

Policy Code: 3621/4505 Athletics

I. Purpose

Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of a comprehensive educational program. They promote the development of leadership, physical fitness, teamwork, self-discipline, goal setting, academic success, school spirit, and skills specific to particular sports. It is expected that the interscholastic athletic program will receive sufficient financial support from the Board of Education to meet these expectations.

Schools will structure their athletic programs to encourage and make it possible for all interested students to participate in interscholastic athletics.

II. Guidelines

The Superintendent will oversee the development of guidelines for the operation of district athletic programs. These guidelines will be published in a coaches' handbook that is reviewed annually. The athletic director at each school will provide a copy of the handbook to the head and assistant coaches of each team.

The coaches' handbook will include guidelines in the following areas:

- A code of conduct for coaches
- Team rules for student athletes
- Requirements for training and professional development
- Communication with players and parents
- Eligibility to participate in athletics
- University of North Carolina and NCAA eligibility information
- Practices and training programs
- Prevention of Weather-Related Illness and Injury Policy
- Management of Concussion and other First Aid issues
- Fundraising and financial guidelines
- Annual evaluation of coaches

A 2019 rule change by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) permits students to participate on the athletic team matching their gender identity if the student's request is approved by the NCHSAA Gender Identity Committee.

If a CHCCS student would like to put in a request to participate on a team different than their gender stated on their birth certificate, they need to see their school athletic director.

III. High School

A. Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, students must meet the following requirements set forth by the NCHSAA, CHCCS, local, and state promotion standards:

- Students must meet CHCCS promotion standards;
- Students on a "block" format must pass three out of four classes during the previous semester; students on a traditional schedule must pass a minimum of five classes during

the previous semester (NCHSAA);

- Effective at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year, students must have earned a weighted grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher from the previous semester (CHCCS)

Appeals of NCHSAA requirements/rules must be filed by the Athletic Director through the hardship rule of the NCHSAA.

A student may appeal the district grade point average (2.0) requirement to the superintendent who has the authority to waive the requirement. The superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Board of Education.

A 2019 rule change by the NCHSAA allows home school students who are dually enrolled in a CHCCS high school to participate in high school athletics. This rule also applies to CHCCS middle school students. Home school students who are dually enrolled in accordance with the school system's enrollment and assignment policies and procedures are eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics if they comply with all of the following.

- a. The student must present a home school card from the Division of NonPublic Education for the previous and current years, as well as a transcript, attendance record, and record immunizations.
- b. The student must submit proof that the student has been enrolled in a registered home school for 365 days prior to participation in athletics.
- c. Prior to the first date of practice, the student must provide the results of a nationally standardized achievement test, taken within the last year, that indicates the student was on grade level at the time the test was taken. This must be approved by a content specialist in CHCCS.
- d. The student must participate in 4 classes in a CHCCS school. At least one class must be taken on CHCCS campus each semester.
- e. The student must pass all classes in which the student is enrolled at the assigned school in order to maintain athletic eligibility.
- f. Once dually enrolled and deemed eligible to participate in athletics, the student must maintain continuous dual enrollment. Failure to maintain continuous dual enrollment would render the student ineligible for athletic participation for 365 days.
- g. The student must notify the principal of the assigned school in writing of the student's intent to try out for an athletic team at least 10 days prior to the first practice date of each sport season in which the student wishes to participate. Failure to comply with this requirement renders the student ineligible for that sport season.
- h. The student must comply with all other applicable NCHSAA or North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) rules and regulations regarding eligibility for athletic participation.

A dually enrolled student who transitions to full enrollment within the school

system will then be governed by NCHSAA and DPI rules and regulations regarding fully enrolled students.

B. Athletic Director Review of Progress

The athletic program will complement and support the academic program. Athletic Directors and coaches will give student athletes the clear message that membership on an athletic team should not detract from their performance in the classroom. The High School Athletic Directors will notify coaches of any students failing one or more courses or falling below a weighted 2.0 GPA. Coaches will regularly monitor the academic progress of student athletes and intervene to help students improve their academic standing. If a student athlete needs additional academic support, a Personal Education Plan (PEP) will be developed according to the school's prevention-intervention plan. School administrators, teachers, and coaches will provide support to the student, including strategies on the PEP to improve the student's academic performance.

The superintendent or designee shall develop regulations necessary to ensure student athletes receive needed intervention and appropriate credit.

IV. Middle School

Initial eligibility for seventh and eighth grade students will be determined at the beginning of each school year and based upon attendance and academic performance. The student must be in attendance at least eighty-five (85%) percent of the previous semester.

Seventh grade students must meet all state standards and maintain an overall "C" average, core and elective, for the previous nine weeks with no more than one failing mark to participate in athletics. If, during the fourth nine weeks in sixth grade, the student did not meet the above eligibility "C" average, (s)he will be placed on academic probationary status. Subsequent eligibility will be determined each nine weeks grading period following the same criteria.

An eighth grade student must have been promoted from the previous year's grade, meet all state standards and have maintained an overall "C" average in core and elective classes for the previous nine weeks with no more than one failing mark to participate in athletics. Summer school and other programs do not affect the calculation of the average of the previous nine weeks. Subsequent eligibility will be determined each nine weeks grading period following the same criteria.

Seventh and eighth grade students who do not meet eligibility requirements and have no more than one failing mark may appeal to the principal to be allowed to participate on a probationary status. This appeal must be accompanied by an individual intervention plan developed and signed by the Athletic Director, coach, the student, and the student's teachers and parents. This plan will include careful monitoring of progress by the Counselor, Athletic Director, and coach. If at the next progress report period or the midpoint of the nine-week grading period, the student appears to be making satisfactory progress, (s)he will be allowed to continue to participate until the next nine weeks grades are calculated. If the student is not making satisfactory progress at this point, (s)he will no longer be eligible to continue in any sport during the season.

If at the end of the nine weeks, the probationary student meets the eligibility grade requirements, (s)he will no longer be on probation. If at the end of the nine weeks the probationary student does not meet the grade requirements, (s)he will be considered ineligible until such time as the nine weeks grades meet the local eligibility requirement.

V. Student Confidentiality

As per district policy 4000 and the Family Educational Rights Protection Act (FERPA), completed athletic pre-participation physical exam forms will be maintained in a secure and confidential manner, and will be reviewed only by CHCCS-employed Athletic Directors, Athletic Trainers and, on occasion, the School Nurse. Information reported on health forms will be shared with coaching staff on a "need to

know” basis.

VI. Management of Concussion

The Board recognizes that concussions and other head injuries may be serious and potentially life threatening and such injuries may result in serious consequences later in life if managed improperly. Athletic Directors, Athletic Trainers, coaches and assistant coaches will comply with concussion safety requirements set forth in the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act of 2011.

All Athletic Directors, Athletic Trainers, coaches and assistant coaches will be provided annually information on concussion and head injury.

Information about concussion management will be included in the Athletics Emergency Action Plan. CHCCS will retain records of training and concussion incidents.

Any student who is exhibiting signs or symptoms consistent with a concussion will be removed from athletic activity immediately. The student will not be allowed to return to play or practice that day or on any subsequent day until evaluated and provided written clearance for participation.

VII. Weather Precautions

The safety of our student athletes should take precedence over all other considerations. The district has developed a separate policy, accompanied by regulations, pertaining to weather conditions that could impact the conducting of games and practices. When school is dismissed early or cancelled due to dangerous weather conditions, all athletic practices and games scheduled for that day will be cancelled automatically. Coaches are responsible for strict adherence to these guidelines.

VIII. Cost to Participate

No student athlete should be prevented from participating in interscholastic athletics due to financial limitations. The athletic program should make every effort to keep the cost of participation to a minimum amount. Provisions will be made for any student athlete who does not have the financial means to participate. Schools will make a concerted effort to publicize to parents the availability of financial aid.

IX. Coaches' Contracts and Evaluations

Coaches and assistant coaches should be offered contracts prior to the beginning of the season. Preference in filling coaching positions should be given to qualified, in-house faculty members. Contracts are issued to coaches on an annual basis by the Human Resources Department upon the recommendation of the principal with no commitment to renew the contract at the end of the season. The athletic director will evaluate annually each head coach, and each head coach will evaluate his or her assistant coaches. The Superintendent will develop and administer a schedule for compensating coaches and assistant coaches.

Legal References: [115C-12\(23\)](#); [115C-47\(4\)](#); [S.L. 2011-147](#); N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook (1996-97) Middle/Junior High School Athletic Manual (NCDPI), available at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/healthfulliving/athletics/>

Cross References: Attendance (policy 4400), Evaluation of Student Progress (policy 3400), Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Prevention of Weather-Related Illness or Injury (Policy 4270), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy 4120), Homeless Students (policy 4125), School Assignment (policy 4150), North Carolina Address Confidentiality Program (policy 4250/5075/7316), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Student and Parent

Grievance Procedure (policy 1740/4010), Student Progression and Placement (policy 3420);
CHCCS Coaches Handbook

Other Resources: Matthew Gfeller Sport-Related TBI Research Center at UNC website
http://tbicenter.unc.edu/MAG_Center/Home.html ; Report to the North Carolina General Assembly;
Study of Sports Injuries at Middle School and High School Levels, N.C. Department of Public
Instruction (2011).

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Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools
