<p><del>Make-up Games</del> <u>Postponed and Suspended Contests</u></p>	<p>Wording Clarification</p>
<p>Page 44 Wrestling Postponed and Suspended Contests</p>	<p><del>Make-up Games</del> <u>Postponed and Suspended Contests</u></p>	<p>Wording Clarification</p>