

FIRST READING: 01/21/2025

ADOPTED: 02/03/2025

REVISED:

Eligibility for Interscholastic Athletics

Students who desire to participate on interscholastic athletic teams do so on a volunteer basis with the understanding that it is a privilege and not a right to be a member of a school team.

- I. **Eligibility:** Before participating on any interscholastic athletic team (including any school-sponsored club team) students must meet and satisfy the following eligibility requirements.

A. General:

1. All standards of eligibility for co- or extracurricular activities as set forth in:
 - i. any rules that may be school, athletic program or team specific;
 - ii. applicable administrative regulations or procedures ;
 - iii. applicable Board policies (e.g., JJA).

B. Registration Documentation:

1. Registration form with emergency contact and any special medical information,
2. Parental consent form, and
3. Student's original birth certificate:

For purposes of this policy, an "original birth certificate" is one issued at or near the time of the student's birth. If a copy is indicated as "modified", it must clearly show that any modification to sex relate only to correction of a scrivener or clerical error.

If the submitted birth certificate does not appear to be the original birth certificate, or it does not indicate the student's sex at birth, then the student/parent/guardian must provide other evidence indicating the student's sex at birth. Such evidence may include such things as: hospital records, photo or video materials, newspaper, social or publications produced near the time of birth; notarized statements from the parent or guardian regarding the student's biological sex at birth. The student or the student's parent or guardian must pay any costs associated with providing such alternative evidence.

C. Physical:

1. A completed "Physical Preparticipation Evaluation" signed by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant in collaboration with a physician. The district may require additional information from a healthcare provider before allowing a student to participate in athletics if the district is aware of an injury or illness that could be exacerbated by participation.

D. **Academic:** In addition to the academic requirements set forth the requirements of policy JJA, students must meet the following academic requirements below to participate in interscholastic athletics. Eligibility for each marking period is determined by grades received in the previous grading period. Semester and/or yearly grades have no effect on eligibility.

1. Students who lose their academic eligibility while participating in an athletic activity in which the season extends beyond the marking period will not be allowed to continue participating. Students participating in athletic activities who do not meet academic requirements will lose eligibility at the time that the report card is issued.
2. A special education student who is working toward an individualized goal must make standard progress toward that goal as determined by the student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP). A special education student who is working toward a standard goal must meet the same academic standards for participation in athletic activities.
3. The Superintendent or designee may develop additional procedures intended to monitor academic performance of student-athletes, with the object of early intervention.

II. **Gender Specific Teams for Middle School:** Each interscholastic team approved by the School Board for any of grades 5-8 shall be designated as a boys, girls or coed team. Teams designated for boys will not be open to girls, and teams designated for girls will not be open to boys. For the purposes of this section, a student's sex is determined by the birth certificate or other evidence as described in Section I.D.2, above. Coed teams are open to students of all sexes.

III. **Severability:** If any provision of this policy is held to be invalid for any reason, such action shall not invalidate the remainder of this policy. If any provision of this policy conflicts with any provisions in any other Board policies, the provisions of this policy shall prevail, except to the extent such provisions contravene any applicable state or federal law.

IV. **Records:** The Superintendent shall establish regulations and procedures to ensure:

- A. records supporting a student's eligibility consistent with this policy are collected and maintained (in original or summary form);
- B. necessary data related to ineligible students is collected and reported as required by law;
- C. cultural traditions of students are considered when establishing or enforcing rules related to participation in extracurricular activities; and
- D. other requirements of this policy are met.

Legal References:

NH Statutes
RSA 193:41
RSA 193:42

Cross References:

JJA
JJIB
JJJ