

Any Additional Offense will result in denial of participation in athletics for the remainder of the student's high school career.

NOTE: Students who in any way aid another student in violations involving possession/use of alcohol, controlled substances/mood-altering chemicals and tobacco will be disciplined as if they were the principal offender.

VOLUNTARY REFERRAL OPPORTUNITY

Voluntary referral must occur prior to any report of violations or selection for random urine drug testing. The student may use the option of voluntary referral once in their athletic or academic career at Olentangy Schools. Students have the opportunity for a voluntary referral procedure to seek information, guidance, counseling and/or assessment in regard to the use or possession of tobacco, alcohol and other controlled or non-controlled substances. Voluntary referrals may be made by the student or their immediate family. Voluntary referrals will not carry violation consequences on the first offense only.

Any subsequent violations will be enforced accordingly. If the student requesting the voluntary referral opportunity does not complete the assessment recommendations by the established time schedule, the violation consequence will be put into effect immediately.

For an alcohol and/or controlled substances/mood-altering chemicals referral, the student must have, within five (5) days, an appointment for an assessment with a chemical dependency counselor and notify the principal or designee of the appointment. The student must participate in the assessment process (the cost of any and all assessment will be the responsibility of the student and/or parents) and follow the counselor's recommendations to completion. If treatment or counseling is recommended it must be with an Ohio-certified chemical dependency counselor. The student must waive their rights of confidentiality so that verification of this assessment and a written report can be given to the principal or designee. The student will also attend an out-of-school education program approved by the school principal or designee. Confirmation of the attendance must be made to the school designee. It is the responsibility of the student and their parents to keep the school designee apprised of the student's progress throughout this entire process.

For a tobacco referral, the student must within five (5) days provide verification of enrollment in an out-of-school tobacco education/cessation program approved by the principal or designee. Parents must sign a release of information to the school designee so that the student's progress in the program can be followed and written verification of completion given to the designee. The student must complete the program or receive the original discipline.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

In order that local eligibility standards reflect a greater emphasis on classroom achievements and with participation in athletics viewed as a privilege, the following are the Olentangy School District policies for athletic eligibility for grades 7-12.

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GRADES 9-12

A student's eligibility will be determined according to their GPA (grade point average) for the immediately preceding nine week grading period. Semester and final exams are not to be calculated in

the nine-week GPA assessment because of the comprehensive nature of exams. A student's eligibility will be determined by examining each student's nine-week grade independent of prior grading periods. Students must maintain a quarterly GPA of at least 1.5 (based on a 4.0 scale).

In the grading period immediately preceding, a student must receive a passing grade in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent, which count toward graduation.

Incoming freshmen must be passing a minimum of four courses taken during the final grading period of their eighth-grade year to be eligible and have a GPA of 1.5 for the fourth quarter. A student may apply for a one-time GPA waiver to be used during his or her freshman year. The passage of four (4) one-credit courses must be met, per OHSAA regulations, in order to make application. Application to the athletic director may occur after the 4th quarter of the 8th grade through the 3rd quarter of the freshman year.

A grade of "incomplete" will be considered a failing grade until work is completed per O.H.S.A.A By-law 4-4-1, exception 3.

Summer School and other educational options may NOT be used to substitute for failure to meet the academic standards during the last grading period of the school year.

A student enrolled in credit flex courses must, at the conclusion of the high school's grading period, provide proof of "passing" their credit flex course in order for this course to be counted toward the five-one credit (or equivalent) courses used to establish athletic eligibility.

Students who are being home-schooled and who desire to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities must fulfill the requirements as established by the Olentangy School District related to eligibility, attendance, enrollment, and participation guidelines (please refer to policy 2431.03).

Year-long on-line courses may not be used to compensate for a lack of courses taken in the preceding grading period.

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GRADES 7-8

In order to participate in an interscholastic sport or to cheerlead, a student must be passing four courses and have a minimum 1.5 GPA in the preceding nine week grading period.

A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the seventh to eighth grade must have passed a minimum of four of classes during the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.

A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of the previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in a minimum of four of those subjects in which the student received grades.

Students who do not meet the minimum eligibility requirements at the end of a quarter will be ineligible to participate for the entire following quarter.

Individuals declared academically ineligible may not attend practices, games, or travel with the team during the period of ineligibility unless approved by the head coach and administration.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR GRADES 7-12

The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth (5th) school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective. Exception: Eligibility or ineligibility of athletes for the first grading period begins with the start of the fall sports season.

- The following conditions will be established for a student who is ineligible for a grading period:
- A student will be permitted to try out for any sport or activity in which the number of participants is restricted by team selection.
- With approval from the athletic director/coach and parent/guardian/custodian, a student can practice with a team or group.
- The student cannot participate in any athletic contest or scrimmage situations during the period of ineligibility, nor will activity fees be refunded.

A student who would become ineligible for two consecutive grading periods would lose all practice condition privileges and would be released from any athletic squad.

OTHER O.H.S.A.A. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

AGE LIMITATION – OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION RULE

When a high school student (grades 9-12) turns 20 years of age, they become ineligible for interscholastic athletics. There is an exception to this regulation, so please arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator to review this exception.

RESIDENCE AND TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS

If the parent's district of residence is a multiple high school public school district (like Olentangy Schools), the student shall be eligible only at the public high school which is located in the attendance zone within which the parents' residence is located. There are many complicated rules governing residence. Generally, an athlete's parents or legal guardian must live in the Olentangy School District for the student to be eligible. If you have a residency or transfer question, discuss it with the principal/athletic director. All school district and O.H.S.A.A. by-laws apply.

O.H.S.A.A. transfer bylaws (section 7) apply to permit a student to become eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics when moving from one school district to another, from a private school to a public school or vice versa, and from different high schools in the same district insofar as the transfer bylaw is concerned.

When moving from one school district to another, a bona fide legal change of residence form must be on file with the new district and the O.H.S.A.A. to participate in athletics. Please note, merely signing a lease for an apartment/house in the new district does not constitute a bona fide legal change of residence. The form required for legal change of residence may be obtained from the OLSD New Student Welcome Center (NSWC), school athletic offices, or on-line at www.ohsaa.org

When moving from a private to public school, an O.H.S.A.A. Exception Form Six must be on file with the new district and O.H.S.A.A. in order to participate in athletics. This form may be obtained from the NSWC, school athletic offices, or on-line at www.ohsaa.org.

When moving from different schools in the same district, an Intradistrict Transfer Request Application must be submitted by the district's required date of submission. Be advised that students approved for an intradistrict transfer may be denied participation in athletics for one calendar year.

In the event that a student's family moves from one attendance area to another within the Olentangy School District after the start of the school year, an Intradistrict Transfer Request Application must be submitted as soon as possible. Be advised that students approved for an intradistrict transfer may be denied participation in athletics for one calendar year.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION/CONCUSSIONS

If a concussion is suspected by a physical education teacher or coach, the student will be removed from the class, practice, or game. The student will not be permitted to return to full participation on the same day as the removal and not until they are evaluated by a healthcare professional experienced in concussion management and receive written clearance for full participation from that professional. Limited physical activity in the physical education context may eventually be permitted, depending on the recommendation of the healthcare professional. Regardless of any written medical clearance, the district administration, trainer(s), and/or coaching staff have the right to deny the athlete's return to play when in their discretion it is in the best interest of the student athlete. Parents or guardians shall be notified about the possible concussion and given information on concussions and the need for medical attention. Please refer to board policies 2431, 2431.01, and 5340 for more information.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In order to participate in a school day extracurricular/co-curricular activity, students must be in attendance four periods of the school day (or the half-day equivalent), not including lunch. A block scheduled class is equal to two regular class periods. Field trips, Alternate Learning Experiences, concurrent enrollment, medical/dental appointments, and special family situations may be excused by an administrator.

Absence from Practice

Excused:

- The athlete must provide, in writing, advance notice to the appropriate coach. At the middle school level, absences must be approved by the athletic director.
- Reasons considered unavoidable and excusable by the coaches. At the middle school level, the absences must be approved by the athletic director.
- A return to practice note is required for doctor/physical therapy appointments.
- A return to participate date is required from the doctor if practices and/or games are missed due to injury/illness per doctor's orders.

Consequence: Athlete may miss necessary mental and physical preparation for contest resulting in non-participation in a future contest(s).

Unexcused: All absences not falling into the excused category above. For example, athletes will not miss practice/games to participate with their club or travel team of any sport.