

Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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Athletic Eligibility: A Basic Guide for Schools, Students and Parents

To All Student Athletes

- Your high school years will provide some of the most memorable and enjoyable moments you will ever experience. Competition in interschool athletics is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, which will influence you forever.
- Your participation in high school athletics is dependent on your Eligibility.
- Keep that Eligibility. Read the following summary of the IHSAA Eligibility rules which govern your participation.
- Review these summaries with your parents and ask your principal, athletic directors and coaches about them.

To All Parents of Student Athletes

- The value of participating in athletics has been well documented: participants earn better grades, have better school attendance and have a greater chance for success in later life, than non-participants in athletics.
- Students must meet certain Eligibility rules to maintain the privileges of participating in interschool athletics.
- Review the following summaries with your son or daughter. Your role in stressing and supporting the value of following these rules cannot be emphasized enough.

From the IHSAA

- Since 1903 the IHSAA has been the principal governing body for high school athletics in Indiana.
- Your school is a voluntary member of the IHSAA and has agreed to follow the IHSAA rules.
- Your school and the IHSAA believe in equal competition and the close relationship between academics and athletics.
- The following are only summaries of some of the IHSAA Eligibility rules affecting student athletes. A complete listing of the IHSAA Eligibility rules is found in the *IHSAA By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation* manual, which your principal and your athletic directors have a copy; an on-line version can also be found at www.ihcaa.org.

You may be fully ELIGIBLE for interscholastic competition, if:

1. **Age Eligibility (Rule 4).** You will not have turned 20 by the scheduled date of the state finals of IHSAA Tournament Series in your sport.
2. **Amateurism Eligibility (Rule 5).** You have not:
 - Played under an assumed name.
 - Accepted money or merchandise directly or indirectly for any athletic participation, in your sport.
 - Signed a professional contract in your sport.
3. **Awards and Gifts Eligibility (Rule 6).** You have not received, or been 'loaned':
 - An award in recognition of your athletic talents in your sport which was not approved by your school and the IHSAA.
 - Merchandise as an award, prize or gift, or been allowed to purchase for a token sum.
 - An award, medal, recognition, gift or honor from a college/university or its alumni.
4. **Conduct and Character Eligibility (Rule 8).** You have not:
 - Conducted yourself in or out of school in a way which reflects discredit upon your school or the IHSAA.
 - Created a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral and educational environment of your school.
5. **Consent and Release Certificate Eligibility (Rule 3).** You have on file with your principal, each school year, a Certificate (annual physical form) which was completed between April 1 and your first practice in your sport.
6. **Enrollment Eligibility (Rule 12).** You have:
 - Enrolled in a school during the first 15 days of the semester.
 - Been enrolled for no more than 4 consecutive years (or the equivalent, e.g. 8 semesters, 12 trimesters, etc.), beginning with grade 9.

- Represented a high school in your sport for no more than 4 years.
- 7. Illness and Injury Eligibility (Rule 9). You have been absent, due to illness or injury, from practice sessions:**
- On 5 or more, but less than 11 consecutive days (not including Sunday), but have since participated in at least 4 separate days of practice prior to your participation in an interscholastic contest in your sport.
 - On 11 or more consecutive days (not including Sunday), but have since participated in at least 6 separate days of practice prior to your participation in an interscholastic contest in your sport.
- 8. Participation (Rule 15).**
- a. During the Authorized Contest Season in your sport, you have not:**
- Participated in a try-out or demonstration in your sport as a prospective post-secondary school student-athlete.
 - Participated in a practice with or against players not belonging to your school in your sport.
 - Participated in a non-school sponsored contest, in your sport, without an approved waiver.
 - Attended a non-school sponsored camp in your sport.
 - Attended and participated in a student-clinic in your sport.
- b. During the School Year Out-of-Season in your sport, you have not:**
- Participated in a team sport contest as a member of a non-school team where there was more than the following number of students, who had participated the previous year in a contest as a member of the school team (also including incoming freshmen): Basketball-3 Baseball-5 Football-6 Volleyball-3 Softball-5 Soccer-7.
 - Received instruction in your sport, in a school sponsored program, from an individual who was a member of your school's coaching staff (Exception: see the Limited Contact Program of your school).
 - Participated in a non-school contest during school time without the approval of your school.
- c. During the Summer, you have not:**
- Attended a school-sponsored fall sports camp/clinic after Monday of Week 5 (See your AD for specific dates).
 - Attended a non-school sponsored camp/clinic after Monday of Week 7 (See your AD for specific dates).
- 9. Pre-participation Practice (Rules 50 & 101). You have completed the required number of separate days of organized practice in your sport under the direct supervision of your school's coaching staff prior to your participation in a contest.**
- 10. Scholarship Eligibility (Rule 18). You have:**
- Passed 70% of the full credit subjects, or the equivalent, that a student can take at your school, in the previous grading period (semester grades take precedence of grading period grades).
 - Been enrolled in 70% of the full credit subjects or the equivalent that a student can take at your school.
- 11. Transfer and Initial Promotion Eligibility (Rule 19). You have:**
- a. **Not** transferred from your prior school to your current school for Primarily Athletic Reasons, or,
- b. Enrolled at your current school for the first time as a 9th grader, or,
- c. Transferred from your prior school to your current school:
- And at the same time you and your parents made a bona fide move to a New District or Territory, or,
 - Because you became a ward of the court, or,
 - Because you became an orphan, or,
 - Because your prior school closed, or,
 - And your prior school was not a member of the local state athletic association or was not accredited by the local state accrediting agency, or,
 - Because of a school board mandate for redistricting which involved your prior school, or,
 - Because you enrolled or attended, in error, a wrong school, or,
 - And you transferred from a correctional school to your current school, or,
 - Because you are emancipated and you have now moved to a New District or Territory, or,
 - And you did not participate in a contest for another school or for a club team during the preceding 365 days, or,
 - And your prior school was not a member of the local state athletic association and you have moved back to reside with the same parent or guardian, or,
 - And the transfer is either to or from a Boarding School, or,
 - And you are a qualified Foreign Exchange Student under an approved CSIET program for one year, or,
 - And at the same time your parent or guardian just took a licensed or certified position at your current school, or,
- 12. Undue influence (Rule 20). Your enrollment at your new school:**
- Was **not** influenced by anyone seeking to secure you as a student at your new school for athletic purposes.
 - Did **not** involve a Past Link (see definition).