

**Policy on Participation of Non-Traditional Students in
Seaside School Athletic Programs**

Purpose: To ensure Seaside School prioritizes the needs of its enrolled students while adhering to FHSAA regulations for athletic participation.

Policy: Seaside School shall allow private, home school or public-school students the opportunity to participate in its athletic programs if the following conditions are met:

1. A private school student may only participate if his/her private school does NOT offer the sport in which he/she wishes to participate.
2. A home education student must reside in Walton County and be enrolled in the Home Education Program with the Walton county school district to participate in athletics for Seaside Schools.
3. A traditional public-school student may only participate if his/her public school does NOT offer the sport in which he/she wishes to participate, and the student resides in Walton County.
4. The student's parent or guardian requests in writing for the student to participate in the specific sport at Seaside School by the annually approved deadline for participation.
5. The student has not played that sport for any other scholastic team that academic year.
6. The student meets all student athletic eligibility criteria, including academic and behavioral requirements, as outlined by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) and The Seaside Way Student Performance Contract.
 - a. Home school students must complete and submit the following forms: EL2, EL3, GA4, EL7/EV7 and possibly EL14.
 - b. A private school student must complete and submit the following forms: EL 2, EL3, GA4 and EL12/EL12V.
 - c. A public-school student must complete the following forms: EL2, EL3, GA4 and EL16.
7. Student must complete registration with Seaside Schools as their second school.

Procedure:

Athletic Director Process for Handling Requests:

Note: The Athletic Director determines the cutoff date for all sports for private school student participation. This date is added to the school website athletic page for fall, winter and spring sports.

Step 1: Initial Request

- Direct all inquiries from all Non-Traditional students to the Athletic Director for guidance on the appropriate classification of the student-athlete and the path forward to determine eligibility.

Step 2: Capacity Check

- Confirm the Seaside School is operating above the 90% enrollment threshold under Controlled Open Enrollment (Home school students only).

Step 3: Eligibility Screening

- Review the academic and behavioral records of the student to ensure compliance with FHSAA and Seaside School standards.
- Ensure the student meets any additional team-specific eligibility requirements.

Step 4: Liability and Compliance Review

- Collaborate with the school's legal and insurance representatives to confirm coverage for non-enrolled students.
- Verify that allowing participation aligns with all FHSAA and state regulations.

Step 5: Administrative Decision

- Present findings to the school's administration for a final decision.
- Notify the family of the decision in writing, clearly stating the reason for approval or denial.

Step 6: Annual Review

- Reassess this policy and procedure annually to address evolving concerns and ensure compliance with legal and operational requirements.