



Superintendent's Circular

NUMBER:
ATH-02
Version 01

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

This Circular will remain in effect unless rescinded or superseded by a subsequent version.

ASPEN/ ELIGIBILITY MANAGEMENT

ASPEN will be used to manage the students who are interested and ultimately participate in athletics each season. The students and sports they are participating in should be accurate in ASPEN at the start of each season. Key personnel (athletic coordinator, nurse, school admin) at the school level will have the ability to see the seasonal list of participating students and the current eligibility status. Athletic coordinators, athletic trainers, school nurses, and coaches should communicate regularly to ensure that ASPEN accurately reflects who is participating on each team. The ASPEN sign-up period will open 8 weeks prior to the start of the season. The sign-up period in ASPEN will close 14 days after the start of the season. Athletes who start within the 14-day window must have a minimum of 5 days of practice prior to being allowed to participate in a game competition. Using the labels provided, each student in ASPEN should be identified as follows:

Aspen Athletic Eligibility Status Definitions

- INTEREST: defined as "Student identifies interest" — completes sign-up in ASPEN

- **ACTIVE:** defined as *"Waiting on student"*; i.e., turn in ALL required documentation known as the BPS Athletic Participation Forms, copy of a valid 13-month physical exam to the athletic trainer (or school nurse if athletic trainer not available), and tryout status
- **ACTION REQUIRED:** defined as *"Call to action"*; School/Athletic Department submit MIAA waivers/forms where applicable
- **INELIGIBLE:** defined as *"Does not meet baseline eligibility requirements"*; i.e., valid 13-month physical exam on file as documented in ASPEN, does not meet academic enrollment, attendance, or GPA requirements
- **PENDING:** defined as *"Awaiting decision from a higher authority"*; i.e., MIAA waiver/approval, BPS Athletic Department, school principal/head of school or designee to review student academic eligibility
- **ELIGIBLE:** defined as *"Meets ALL eligibility requirements"* for participation and has MIAA approvals on record with the BPS Athletic Department
- **INACTIVE:** defined as a "no show," "not participating," or "did not make the team after tryouts."

RESPONSIBILITIES

Athletic Coordinator

Will serve as the athletics liaison and primary contact at the school for the Athletics Department and coaches to support athletics. The athletic coordinator will be responsible for student-athlete eligibility in collaboration with coaches, athletic trainers, school nurses, and school leadership.

Head Coach and Assistant Coaches

Must be knowledgeable of the MIAA eligibility rules and regulations. As interest lists and teams are being organized, coaches must communicate any eligibility concerns to their athletic coordinator so they are resolved prior to the start of the season and practice.

Athletic Department Staff

Will support schools through the eligibility/waiver process and serve as a liaison between the schools and the MIAA. Athletics Department staff will schedule meetings prior to the start of each season with athletic coordinators, athletic trainers, and school nurses (if necessary/indicated) and support staff to review student-athlete eligibility. Athletic department staff will maintain Aspen functionality and advise/teach athletic training staff necessary operations of the Aspen system for their needs

Athletic Trainers

Athletic trainers are responsible for the primary review of athletic physicals and determining the date(s) of valid pre-participation physical examination (PPE) and athlete eligibility based on having an up-to-date PPE on file. Athletic trainers will route all PPE obtained from student-athletes to the school nurse to place in the student-athletes file. Athletic trainers will provide coaches with a list of all athletes who have a valid, up-to-date PPE and are deemed eligible to play.

Head of School/Principal

Must be aware of and officially sign off on eligibility and rosters

for teams each season. When needed, school leaders must support and sign off on any MIAA or BPS eligibility waiver requests. New heads of school are required to attend an MIAA rules workshop.

SUMMARY OF HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

- 1.67 or higher GPA (schools may choose to have a higher GPA for athletic participation)
- Must pass four (4) core classes
- School attendance rate of 90% or higher (aligned with current BPS Attendance Policy)
- A physical examination completed within the last 13 months stating that the student-athlete is or is not cleared for athletics that does not expire before the end of the season, with sports clearance from the athletic trainer and/or school nurse
- Students who turn 19 before September 1 of the current academic year are ineligible unless an age waiver is granted by the MIAA.

SUMMARY OF MIDDLE-LEVEL ELIGIBILITY

- 2.0 or higher GPA (schools may choose to have a higher GPA for athletic participation)
- School attendance rate of 90% or higher (aligned with current BPS Attendance Policy)
- A physical examination completed within the last 13 months stating that the student-athlete is or is cleared for athletics that does not expire before the end of the season, with verification from the school nurse or athletic trainer and/or school nurse
- Students who turn 15 before September 1 of the current

academic year are ineligible to compete.

- Yearly signed parental consent forms (transferable season to season)

DETAILED OVERVIEW OF HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC/ MIAA ATHLETICS

Season	Start Date
Fall Sports	3rd Friday in August (Football Aug 18)
Winter Sports	1st Monday after Thanksgiving (November 27)
Spring Sports	Third Monday of March (March 18, 2024)

Participating student-athletes must meet the following criteria for eligibility each season.

1) Age (Rule #60)

- a) A student shall be under 19 years of age but may compete during the remainder of the school year, provided that their birthday occurs on or after September 1 of that year.

2) Transfer Students (Rule #57)

- a) A student who transfers from any school to an MIAA member HS is ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic contest at any level for a period

of one year in all sports in which that student participated at the varsity level or its equivalent during the one-year period immediately preceding the transfer.

- i) Note: MIAA Form 200 may be executed between the receiving and sending school principals of MIAA member schools only.
- ii) All Form 200s must be submitted to the Athletics Department and MIAA Office for their records.

b) Reason for Transfer

- i) Exemption to the transfer rule: When a student's school transfer is necessitated (i.e., required) by a change of residence of their parent(s) to the area served by the school to which they transfer.
- ii) This exception does not apply to a change in custody, guardianship, or to a student's change in residence from one parent to another, nor does it apply when the student could continue to attend the former school.

3) Date entered school (MIAA Rule #51)

- a) Student-athletes must be enrolled in the school at the start of the season to be eligible to participate in athletics.
- b) This can be appealed with an MIAA waiver.

4) Student Eligibility: Membership in School (MIAA Rule #55)

- a) A student shall have been a member of the MIAA member secondary school for a minimum of two months (exclusive of the Summer vacation).

5) Years of Eligibility

- a) When a student enters 9th grade, they are eligible for only four years.
- b) A student shall be eligible for interscholastic competition for no more than 12 consecutive athletic seasons after first entering grade 9.
- c) A waiver can be requested for an additional year of eligibility if there is an extenuating circumstance involved.

6) Grade Point Average (GPA) and Transcripts (MIAA Rule #58)

- a) BPS requires that all students must have a cumulative GPA of 1.67 (or higher) to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- b) During the last marking period preceding the contest (e.g., second-quarter marks and not semester grades determine third quarter eligibility), a passing grade in the equivalent of four major subjects
- c) To satisfy this requirement, a student must have passed sufficient courses for that marking period which carry Carnegie Units totaling the equivalent of four traditional 1-year major English courses.
- d) Full-Time Student: A student cannot at any time represent a school unless that student is taking courses that would provide Carnegie Units equivalent to four traditional 1-year major English courses.
- e) To be eligible for the Fall marking period, students are required to have passed for the previous academic year the equivalent of four traditional 1-year major English courses.

- i) Incomplete grades may not be counted toward eligibility until they are made up following school policy
- ii) A student who repeats work in which they have once received credit cannot count that subject a second time for eligibility.
- iii) A student cannot count for eligibility for any subject taken during the summer vacation unless that subject has been pursued and failed during the preceding academic year.

7) Boston Public Schools Athletic Programs Consent for Participation Forms:

- a) BPS Athletic Programs Consent for Participation Forms must be completed and on file prior to any student-athlete being allowed to participate or play for any BPS Athletic Team
- b) All BPS Athletic Programs Consent for Participation Forms will be sent to the parent/guardian of the student-athlete after completion of ASPEN registration. These forms will be distributed via DocuSign and will be distributed to ATC for review with the school athletic coordinator. These forms only need to be completed once per school year. The BPS Athletic Programs Consent for Participation Forms will consist of the following required forms:
 - i) Parent/Guardian Consent Form
 - ii) Acknowledgment of MIAA:
 - (1) MIAA Rule 57: Student Eligibility: Transfer

Students

(2) MIAA Rule 59: Student Eligibility: Time Allowed for participation post 9th grade enrollment

(3) MIAA Diversity Equity and Inclusion Pledge (new Nov 2022)

- iii) Commonwealth of Massachusetts - [Chapter 269 Section 17: Anti-Hazing Law](#)
- iv) Hold Harmless Agreement
- v) Concussion Awareness
- vi) Upload - current physical examination for review by ATC
- vii) Media Appearances
- viii) DPH Head Injury Form
- ix) MGB Athletic Training Services Agreement

8) Physical Exam (MIAA Rule #56)

- a) Participating students must have a valid physical or pre-participation examination (PPE) completed within the last 13 months.
- b) Physicals or PPE forms must have a statement that clears the student for athletic/sports
- c) Physicals or PPE must be completed and on file with BPS Athletics in Aspen prior to any student-athlete being allowed to practice or play for any BPS Athletic Team.
- d) Physicals or PPEs must be valid and on file for the

entire athletic seasons

- e) Physicals or PPEs must include the date of the examination, physician's signature (electronic or actual), and wording that states that the student-athlete is cleared for athletics or sports competition

9) Enrollment/ Attendance

- a) Attendance for the term prior to the season must be 90% or higher
- b) Students are ineligible to practice or compete if they are not in school for more than half of the school day.
- c) For a student to practice with or to represent a MIAA member school in an athletic competition, the student must be duly enrolled in that school (#51). Also, a student shall have been a member of the MIAA member secondary school for a minimum of two months (exclusive of the Summer vacation) and have been issued a report card preceding the contest unless entering from an elementary or junior high school at the start of the school year or transfers in from another school. (MIAA Rule #55.1)

10) MIAA Waiver Request Process

- a) All "Form 200s" must be sent to the MIAA office so that all transfers are on file.
- b) Student Waiver of Athletic Eligibility waivers must include the following:
 - i) A letter of support from the Principal/AD/School

Administrator addressing the four standards of rule 87.5.

- ii) Transcripts from every year since first entering Grade 9 (including current grades)
 - iii) Current school year attendance records
 - iv) Comprehensive athletic resume (now included in application)
 - v) League or District Advisory Vote
 - vi) Form 200 (if applicable)
- c) The third standard, which must be addressed during a waiver application, was changed to “address how this waiver will impact the home school student body.” The new language captures the overall impact the waiver will have on the home school student body.
- d) A new section was added to Rule 87 titled “Accountability.” This details the process in the event inaccurate or incomplete information is presented during the waiver process.

11) MIAA Appeals Process

- a) As of Fall 2021, there is only one level of appeal. The appeal hearing board will consist of members from both the MIAC and ERB. Their decision is final.
- b) The deadlines to submit waivers are as follows:
 - i) Fall - September 21, 2023
 - ii) Winter – December 14, 2023
 - iii) Spring – March 31, 2024

- c) Waivers can be submitted after this date, but there will be no appeal hearings granted.

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