



**DADE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

*A GUIDE FOR PLAYERS, PARENTS, COACHES,
AND THE ATHLETIC COMMUNITY*

Athletic Opportunities Offered at Dade County High School

Fall Sports: Competition and Football Cheerleading, Cross Country, Football, & Softball

Winter Sports: Basketball Cheerleading, Basketball & Wrestling

Spring Sports: Baseball, Golf, Soccer, Tennis, & Track

DCHS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION POLICY

Student Athletes must have an up dated physical, current medical coverage, meet academic eligibility requirements, and be “In Good Standing” in order to participate in a DCHS/GHSA Sport or Activity (see below).

Physical Examination: Students must have a certificate of an **annual physical examination on file** at the school prior to participating in any athletic try-outs, practices or games that indicate the students are physically approved for participation.

(a) Physical examinations will be good for twelve (12) months from the date of the exam. EXCEPTION: Any physical examination taken on or after April 1 in the preceding year will be accepted for the entire next GHSA school year.

(b) The physical exam must be conducted by a licensed medical physician, doctor of Osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioner or a physician’s assistant. An M.D. or D.O. must evaluate the student’s health history form.

(c) The exam must be signed by an M.D. or D.O., but the doctor's stamp is acceptable if it is in script, and if information appears elsewhere on the form identifying him/her as a medical doctor.

Medical Coverage: All prospective student athletes must be covered by or purchase medical insurance coverage while trying out or participating in a GHSA Sanctioned Sport or Activity. School Insurance may be purchased in the event that a student is not covered under a current medical insurance policy. Examples of this are Cigna, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Medicaid, GA Peach Care, Etc..

”No Pass/No Participate” policy of the Georgia Board of Education states that each student who takes part in athletics or any other competitive school activity must qualify as follows: He/she must have passed 2.5 units during the previous term and is “on-track” according to GA High School Association Guidelines. (These requirements are not necessarily the same as promotion requirements for Dade Co. Schools.)

Academically Stressed Student Athlete If a student athlete becomes academically stressed (failing 3 or more classes) during an athletic season the Head Coach of that sport may suspend practice and playing time until the academic stress has been corrected and the student’s eligibility falls within normal guidelines. This is not grounds for removal as eligibility has already been established.

Athletes “In Good Standing” If a student quits a sport he/she may not participate in another sport until the end of the regular season of the sport he/she quit. If a student fails to fulfill all end of season requirements (return equipment, uniforms, etc.), that student may not begin participation in another sport until all requirements are met.

Code of Conduct

Dade County School System athletes are expected to demonstrate appropriate conduct as representatives of the school. They are expected to comply with school rules and procedures during athletic activities as well as during school.

Extra-curricular participants

Must be present the majority of the day in order to play in a GHSA sanctioned event (a game, match, etc). What constitutes a full day? A student must be present 51% of the academic day in order for full day requirements to be fulfilled. Example: A student is absent during first part of the day and checks in to school for fourth period. Can this student play in a sporting event that day? Yes

Are there any exceptions to this rule? Yes – A student may be exempt from this rule if they provide a doctor's note, legal excuse, death in the family, or any circumstance deemed an excusable emergency by a Dade County School administrator.

Participation Guidelines Chart

<u>Absent from school</u>	<u>Student may Practice</u>	<u>Student may play in GHSA Event</u>
1. 4 or more periods	YES (with an excuse absent)	NO: exception if status is met (see above)
2. Less than three periods	YES	YES
3. ISS three or less periods	YES	YES
4. ISS four or more periods	NO	NO
5. OSS	NO	NO

Athletic Director: Bradley Warren Email: bradleywarren@dadecs.org Phone: 678-409-1366

Fall Sports and Coaches Phone: 706-657-7517

Cheerleading - Josh Hurst & Becky Goff

Cross Country - Buddy Durham & Anna Thomas

Football (Varsity) - Bradley Warren

Softball – TBA

Winter Sports and Coaches

Basketball (Ladies – Junior Varsity) Carrie Morris

Basketball (Ladies - Varsity) Randy Watson

Basketball (Men – Junior Varsity) Alan Morris

Basketball (Men – Varsity) Jared Hawkins

Wrestling – Brandon Blakeman

Spring Sports and Coaches

Baseball - Brent Cooper

Golf (Ladies & Men) Bradley Warren & Randy Watson

Soccer (Men) - Matt Jelley

Soccer (Ladies) - Aaron Stanton

Tennis (Ladies and Men) - Alan Morris

Track (Ladies and Men) - Jamey McMahan

NCAA Eligibility Requirements

Ask your high school guidance counselor for the current NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete. Eligibility Requirements for NCAA Divisions I, II, and III will be provided by your counselor.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS for DCHS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

The GHSA and its member schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GHSA sanctioned events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship here at DCHS.

1. KEEP ATHLETICS IN PERSPECTIVE

- Emphasize the right priorities: Family, Academics, and Athletics
- Place value in participation and giving your best effort, not the winning or losing of a contest. (*We play for Championships here at DCHS, and we want to win, but making sure a player gives his best effort is our primary focus.*)
- Remember you as a parent at DCHS represent the school, the staff, and alumni. Be involved, be vocal, but do your best to be positive. At the end of the day, it's still just a game, and a high school game at that.
- Do not publicly demean participants in an athletic contest (*Players, officials, coaches, other parents or spectators, etc.*)

2. SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT-ATHLETE

- Talk to your child about how things are going with his/her sport
- Come to as many of your child's games as possible
- Stress the importance of a healthy lifestyle free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol
- Do not support "quitting" as the best way to solve problems, but rather perseverance, and how to deal with adversity

3. SUPPORT THE PROGRAM

- Be supportive of the coaching staff and respect their professional judgment, they are here to help your child grow as an athlete and as a person. (*We're not always right, we will make mistakes, but we are doing OUR BEST to make decisions with THE TEAM'S best interest in mind*)
- Follow the communication procedure with coaches as outlined in this packet
- Understand the time commitment and needs of the particular sports as many of them involve significant commitments of time and resources
- Be willing to help in fundraising efforts, or work events that will benefit the athletes within the DCHS Program.

Communication with Coaches

The entire coaching staff is encouraged to keep the lines of communication open with our athletes and their families. We will always do our best to supply you with all of the essential information that you will need to manage your time and commitment to the DCHS Program successfully. Many times, parents will have questions and feel the need to meet with their child's coach. Our coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what is best for the entire team, taking into account every member of the team. The coaches work extremely hard. They coach because they love working with kids and realize the positive benefit of participation in athletics. The following are some guidelines and policies to help facilitate the most productive and efficient relationship with the coaching staff.

Parents are encouraged to discuss:

- Their child's progress and ways to help their student improve
- Concerns regarding their child's behavior
- The philosophy of the coach
- The expectations of coaches and role for their child on the team
- Team rules and policies
- Disciplinary action incurred by their child
- The college recruiting process
- Ways in which they can help the team (team parent, concessions, etc.)

Parents are NOT encouraged to discuss:

- Placement on teams
- Playing time
- Coaching strategies used during practice or contests
- Other student-athletes

Communication Procedure

If a problem should arise please make every effort to follow the steps below for a productive resolution:

1. Student-athlete contacts the coach to discuss the issue
2. If a resolution is not reached, the student-athlete should contact an athletic director to discuss the issue
3. If a resolution is not reached, the parent should contact the coach and arrange for a meeting
4. In the rare instance that there is still no resolution, the parent should contact an athletic director and arrange for a meeting.

Problem Resolution

Communication with coaches is most productive when an appointment can be made to talk about the issue. **Parents should never try to talk to a coach before or after a contest on a game day.** This is the most emotional time for all parties involved and is not the time for a meeting about specific issues with your student-athlete. Please respect the coaches and their need to be focused on the task at hand.

Thank you for taking the time to read through our preseason parent's packet. We hope it was informative and also lets you know what we as coaches expect from the players. Parents are always the backbone of any high school athletic program, and we appreciate any and all support you provide.

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

1.10 - CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

1.11 **Students gain eligibility** to practice or compete for the school in which they are enrolled after they have been certified by the principal of that school, after the eligibility forms have been processed by the GHSA office, and after the students have met the standards of:

- (a) academic requirements
- (b) age
- (c) semesters in high school
- (d) residence in the school's service area
- (e) transfer rules

Note: Students establishing eligibility as entering 9th graders are automatically eligible for the first semester.

1.12 The **certification of eligibility** shall be submitted initially in each sport or activity no later than twenty (20) days before the date set by the GHSA for the first contest in that sport or activity.

- (a) This due date does not consider the date of the first contest scheduled.
- (b) EXCEPTION: Literary, One-Act Play and Riflery certification is due twenty (20) days prior to the first scheduled contest.

1.13 If a student ruled ineligible by the GHSA, competes interscholastically due to the terms of a **court restraining order or injunction** against his/her school and/or the GHSA, and then has the court order vacated, stayed, reversed, or ruled unjustified; the Executive Director shall take one or more of the following actions against the school involved in the interest of restitution and fairness to the competing school(s):

- (a) Require that individual and/or team records and performances achieved during participation by the ineligible student be vacated or stricken.
- (b) Require that team victories be forfeited to the opponent(s).
- (c) Require that team awards earned by the school or individual awards earned by the ineligible student be returned to the GHSA.

1.20 - ENROLLMENT AND TEAM MEMBERSHIP

1.21 **To be eligible to participate and/or try-out** for a sport or activity, a student must be enrolled full time in grades 9-12 inclusive at the school seeking eligibility for that student.

(a) Enrollment is defined as follows:

- (1) Fall Semester: when the student participates in a practice or contest before classes begin, or the student attends classes.
- (2) Spring Semester: when the student attends classes.
- (3) A student may be enrolled in only one (1) high school at a time.

(b) The student must be in regular attendance.

(c) The student must be taking courses that total at least 2.5 Carnegie Units that count toward graduation.

NOTE: If an eligible student transfers from a school that uses a block-schedule format to a school using a traditional format (or vice versa) and that student cannot get a full schedule of classes with equivalent credit, the school may petition the Executive Director for a waiver of this rule for the semester the transfer occurs.

(d) All or part of the course load of a student may be taken online through a virtual school as long as the student's grades are being kept at the school in which the student is enrolled. Grades from virtual school courses must be on file at the school by the first day of the new semester in order for the student to be eligible.

1.22 Students enrolled in **grade 9 in a middle or junior high school** which is a feeder school to the high school may participate in interscholastic activities for the parent school.

1.30 – AGE

To be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities, a student must not have reached his 19th birthday prior to May 1st, preceding his year of participation.

1.40 - LIMITS OF PARTICIPATION

1.41 Students must have a certificate of an **annual physical examination on file** at the school prior to participating in any athletic try-outs, practices or games that indicate the students are physically approved for participation.

(a) Physical examinations will be good for twelve (12) months from the date of the exam. EXCEPTION: Any physical examination taken on or after April 1 in the preceding year will be accepted for the entire next GHSA school year.

(b) The physical exam must be conducted by a licensed medical physician, doctor of Osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant. An M.D. or D.O. must evaluate the student's health history form.

(c) The exam must be signed by an M.D. or D.O., but the doctor's stamp is acceptable if it is in script, and if information appears elsewhere on the form identifying him/her as a medical doctor.

(d) The GHSA requires that member schools use the latest edition of the preparticipation physical evaluation form approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics, et. al., found on the GHSA web site.

1.42 A student has **eight (8) consecutive semesters** or four (4) consecutive years of eligibility from the date of entry into the ninth grade to be eligible for interscholastic competition.

(a) A student is not considered to have entered the 9th grade when a 9th grade course is taken if:

(1) the student is regularly enrolled in a member's feeder school in a grade below the ninth, AND

(2) the course is taken as an advanced course, AND

(3) the principal of the school attended by the student certifies to the GHSA that the subject and course(s) meet the criteria set forth above.

(b) Credits earned toward high school graduation which are taken below the ninth grade may be used when considering high school eligibility.

1.43 **Sub-varsity competitors** must meet all eligibility requirements with the exception of the migratory rule.

1.44 Students in grade 9 and higher may participate on **both the varsity and sub-varsity teams** in the same sport with the following limitations:

(a) Football – a player may not participate in interscholastic competition more than six (6) quarters per week. The week starts with the varsity game. Violations of this participation rule will result in a mandatory fine and an automatic forfeiture of the game in which the student exceeded the limit. Additional penalties may be imposed by the Executive Director in extreme circumstances.

(b) Basketball – a player may not participate in interscholastic competition more than five (5) quarters per calendar day.

(c) Soccer – a player may not participate in interscholastic competition more than three (3) halves per calendar day.

(d) All other sports - the combination of games, play days, or weigh-ins (varsity and sub-varsity) in which the student participates may not be greater than the limit allotted to the varsity in that sport.

1.45 **Eighth grade students** may participate on a sub-varsity team of a high school provided they attend a feeder school of that high school.

(a) Students in grade 8 are never eligible for a varsity event in any activity.

(b) Eighth grade students who play on a high school team must meet all middle school requirements as put forth by the State Department of Education.

(c) An eighth grade student who is declared ineligible at a middle school or retained for academic reasons, is considered to be ineligible for participation on a sub-varsity high school team.

(d) Eighth grade students participating on a sub-varsity team may only participate in 60% of the number of games allotted to the varsity team in that sport.

(e) Students below the eighth grade are not eligible to participate on any high school team.

- (f) Students enrolled in grade 8 in a middle school or junior high school which is a feeder school to the member high school may participate in Spring football practice. These students must be pre-enrolled at that member high school, and once pre-enrolled, the student has established eligibility at that high school.
- (g) Students enrolled in grade 8 in a middle school or junior high school which is a feeder school to the member high school may try out for cheerleader at the high school. Eighth grade students at a non-feeder school that has no system high school may participate in cheerleader tryouts at the member high school serving the student's area of residence. Such a student must be pre-enrolled at that member high school, and once pre-enrolled, the student has established eligibility at that high school.

1.46 The number of contests, starting and ending dates, and the number of practice days allowed for each sport or activity can be found listed in a calendar at the front of this publication.

1.47 **Girls** may participate **on boys' teams** when there is no girls' team offered in that sport by the school. Boys are not allowed to play on girls' teams even when there is no corresponding boys' sport. NOTE: Cheerleading is a co-ed sport.

1.48 **Advisory Notice - Pregnant Students:** In response to the increasing number of pregnant students attending member schools, and the continued participation of these students in GHSA activities, the following advisory notice is being offered:

- (a) During the first 18 weeks of pregnancy, students, with written consent from a physician, may be allowed to participate in athletic activities except those activities in which a fall or other rapid deceleration is likely to occur.
- (b) Pregnant students should not be allowed to participate in any athletic activities after the 18th week of pregnancy.

1.49 Schools having students participate in athletic activities with **artificial limbs** must certify that the artificial limb is no more dangerous to participants than a natural limb.

- (a) A permission form must be filed with the GHSA office.
- (b) The form may be found in the miscellaneous section on the GHSA web site.

1.50 - SCHOLASTIC STANDING / SCHOLARSHIP

1.51 To be eligible to participate, practice, and/or try out in interscholastic activities, a student must be academically eligible. A student is required to pass classes that carry at least 2.5 Carnegie Units counting toward graduation the semester immediately preceding participation.

Exception 1: First semester ninth grade students.

Exception 2: A cheerleader who is academically ineligible for the spring semester may try out if she is passing ALL classes at the time of the tryout. The window of opportunity to try out under these conditions is available only during the ten (10) days set aside for tryouts that the school chooses.

- (a) Passing in all GHSA member schools is a grade of seventy (70).
- (b) Students participating in junior varsity or "B" team competition must meet all scholastic requirements.
- (c) If an eligible student transfers from a school that uses a block-schedule format to a school using a traditional format (or vice versa) and that student cannot get a full schedule of classes with equivalent credit in the semester of the transfer, the school may petition the Executive Director for a waiver of this rule for the first semester after the transfer occurs.
- (d) For schools offering courses with yearlong grading, eligibility must be computed for each semester.
- (1) At the end of the first semester, the school must determine that the student has a grade of 70% or higher in classes carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie Units.
 - (2) The second semester grade will be the grade given for the entire course and shall include the end-of-course test grade.
 - (3) Remediation programs designed to bring the student's first semester grade up to 70% or higher may be used (in accordance with GHSA guidelines) if the school allows such programs for all students.

1.52 Students gain or lose eligibility on the first day of the subsequent semester. The first day of the Fall semester shall be interpreted as the first date of practice for the first sport.

- (a) Exception: Students who successfully complete summer school to maintain eligibility become eligible the last day of summer school.

- (1) Summer school is an extension of the previous semester and courses may be:
 - a. remedial in nature where a previously-taken course is repeated in its entirety with a new grade being given.
 - b. enrichment in nature where a new course is taken that results in new credit being earned.

(2) A maximum of two (2) Carnegie unit credits earned in summer school may be counted for eligibility purposes.

NOTE: Additional credits may be earned in credit recovery programs or make-up programs.

(3) Summer school credits earned in non-accredited home study programs or non-accredited private schools may not be used to gain eligibility. Accreditation recognized under the rule shall be from the Georgia Accrediting Commission (GAC) or a regional accreditation agency (such as SACS) or the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council (GAPSAC).

(4) An independent study course taken in summer school must be regionally accredited and accepted by the school system for graduation credit.

(b) Courses completed after the beginning of a new semester may not be used to gain eligibility for that semester. Example: night school classes, correspondence courses, etc.

(c) Independent study courses taken during the school year must meet the criteria of 1.52 (a) 4.

1.53 Students must **accumulate Carnegie units towards** graduation according to the following criteria:

(a) **First-year students** (entering 9th grade) are eligible academically. Second semester **first-year students** must have **passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** the previous semester in order to participate.

(b) **Second-year students** must have **accumulated five (5) total Carnegie units** in the first year, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.

(c) **Third-year students** must have **accumulated eleven (11) Carnegie units** in the first and second years, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.

(d) **Fourth-year students** must have **accumulated sixteen (16) Carnegie units** in the first three years, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.

(e) Students may accumulate the required Carnegie units for participation during the school year and eligibility will be reinstated at the beginning of the next semester.

(f) For the 2011-12 school year, fourth-year students must have accumulated seventeen (17) Carnegie units.

C. HYBRID SCHEDULING:

1. Definition: A student takes a combination of courses scheduled as block courses, yearlong courses and/ or traditional courses.

2. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled in a combination of courses that carry at least 2.5 Carnegie units.

3. To be eligible, a student must have passed a combination of courses the previous semester that carries at least 2.5 Carnegie units.

1.54 A Dual Enrollment program is defined as a program in which a fulltime student at a GHSA member high school takes one or more courses from a state public or private postsecondary institution and receives credit at the high school (toward graduation) and at the postsecondary institution.

(a) Dual enrolled students shall take courses that are approved by the Georgia Department of Education.

(b) Courses may be taken in a variety of formats (including distance learning and virtual courses) as long as the courses are approved.

(c) Postsecondary semester hour credit shall be converted to high school unit credit as follows:

(1) 1-2 semester hours equates to .5 unit

(2) 3-5 semester hours equates to 1 unit

(d) Postsecondary quarter hour credit shall be converted to high school unit credit as follows:

(1) 1-3 quarter hours equates to .5 unit

(2) 4-8 quarter hours equates to 1 unit

1.55 Students involved in approved Dual Enrollment programs shall be eligible to participate in GHSA activities provided that academic eligibility is maintained.

(a) Courses taken each semester at the high school and/or postsecondary institution must total at least 2.5 units.

- (b) Courses passed the previous semester at the high school and/or postsecondary institution must total at least 2.5 units
- (c) Students will gain or lose eligibility on the first day of each semester at the high school and a college calendar that differs from the high school calendar may cause problems.
- (d) Students who withdraw or are dropped from a Dual Enrollment program and are returned to the high school only, may encounter eligibility problems.
- (e) Students involved in Joint Enrollment programs, Early College programs, or Gateway to College programs are not eligible at their respective high schools.
- (f) A student who participates on an intercollegiate athletic team may not participate in any GHSA activity.

1.56 Loss of Eligibility: Students assigned to an **alternative school** or on **out-of-school suspension** for **disciplinary reasons, or adjudicated to YDC**, lose their eligibility. Suspension is considered to have ended when the student is physically readmitted to the classroom.

1.57 Failure to Meet Academic Standards: When a school administrator believes that the student has failed to meet the academic eligibility requirements due to conditions that were beyond the control of the school, the student, and/or his parents, and such that none of them could have been expected reasonably to comply with the rule, he may request that the student's case be put on the agenda of the **Hardship Committee**.

- (a) Ignorance of the rule(s) on the part of any individual is not sufficient cause to set aside the rule(s).
- (b) Schools must supply all the materials requested on the Hardship Application Form on the GHSA web site.

1.58 Credit Recovery/Make-up Work: Students who have academic deficiencies at the end of a semester may make up those deficiencies in programs that are available to any student in the school.

- (a) Credit recovery programs are short-term programs that involve a course that has been completed and a grade given. The student is given the opportunity to work on areas of deficiency.
- (b) Make-up programs occur when a course has not been completed and an "Incomplete" grade has been given. The student is given the opportunity to work on areas of deficiency.
- (c) Credit recovery and make-up work must be completed within fourteen (14) school days after the start of the next semester. The student is ineligible until such time as the work is completed and the required passing grade has been recorded. Exception: If the end-of-course test is not offered within 14 days of the beginning of the next semester, the student may be granted a reasonable extension by the GHSA.
- (d) The GHSA Executive Director shall be authorized to approve credit recovery or make-up work completed later than fourteen days after the start of the next semester if he finds that the:
 - (1) timeframe was not met due to circumstances outside the control of the student, his parent(s), and the school, AND
 - (2) work was completed as soon as reasonably possible, AND
 - (3) allowance for such a delay is offered on the same basis to all students in the school.
- (e) Credit recovery programs operated during the summer or in intersessions shall be completed within fourteen days of the beginning of the new semester. Students using those credits to gain eligibility are ineligible until the course is completed successfully. Credit recovery is used for remedial work only, and no new credit courses may be applied under this provision.
- (f) Students using credit recovery or make-up programs must have their eligibility submitted to the GHSA office on a "Form C."

1.59 Students with disabilities:

- (a) A student with disabilities who is enrolled in a special education program which is not physically located at the parent school (example: psycho-education center, regional occupation center, community-based instruction class, etc.) shall be eligible to participate, practice, and/or try out in interscholastic activities at the parent school if IEP (Individual Education Program) requirements are met.
- (b) Schools with students having to meet only IEP requirements for course credit must establish an accounting process for the number of courses passed each semester, and for the awarding of Carnegie units. Requirements for the date of entry into the ninth grade and for age apply to students with IEPs without variation.
- (c) Competitive interscholastic activities administered through local **special education programs** shall follow Georgia Department of Education guidelines and procedures for special education, and are exempt from GHSA requirements.

1.60 - SCHOOL SERVICE AREAS / TRANSFER / MIGRANT STUDENTS / MIGRATORY WAIVER

1.61 School **service areas** for member public schools are those attendance boundaries established by local boards of education from which a school normally draws its students. The school service area for a member private school is the county in which the private school is located. The school service area for a startup or converted charter school will be the same as the school from which the charter school draws its students.

1.62 A **transfer student** who has established eligibility at a former school in grades 9-12 shall be **immediately eligible** at the new school if:

(a) The student moved simultaneously with the entire parental unit or persons he/she resided with at the former school, and the student and parent(s) or persons residing with the student live in the service area of the new school. This is known as a **“bona fide move.”**

(1) The student may choose the public or private school serving that area.

(2) It must be apparent that the parent(s) or the persons residing with the student and the student have relinquished the residence in the former service area and have occupied a residence in the new service area.

(3) Relinquishment of the former residence may be met by one of the following procedures: selling the residence; having the residence listed with a real estate agent for sale at a fair market value; having a contract with a buyer; having a lease agreement at a fair market value; or abandoning the house and shutting off unnecessary utilities. When a family claims multiple residences, the residence for which they apply for a homestead exemption will be declared the primary residence.

(4) The bona fide move is validated when the student's family maintains the new residence for at least one calendar year. A return to the previous residence within that year renders the student to be a migrant student. All hardship appeal processes are available.

(b) The student was enrolled in a **private school or a magnet school** and has a bona fide move from one public school service area to another public school service area. A student in this situation may attend either the public school or a private school serving his area of residence.

(c) The student was enrolled in a **non-member private school in Georgia or was boarded at a school out of state** and, without a bona fide move, transferred to a GHSA-member school that serves his area of residence as long as:

(1) The student was enrolled at the high school serving his/her area of residence in grades 9-12 before attending the non-member school, OR

(2) The student has not yet established eligibility at grades 9-12 at a member school serving his area of residence, OR

(3) the student has previously established his attendance at a school other than the school serving his area of residence, and chooses to return to that school, AND

(4) it is the initial move of the student from a non-member school to a member school serving his area of residence.

(d) The student transfers from a non-member home school and the receiving school grants credit so that the student has accumulated sufficient Carnegie units. At the time such credit is given, the student must also have passed a minimum of five (5) courses the previous semester. The student becomes eligible when credit is awarded officially.

(e) The student is involved in a **foreign exchange program** that is approved and published on the “Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs” published by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). This list is found on the GHSA web site.

(1) The student shall be considered eligible for a maximum period of one calendar year.

(2) The student shall not be a graduate of a secondary school in his home country.

(3) The student must maintain eligibility requirements at the member school.

(4) The foreign exchange program must assign students to schools by a method that insures that no student, school, or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic purposes.

(f) If one of his/her parents or the custodial parent is a certified teacher or administrator teaching at the receiving school. This opportunity is available one time only at any given school.

(g) The student has one of the following family-related situations that produces a **waiver of the bona fide move rule**:

(1) There is a Superior Court or Juvenile Court awarded **change of permanent custody** and the student moves to the residence of the parent receiving custody.

- (a) The student must attend the member school serving that area of residence.
 - (b) A copy of the court order must accompany the eligibility forms.
 - (c) NOTE: Temporary guardianship papers issued by a Probate Court are not valid for eligibility.
 - (2) There is a Superior Court or Juvenile Court final order awarding permanent **joint custody** to the parents and the student moves to a residence of his or her parent outside the service area of the previous school.
 - (a) This waiver may be made one time during a calendar year.
 - (b) A copy of the court order must accompany the eligibility forms.
 - (3) There is a **death of a custodial parent** and the student moves to live with the other natural parent in a new school service area.

NOTE: A copy of the death certificate shall be submitted with the eligibility papers.
 - (4) There is a military transfer of one or both custodial parents that creates a change of residence that is not a bona fide move. NOTE: A copy of the deployment order shall be submitted with the eligibility form.
 - (h) Students who are U.S. citizens **returning from a foreign country** shall be eligible as long as they meet all other requirements of eligibility.
 - (i) Students who are transferred from one school attendance area to another school attendance area by a **mandate of the local board of education** maintain their eligibility.
 - (j) **Married students** setting up a household (domicile) shall be eligible in the school of their residence provided they meet all other requirements of eligibility.
 - (k) Students at the Atlanta School for the Deaf will be eligible at the school serving their area of residence provided they meet all other eligibility requirements.
 - (l) The migratory rule (See 1.63) will be waived **one time** for **students entering the following boarding schools**:
 - Ben Franklin Academy Rabun Gap School Tallulah Falls School
 - Georgia Military College Riverside Military Academy
- Exception: Students from foreign countries not on an approved foreign exchange program are not eligible.
- (m) Students entering a school as an “unaccompanied youth” under the conditions of the McKinney-Vento Act must go through the hardship appeal process to become eligible.

1.63 A “**migrant student**” is a student who transfers into a GHSA school without a bona fide move or without one of the exceptions listed in by-law 1.62. The student may practice or compete at the sub-varsity level, but may not compete at the varsity level for one calendar year from the date of his entry into the new school.

1.64 A student who is not eligible because of GHSA rules at the former school, and then transfers to a new school, cannot regain eligibility by the transfer. Ineligible students cannot gain eligibility by being adjudicated to YDC and subsequently returning to their resident school with earned credit.

1.65 Students whose transfers from member school to member school have been approved by the GHSA office after the end of regular season play or during post-season play are not eligible for participation in GHSA sponsored tournaments and/or playoffs in that particular sport for the school year of transfer.

1.66 A student who is not eligible at one school because of **suspension or expulsion** and then transfers to a member school cannot regain eligibility by such a transfer, for the length of the suspension or one calendar year, whichever is less.

1.67 A **permissive transfer** is defined as an allowance by a local board of education for students and/or their parents to choose a school to attend without regard to the location of residence.

- (a) A student transferring from member school to member school on a permissive transfer is considered a migrant student.
- (b) A student transferring to or from a school housing a system-wide, singular academic or vocation program or a magnet program on a permissive transfer is considered a migrant student.
 - (1) The offering of an individual course or series of courses by one school in a system does not provide inherent justification to grant GHSA eligibility.
 - (2) Special options offered by a school system that allow students to attend a school outside their area of residence do not provide inherent justification to grant GHSA eligibility.
 - (3) Any such permissive transfer issue may be brought before the GHSA Hardship Committee.

- (c) Students transferring under the provisions of “No Child Left Behind” and the failure to make “Adequate Yearly Progress” must be processed through the normal Hardship Appeal procedures. Such students must demonstrate that they have been materially affected by the issue(s) that caused the former school to be placed on the “Need to Improve” list.
- (d) When a military base is located in two school districts, a student moving onto the base for the first time may choose to attend either school district, and that district will place the student appropriately. Any transfer after the initial move will be subject to standard eligibility regulations.

1.68 **Hardship Applications** may be filed to attempt to establish eligibility in the following situations:

- (a) A student who changes schools because of a **temporary custody transfer** from a parent to a guardian, or from one guardian to another (See Article IV, Section 5, in the GHSA Constitution).
- (b) A student whose transfer is based upon his being **emancipated**, homeless, a child from a broken home, a **ward of the DFACS**, or a **ward of a Court** (See Article IV, Section 5, in the GHSA Constitution).

1.69 When a new school opens, student eligibility shall be determined as follows:

- (a) When a school district mandates an attendance area for a new school for all grades enrolled at the new school, all students living within the mandated attendance area in those grades are immediately eligible. All students living outside the mandated attendance area who desire to attend the new school are considered migrant students and are ineligible for one year. Hardship appeals may be filed if conditions warrant.
- (b) When a school district mandates some students to attend the new school, allows some students to stay at their present school, and permits some students to transfer to the new school, the school shall set a deadline for students living in the attendance area of the new school to decide whether they will move to the new school, or stay at the present school. The decisions exercised at the deadline date are binding. Subsequent changes render the student to be a migrant student with the one-year period of ineligibility. Students who are granted permissive transfers to enroll at the new school from other schools within the system are considered to be migrant students. Hardship appeals may be filed if conditions warrant.

1.70 - RECRUITING/UNDUE INFLUENCE

1.71 **Recruiting and Undue Influence** is **defined** as the use of influence by any person connected directly or indirectly with a GHSA school to induce a student of any age **to transfer** from one school to another, or **to enter** the ninth grade at a member school for athletic or literary competition purposes, whether or not the school presently attended by the student is a member of the GHSA.

- (a) The use of undue influence to secure OR retain a student for competitive purposes is prohibited, and shall lead to penalties being assessed against **either school**. NOTE: This violation may cause the student to forfeit eligibility for one year from the date of enrollment.
- (b) Evidence of undue influence includes, but is not limited to, personal contact by coaches and sponsors in an attempt to persuade transfer, gifts of money, jobs, supplies, clothing, free transportation, admission to contests, invitation to attend practices and/or games, or free tuition.
- (c) Complaints or reports of violations of this rule will be investigated and handled on a case-by-case basis. If **coaches** are found to be in violation of the recruiting rule, a copy of the investigation will be forwarded to the Professional Standards Commission of the Department of Education.

1.72 A student athlete transferring from one member school to another shall be ruled ineligible for one year because of “undue influence” if it is proven that:

- (a) the coach of the receiving school coached an out-of-school team on which the athlete played prior to the transfer; OR
- (b) the coach at the receiving school acted as a private athletic instructor for the transferring athlete, regardless of whether the coach was paid for his services and/or expertise
- (c) Articles (a) and (b) shall be enforced even in the event the student made a bona fide move into the receiving school's service area.

1.80 - FINANCIAL AID

1.81 Any student who receives financial aid or non-GHSA approved gifts from any source and in any form (scholarships, tuition remission, cash, gifts, etc.) arising out of or **received in connection with their participation** in any sport or literary event shall be ruled ineligible. This prohibition shall not apply to awards under By-Law #1.90 or to other items approved by the GHSA.

(a) The GHSA Executive Director will determine whether the financial aid or gift arose out of or in connection with participation in any sport or literary event.

(b) If a school allows a student who has received such financial aid or gifts to participate in competition, the Executive Director shall assess an appropriate penalty.

1.82 Financial aid in the form of free or reduced tuition or other aid must be **need-based aid** as determined by a national student aid service or financial aid based on institutional policies for academic performance (classroom record and/or test scores) that is administered by persons not in the athletic department.

1.83 Member schools who award financial aid shall issue a statement to the Executive Director signed by the principal or headmaster of the school giving the following information:

(a) number of students enrolled in the school

(b) number of students receiving financial aid

(c) names of students (or a listing of student identification numbers) receiving financial aid who are involved in GHSA activities

(d) certification that the percentage of students who participate in activities and who receive financial aid is the same percentage as the number of students receiving financial aid who do not participate in activities (plus or minus 5%)

1.90 - AMATEUR STATUS/AWARDS

1.91 A student who represents a school in interscholastic athletic competition shall be an **amateur** in that activity.

(a) An **amateur athlete** is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived therefrom.

(b) Accepting nominal, standard fees or salary for instructing, supervising, or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground or camp activity, shall not jeopardize an athlete's amateur status.

(c) Reasonable compensation derived from private lessons in a sport is permissible.

1.92 An athlete **forfeits amateur status** in a sport by:

(a) competing for money or other monetary compensations except for reasonable allowances for travel, meals, and lodging. NOTE: Accepting expense allowances authorized by the United States Olympic Committee for Olympic Development Programs is acceptable for GHSA students.

(b) receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the GHSA.

(c) capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts with monetary value except college scholarships.

(d) signing a professional playing contract in any sport, or hiring an agent to manage his/her athletic career.

1.93 Only **awards** approved by the GHSA may be accepted by a high school student-athlete as a result of participation in school or non-school competition in a sport recognized by the GHSA.

1.94 **Symbolic awards** (i.e. non-cash) presented for winning or placing in GHSA competitions are limited to \$250 per year, per student in the aggregate, paid by the local school. These are the only GHSA-approved awards for interscholastic competition. Beyond this, a student may receive one (1) school sweater or jacket presented by the school during his high school career.

1.95 Athletes competing in golf or tennis events are limited to awards as specified in the United States Golf Association Rules of Golf, and the United States Tennis Association Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, which includes (but not limited to) the following:

- (a) No cash awards may be accepted.
- (b) Merchandise awards in tennis may be accepted up to a retail value of \$250.00.
- (c) Merchandise awards in golf may be accepted up to a retail value of \$750.00.

INTERPRETATIONS, 1.00 SECTION

BY-LAW 1.10 - CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

SITUATION: A student athlete and his parents move from the service area of School A to School B, and meet all eligibility requirements. When may he participate in interscholastic activities at School B?

INTERPRETATION: The student is eligible as soon as he is enrolled at School B and certified as being eligible by the GHSA. Academic eligibility must be certified before the student may try out or practice.

BY-LAW 1.20 - ENROLLMENT AND TEAM MEMBERSHIP

8TH GRADE PARTICIPATION

SITUATION: May eighth-grade students participate on sub-varsity teams at a member school?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. Eighth-grade students in a feeder school for a member school may participate on any sub-varsity team, but never on a varsity team.

SITUATION: An eighth-grade student desires to try out in the Spring for the cheerleading team at a member school. Is this legal if the school the student is attending is a feeder school for the member school?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. Also, an eighth grade student in a private school that does not offer classes at the ninth grade level and above may try out for cheerleading at the public or private school serving that student's area of residence. Such a tryout must be preceded by a pre-enrollment at that GHSA school. The tryout establishes the student's eligibility at that school. NOTE: This procedure also applies to participation in spring football practice.

TRYOUT REQUIREMENTS

SITUATION: A tenth-grade student who is on a cheerleading team at a member school anticipates moving to another part of the state over the Summer. May the student try out for the new school before the move is made?

INTERPRETATION: No. A student may not practice or try out at a member school until that student is properly enrolled at the new school. A student may be enrolled in only one school at a time.

BY-LAW 1.30 - AGE

SITUATION: A student becomes 19 years of age on April 30, prior to his fourth year in high school. May the student participate in the fourth year?

INTERPRETATION: No. May 1 is the cut-off date.

BY-LAW 1.40 - LIMITS OF PARTICIPATION

EIGHT SEMESTER RULE

SITUATION: A student entered a member school eight (8) semesters ago. He was injured and missed one half of the first semester of his senior year (7th semester). During the first six semesters, he has accumulated seventeen (17) units, and in the 8th semester he passed five courses and gained an additional 2.5 units. Is he eligible to participate the following Fall in his 9th semester?

INTERPRETATION: No. There are no provisions to allow for a student to participate beyond eight (8) semesters. His case could be presented to the GHSA Executive Committee for request to waive the eight semester rule (By-Law #1.42) by Hardship application.

NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

SITUATION: A student is a member of a high school soccer team and a club soccer team whose seasons run concurrently. Is this permissible?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. There is no state regulation prohibiting "dual participation" on the part of a student. The high school coach may not be involved in the non-school program, however. A local school may impose a rule prohibiting dual participation.

GIRLS ON BOYS TEAMS

SITUATION: A girl wants to be on the high school wrestling team made up of boys. If she meets eligibility requirements, may she do so?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. Girls may participate on boys teams when there is no girls team in that sport at that school.

SITUATION: A female student desires to try out for the boys' baseball team. May she do this?

INTERPRETATION: Yes, she is allowed to try out since there is no girls' baseball team.

SITUATION: A male student desires to play on a girls volleyball team. Is this legal?

INTERPRETATION: No. The Federal Title IX legislation and the Georgia Equity in Sports Act both specify that the traditionally represented gender in athletics (males) may not play on teams designed for the traditionally under-represented gender (females).

SUB-VARSITY AND VARSITY PARTICIPATION

SITUATION: A junior varsity basketball player participates in a JV game on Tuesday afternoon. May he also participate in the varsity game that night?

INTERPRETATION: Yes, but the student may not participate in more than five (5) quarters that day.

SITUATION: A junior varsity football player plays in a JV game on Thursday. May he also play in the varsity game on Friday?

INTERPRETATION: Yes, but the student may not participate in more than six (6) quarters in a calendar week.

The week begins with the day of the varsity game.

QUESTION: In sports other than football, basketball, and soccer, what are the restrictions on students participating on both sub-varsity and varsity teams?

ANSWER: The total number of regular-season games and tournaments a student participates in on a sub varsity team and the varsity team may not exceed the number of games and tournaments allotted to the varsity team in that sport. **Example:** A sport allows 18 varsity games plus two tournaments. A student could legally play in 10 JV games, 8 varsity games, 1 JV tournament, and 1 varsity tournament.

SITUATION: At an invitational cheerleading tournament, a AAAAA school enters its varsity team in the competition for its classification, and enters its JV team in the competition for varsity teams of smaller schools? Is this legal?

RULING: No. Varsity teams must compete against varsity teams and non-varsity against non-varsity teams in all GHSA activities. The eligibility conditions are different in the two levels of competition, and it is possible to manipulate the limits on competition by allowing this to occur. New schools and schools just beginning a sport may petition the Executive Director for a waiver of this rule.

BY-LAW 1.50 - SCHOLASTIC STANDING/SCHOLARSHIP DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS

SITUATION: During the first semester of his senior year, a student is enrolled for three traditional courses (subjects) leading toward graduation at a member school, and one course for 5 hours of credit at a local college that will be accepted by his home school for graduation credit. If the student passes all the courses for which he is enrolled and has accumulated the proper number of Carnegie units, is he eligible to participate in golf during the second semester?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. If the student is enrolled in a dual enrollment program, the student must be enrolled for at least 2.5 Carnegie units and must pass courses giving at least 2.5 Carnegie units.

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL OPTIONS

SITUATION: A senior is enrolled at a member school, but is attending a vocational-technical school for five hours each day, and is receiving credit for those courses at the member school. Is he eligible to participate in athletics at the home school?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. A student enrolled at a member school and attending a vocational-technical school taking courses carrying a minimum of 2.5 Carnegie Units may participate if the member school accepts the credit earned toward graduation at the vocational-technical school.

ADVANCE PLACEMENT

SITUATION: May a student take a college or junior college class and receive credit for this work which may be counted toward scholastic eligibility?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. Such a class may be counted toward academic eligibility, provided that the student's high school accepts the credit and counts it toward graduation. The student still must pass a minimum of 2.5 Carnegie units at the end of the semester.

ELIGIBILITY ENDS

SITUATION: A student who is eligible at the beginning of basketball season only passes four (4) traditional classes (carrying 2 Carnegie units) in the first semester which ends on December 17th. Is this student eligible to play in a basketball tournament December 20-23?

INTERPRETATION: The student loses eligibility on the first day of the second semester. If the tournament is played before the start of the new semester, he is eligible to play by GHSA standards.

ELIGIBILITY BEGINS

SITUATION: A student who is academically ineligible for the second semester passes all courses that semester and has accumulated the proper number of units. May this student participate in practices that occur before the beginning of classes in the Fall?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. The student becomes eligible on the first day of the fall semester. The beginning of the first semester is interpreted as the first day of the first sport, or the first day of classes – whichever comes first.

SITUATION: A student passes four (4) courses the last semester of the eighth grade. Is this student eligible the first semester of the ninth-grade year?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. Every student entering the ninth grade for the first time begins with a “clean slate.”

SUMMER SCHOOL RULES

SITUATION: A student needs a science course for graduation purposes that is not taught during Summer School.

The student and principal agree on an independent study course monitored by a coach. May this course be used for eligibility purposes?

INTERPRETATION: Yes, as long as the course is regionally accredited and accepted by the school district for graduation credit.

SITUATION: How many units may a student earn in Summer School for the purpose of gaining academic eligibility for the Fall?

INTERPRETATION: A maximum of two (2) Carnegie units of credit earned in Summer School may be counted for eligibility purposes.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL RULES

SITUATION: The principal of a member school assigned a student to attend an alternative school for the next six (6) weeks for disciplinary reasons. May the student participate on the football team during the six weeks he will be attending the alternative school?

INTERPRETATION: No. Students assigned to an alternative school for reasons of misconduct or who are in out-of-school suspension may not participate until they have returned physically to the regular classroom. The school may appeal to the Executive Director if a school holiday prevents the student from physically returning to the classroom at the end of the penalty.

OUT-OF-STATE RULES

SITUATION: A student transfers to a member school from another state where scholastic eligibility rules are less restrictive than Georgia. The student is academically eligible by the standards of the state from which he transfers, but lacks sufficient credits to be eligible by GHSA standards. As a transfer student, is he eligible academically?

INTERPRETATION: No.

ANNUAL GRADING

SITUATION: Since GHSA eligibility rules are written to apply to schools with semester grading, do schools that have yearlong classes with one grade given at the end of the year have to monitor eligibility for the first half of the year?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. Schools must determine that each student-athlete has a grade of 70% or higher in courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units at the end of the first semester. Any student not meeting that standard is academically ineligible.

MULTI-UNIT COURSES

SITUATION: A student is enrolled for four (4) regular courses (carrying .5 Carnegie units each), and one vocational course that carries the equivalent of two (2) Carnegie units. If the student fails the vocational course, is the student eligible the next semester?

INTERPRETATION: No. Since the vocational course carries the equivalent of two (2) Carnegie units and since the student passed courses totaling only 2 Carnegie units, he would not be eligible for the next semester.

MAKE-UP WORK

SITUATION: A student taking five (5) subjects that carry .5 Carnegie units each receives an "Incomplete" in one of those courses. When the student returns to class on the first day of the next semester, is he eligible to practice or play?

INTERPRETATION: No. If the school allows make-up work for all students and the student makes up the "Incomplete" to a passing grade within fourteen (14) days of the beginning of the new semester, the student could become eligible. The student is not eligible while the work is being made up.

TRYOUT ELIGIBILITY

SITUATION: Cheerleader tryouts for the following year are to be held in the Spring (second semester). A student who earned only two (2) Carnegie units during the first semester would like to try out. Is this permissible?

INTERPRETATION: If the student is passing ALL courses at the time of the tryout, the student may participate.

ACCUMULATING UNITS

SITUATION: A 9th grade student passed courses totaling two Carnegie units in the first semester and is ineligible for second semester. The student passed five courses in the second semester, giving him an accumulation of 4.5 Carnegie units for the year. Is the student eligible at the beginning of the second year?

INTERPRETATION: No. The student must have accumulated at least five (5) Carnegie units during the first year in order to be eligible in the second year.

SITUATION: At the beginning of the 11th-grade year (third year of eligibility), a student has only accumulated 8 Carnegie units and is declared ineligible for the first semester. If the student passes all six (6) courses, and accumulates 3 units during the first semester, is the student eligible at the beginning of the second semester?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. Since the student has accumulated 11 Carnegie units at the beginning of the second semester of the third year of eligibility, he is eligible. A student may gain the units during the school year, and becomes eligible the first day of the next semester.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

SITUATION: A student is enrolled for three (3) Advanced Placement courses and two regular classes in the first semester, and all courses carry .5 Carnegie units. If the student fails one of the AP courses, is he eligible to participate second semester?

INTERPRETATION: No. There are no allowances made for course difficulty in the rule requiring the accumulation of 2.5 Carnegie units the previous semester.

BLOCK-FOUR PROGRAMS

SITUATION: A member school has adopted the Block-Four Program in which students take four (4) courses each semester and receive 1 Carnegie unit for each course passed. How many units does a student have to accumulate each semester in order to be eligible?

INTERPRETATION: The students will have to accumulate at least 2.5 Carnegie units each semester in order to be eligible.

SITUATION: A school is on the Block-Four Program and, additionally, requires a student to take a Physical Education course that earns .5 Carnegie units. A student passes two (2) courses in the Block-Four setup plus the PE class. Is the student eligible?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. The two block courses provide a total of 2 units and the P.E. course provides a total of .5 units. This meets the GHSA requirement of at least 2.5 Carnegie units.

SITUATION: A student in a Block-Four setting only passes one class in the Spring Semester. The student passes three (3) classes carrying .5 Carnegie units each in Summer School. Is the student eligible for Fall participation?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. The one block course provides 1 Carnegie unit and the three summer school courses provide 1.5 units, meeting the GHSA requirement of at least 2.5 Carnegie units.

BLOCK-EIGHT PROGRAMS

SITUATION: A member school has adopted the Block-Eight Program in which students take eight courses over the semester and each one passed accumulates one-half Carnegie unit. How many courses do students at this school have to pass in order to be eligible for interscholastic activities?

INTERPRETATION: The students will have to earn at least 2.5 Carnegie units each semester to be eligible. The unit requirements remain the same as with any system of courses.

HYBRID SCHEDULING

SITUATION: A student is taking two yearlong courses, two Block 4 courses and one traditional course during the semester. If the student failed one of the Block 4 courses, is he academically eligible for the next semester?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. The two yearlong courses and the one traditional course carry 1.5 Carnegie Units, and the Block 4 course he passed carried one (1) unit. This gives the student the 2.5 units he needs to be eligible.

BY-LAW 1.60 - SCHOOL SERVICE AREAS/TRANSFER STUDENTS/MIGRANT STUDENTS/MIGRATORY RULE WAIVERS

SCHOOL SERVICE AREAS

QUESTION: What is a public school's service area?

ANSWER: A school service area is the geographic boundary established by local boards of education that determine the public school a student must attend. NOTE: The service area is also referred to in this book as the "attendance area" and "area of residence."

QUESTION: What is the service area designation for private schools?

ANSWER: The service area for a private school is the county in which the campus is physically located. This restriction only affects students who transfer into the school after beginning their high school careers at other schools.

SITUATION: A 10th grade student moves to a county that has four school service areas (A, B, C, and D), and a city school system (service area E). The student and his parents reside in the service area of School "A," but the student decides to enter School "E." Is the student eligible in the new school?

INTERPRETATION: No. When a student and his parents move to a new service area, the student established eligibility at the school that serves his area of residence. When the student and his parents "elected" to attend a school outside his area of residence, the student became a migrant student.

FIRST-TIME ENROLLMENT

SITUATION: A county has a school for students living in the county, and a separate school for students living in the city. The local boards of education allow students to choose whichever school they wish to attend (with or without tuition payments). A student and his parents live in the city, and the student is enrolled for the first time in ninth grade at the county school. Will he be able to participate in interscholastic activities?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. On a first-time entrance into the ninth grade, a student may enroll in the school of his choice if the local board of education gives approval. Once that choice is made, any other transfers must be accompanied by a corresponding move by the student and his parents. If the student transferred back to the school that serves his area of residence, the student would be ineligible for varsity competition for one year.

BONA FIDE MOVE DEFINED

QUESTION: What is meant by the term "bona fide move?"

ANSWER: A "bona fide move" is defined as the actual physical relocation of all immediate family members residing in the previous residence, with the intent to reside indefinitely, and to relinquish the previous residence.

THE TRANSFER RULE

SITUATION: A student attends School "A" while living in that school's attendance area. He and his parents move into the service area of public School "B," and the student enrolls in School "B." Is the student eligible to participate in interscholastic activities?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. This is a classic example of a bona fide move.

SITUATION: A student and his parents reside in the service area for a county school. The student enters the ninth grade at a non-member private school. At the end of the ninth-grade year, the student wishes to transfer from the non-member school to the high school that serves his area of residence. Will the student be eligible at the member school?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. A student may transfer from a non-member school to a member school serving his area of residence one time in his high school career as long as all other eligibility criteria are met.

SITUATION: A student begins ninth grade at the school that serves his area of residence. With one month to go in the school year, the student transfers to a non-member private school. At the beginning of the tenth-grade year, the student enrolls at a member school that does not serve his area of residence. Is this student immediately eligible at the new school?

INTERPRETATION: No. The student is now a migrant student because he transferred to a school without living in that service area. If the student had transferred back to the member school at which he began the ninth-grade, he would have been eligible.

SITUATION: A student who attended ninth and tenth grade in a non-member home school enrolls at the public school that serves his area of residence. That school specifies that students from home schools must be tested in order for the course work to be accepted. May this student participate in athletics before the testing is done?

INTERPRETATION: No, because eligibility cannot be determined until the course work is accepted.

CHOICE OF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE MEMBER SCHOOLS

SITUATION: A tenth-grade student and his parents reside in the service area of School "A" and attends that school. The parents and the student have a bona fide move into the service area of public School "B" and private School "C." Does the student have a choice about which school he may attend and remain eligible?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. When a student (attending any member school) moves into a new service area, he may choose to attend the public school that serves his new area of residence, or a private school that has been assigned his new area of residence.

SITUATION: A tenth-grade student at member private School "C" resides in the service area of public School "A," and then moves into the service area of public School "B," which is still in the service area of School "C." Does the student have a choice in attending public School "B" or selecting a new private school that includes the service area of School "B" in its service area?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. When a student (attending any member school) moves into a new service area, he may choose to attend the public school that serves his new area of residence, or any private school that has been assigned his new area of residence.

SITUATION: A twelfth-grade student has been at a member school since entering the ninth-grade. When his parents move into the service area of another school, the student wants to stay at his original school. May he remain at the school and retain his eligibility?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. Once a student has established eligibility at a school, he retains eligibility at that school as long as he is allowed by the local board of education to attend that school, and as long as he meets academic requirements.

SITUATION: A school system grants a permissive transfer for a student to leave the school that serves his area of residence to go to a school that offers a course he cannot get at his home school. Is this a mandated transfer, and is the student eligible at the new school?

RULING: This is a permissive transfer and does not carry GHSA eligibility. The receiving school would have to file for a hardship in order for this student to have any chance of being eligible immediately.

SITUATION: A student begins ninth grade at a magnet school, and (a) does not make grades high enough to stay in the magnet program and returns to his home school, or (b) decides to return to a regular study program at the school that serves his area of residence. Is the student eligible?

RULING: In both cases, the student is not eligible. Decisions to enter into or exit from a magnet school involve personal choices and/or permissive transfers, and do not carry GHSA eligibility. The inability of the student to meet the achievement standard was under the control of the student.

SITUATION: A school district opens a new school and (a) mandates a service area for students going to the new school, or (b) gives students options about where they may attend. How does this affect eligibility for athletes?

RULING: In (a), students mandated to attend the new school are immediately eligible. In (b), the system should set up a deadline date for students to make their choices. Students may either stay or move to the mandated school and have eligibility if the deadline is met. Any decisions made after the deadline renders the student to be a migrant student.

MIGRANT STUDENT RULE

SITUATION: A student enrolls in School "A," is certified eligible, and participates in athletic contests. Then it is discovered that the student's parents do not live in the service area of School "A." After the school forfeits all contests it won when the student played, what is the status of this student's eligibility if:

- (a) the student remains in School "A," and the parents do not move into the service area of School "A?"
- (b) The student remains in School "A," and the parents move into the service area of School "A?"
- (c) the student transfers to the school that serves his area of residence?

INTERPRETATION:

- (a) The student is ineligible for a period of one (1) year from the date of entry to School "A."
- (b) The student becomes eligible on the date the parents move into the service area of School "A."
- (c) The student is ineligible for one (1) year from the date of entry to the school of his service area.

SITUATION: A student who has been living with his mother in another state moves in with his grandparents and enters a member school. The grandparents go to a Probate Court and get a Letter of Temporary Guardianship. Will this student be eligible for interscholastic activities?

INTERPRETATION: No. This student is considered a migrant student. The student may practice and may play in sub-varsity contests if academic requirements are met, but he will be ineligible for varsity competition for one calendar year. Guardianship is not recognized for eligibility purposes.

SITUATION: A school system has a policy that the children of teachers may attend the school where the parent teaches regardless of where the family lives. The high school hired a teacher, who has a tenth-grade student, and the family lives outside the service area of that school. If the student attends the school where the parent teaches, will he be immediately eligible?

INTERPRETATION: Yes, as long as the parent is a certified teacher or administrator at the receiving school.

SITUATION: A ninth-grade student transfers from one member school to another member school without a bona fide move. May he participate on the JV basketball team if he has met all academic requirements?

INTERPRETATION: Yes. The student is a migrant student and migrant students may practice and may play on a sub-varsity team during the year that he is ineligible for varsity competition.

SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED STUDENT

SITUATION: A student is expelled from a member private school for behavioral problems. The student and his parents move to a different service area and the student enrolls in a member public school. Is the student eligible to participate in interscholastic activities?

INTERPRETATION: No. The student will not be eligible until the time frame of the suspension at the first school is complete or one calendar year – whichever is shorter.

UNFINISHED HOME

SITUATION: A family has purchased a new home in a school district other than the one where the student has been attending school. However, the new home will not be available for occupancy until six weeks after the start of the semester. In the meantime, the new local board of education allows the student to begin attendance in anticipation of the family move when the home is available. When will the student be eligible at the new school?

INTERPRETATION: The student will be eligible immediately upon the date the parents physically occupy the residence in the new district.

SITUATION: A family has purchased a new home in a school district other than the one where the student has been attending school. However, the new home will not be available for occupancy until six weeks after the start of the semester. The parents desire the student to begin and complete the semester at the original school, before transferring to the new school. How will this affect the student's eligibility?

INTERPRETATION: The GHSA By-Laws permit students to complete the current semester in a given district if their parents move from that district after school has commenced. Therefore, the student in this case may remain in his original district for the remainder of the semester and be eligible in respect to residence. If the student continues to attend school in that district in the succeeding semesters, he will continue eligibility. If he begins the next semester and then decides to transfer to the school in his area of residence, he would be ineligible for varsity competition for one (1) year.

RECRUITING/UNDUE INFLUENCE

QUESTION: What factors are involved in the determination of "undue influence?"

ANSWER: In addition to the specific statement of the By-Laws, "undue influence" shall be determined by considering the following issues as factors:

- (a) personal contact by a coach, teacher or administrator
- (b) offer or award of any part of the student's tuition, books, and/or fees based on athletic performance or potential
- (c) other privileges or considerations not accorded to other students similarly situated
- (d) a coach at the receiving school coached the transferring student on a non-school team
- (e) a coach at the receiving school gave the transferring student private athletic instructions

AMATEUR STATUS AND AWARDS

SITUATION: A team wins the state championship and school and community people put on a banquet honoring this accomplishment. The athletes and their parents are provided the meal at no expense, and the following awards are given:

- (a) a gift certificate for a dinner at a local restaurant to be used by the individual player at his convenience
- (b) a jacket, sweater, and/or shoes in school colors with lettering that proclaims the state championship
- (c) a plaque commemorating the accomplishment

Is this legal?

INTERPRETATION: The free meal at the banquet is not a violation, nor is the plaque that was given. All other items must fit under the \$250 per student, per year allowance. NOTE: A school may provide one jacket to each athlete who letters in the student's high school career.

SITUATION: A school wins the state championship and desires for the players to have a commemorative award. May the school buy rings for the players?

INTERPRETATION: Yes, symbolic awards (i.e., non-cash) presented for winning or placing in GHSA competitions are limited to \$250.00 per year, per student in the aggregate, paid for by the local school.

SITUATION: A student who wins a non-GHSA tennis tournament is offered (a) a cash prize of \$100.00, or (b) a merchandise certificate worth \$250.00 in tennis equipment and/or apparel. How will these awards affect the student's amateur status?

RULING: The GHSA follows the rules of the United States Tennis Association. USTA rules forbid the acceptance of money but do allow the acceptance of merchandise not to exceed \$250.00.

SITUATION: A student wins her flight in a non-GHSA golf tournament and is offered (a) a cash prize of \$150.00, or (b) a set of irons valued at \$600.00. How will these awards affect the student's amateur status?

RULING: The GHSA follows the rules of the United States Golf Association. USGA rules forbid the acceptance of money, but do allow the acceptance of merchandise not to exceed \$750.00.

GHSA PRACTICE GUIDELINES

2.69 **Legal practice dates** are established for each activity (see the calendar at the beginning of this publication), and schools shall not conduct or allow an **illegal practice**.

(a) The **beginning of each school year** is designated as the first date of practice for the earliest GHSA sport.

(b) **Illegal practices** are defined as practices involving three or more students participating in any extracurricular activity in the presence of, or under the direct or indirect supervision of any coach of the school (including a community coach). At any given point in time, only one (1) coach in a sport may work with up to two (2) athletes in skill-building drills. A GHSA coach (certified teacher or community coach) may not coach a non-GHSA team in a competitive setting during the school year that includes any player(s) who participate in the sport he/she coaches at the member school.

- (1) Any practice occurring after the beginning of the school year and **before the opening of the designated season** is an illegal practice.
 - (2) Any practice occurring **after the end of the season** for that team and the end of the school year for students in that school is an illegal practice.
 - (3) **During the summer** (i.e., between the ending of one school year and the beginning of the next) the only restrictions on practices and competition are that all activities must be strictly voluntary, and the “dead week” must be observed.
 - (4) It is illegal for a team to go to a competitive or instructional camp or clinic during the school year other than in-season events designed for that team alone.
 - (a) If the event is held out of season, it would constitute an illegal practice.
 - (b) If the event is held in-season, it would involve illegal coaching.
 - (c) Boys and girls teams in the same sport are considered the same activity.
 - (d) It is illegal for a high school coach to conduct a clinic or coach in a non-school competitive setting with eighth-grade athletes out of season during the school year.
 - (e) This prohibition does not apply to the summer months.
 - (5) Neither coaches, former coaches (including community coaches), nor any other school personnel shall suggest, require, or otherwise **attempt to influence students** to participate in or practice for a sport outside the GHSA-designated season.
 - (6) The following activities are **examples of illegal practices**:
 - (a) interscholastic scrimmages or practice competitions not in compliance with By-Law 2.62e
 - (b) practices involving alumni or students who presently are not eligible at the member school at anytime in the school year
 - (c) practices against a non-school team at any time in the school year
 - (d) practices of any kind outside the season designated by the GHSA.

NOTE: Free Style and Greco-Roman Wrestling are considered to be the same sport as Folk Style (high school) Wrestling and are subject to GHSA rules regulating illegal practices.
 - (7) Coaches are allowed to be spectators or “fellow competitors” at non-school events out of season as long as no coaching occurs.
 - (8) Schools found guilty of having illegal practices will be subject to **penalties** that may include a fine, warning, probation, and/or suspension by the GHSA Executive Director.
- (c) **Dead Week:** Schools are prohibited from participating in voluntary workouts, camps and/or clinics, weight training or competitions during the week (Sunday through Saturday) in which the Fourth of July falls each

Coaching/Teaching is an awesome responsibility with many rewards. Please take a moment to read the following passage taken from the National Federation of State High School Associations concerning ethics:

Coaches Code of Conduct/Ethics

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student-athlete should be treated as though he or she was the coach's own, and his or her welfare should be uppermost at all times. Accordingly, the NFCA Board of Directors has adopted the following guidelines:

- The coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student-athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.
- The coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with student-athletes, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.
- The coach shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.
- The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.

- The coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
- The coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administration.
- The coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct, which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.
- Before and after contests, coaches for the competing teams should meet and exchange cordial greetings to set the correct tone for the event.
- A coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student-athletes special consideration.
- A coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the Region and/or The Georgia High School Association.

Head Coaches and Assistants

Basic responsibilities of the Head Coach and Assistants as designated:

1. Coach and instruct the team in proper fundamental skills, constantly upgrading to the fullest technical skill level, to enable the athlete to compete in the best manner possible against opponents. Every athlete should be exposed to a progressive conditioning program. Be consistent, fair, and act in a non-prejudiced manner with every team activity.
2. Know, observe closely, and enforce the G.H.S.A. regulations regarding scholastic eligibility requirements for students to participate in athletics.
3. Thoroughly familiarize yourself with and explain to your athletes the G.H.S.A. rules and regulations regarding amateur status, eligibility, nutrition, supplementation, alcohol, and tobacco.
4. Arrange organizational meetings for sports candidates.
5. Discuss, distribute, collect, and enforce the Rules-Regulations on the following page. Any rules that are added to this list must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director.
6. Return eligibility lists to the Athletic Director by the predetermined date.
7. Insure that team members behave in an appropriate, responsible manner at all events.
8. Strive to help each participant develop self-discipline and appropriate behavior.
9. Cooperatively work with the Athletic Director in regard to team scheduling, bus departure times, and assignment of officials.
10. Adhere to the schedule set forth by the GHSA for start/end dates, practice and limits of participation.
11. Provide issuance of equipment, the care and maintenance of the equipment and maintain a complete inventory of all athletic equipment.
12. Compile a team roster in a timely fashion for distribution.
13. NEVER LEAVE A PRACTICE UNSUPERVISED.
14. Ride with the team to and from athletic contests.
15. Explain to the athletes, before the season, requirements for earning a varsity letter in your sport. In addition, explain the departmental requirements for earning a letter jacket.
16. Provide for collecting equipment at the end of the season and the completion of an inventory, noting which equipment needs repair or should be discarded.
17. Submit budget requests by the predetermined date for equipment and supplies for the following year to the Athletic Director.
18. Select student managers and instruct them in their responsibilities and conduct.
19. Cooperatively with the trainer, oversee issuance and use of first aid supplies.
20. SUPERVISE LOCKER ROOM ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES.
21. Act in a reasonable and prudent manner showing concern for the health and welfare of the athletes in your care. Attempt to foresee the possibility of a hazardous situation and take action to correct it.
22. Never use student/athlete assistance for personal gain with the promise of reward in any fashion.
23. Perform all other duties as may be delegated by the School/System Administration.

Role of the Head Coach

Thank you for taking on the responsibility of Head Coach of your respective sport. As the recognized authority for your activity within Dade County Schools, please take all necessary steps to become most knowledgeable of the rules and regulations governing your sport. In addition, please keep in mind that you are not only concerned about the welfare of the Varsity team, but more importantly, you are ultimately responsible for the day-to-day experience for all athletes within your sport 6-12.

Responsibilities of the Assistant Coach in General

The fundamental responsibility of the assistant coach is to implement the program developed by the Head Coach. In order to do this effectively, the Assistant Coach should be well versed in the basic fundamental skills in the sport he/she is coaching, and he/she should be capable of applying sound teaching techniques when he/she is giving instruction to the participants in the sport. They are to follow the same system/state rules that all head coaches adhere to and when designated, these individuals must be prepared to take on the responsibilities of the Head Coach.

Pre-Season Compliance Checklist

Coach's preparation prior to the start of the season:

1. Advertise and hold a pre-season meeting with candidates of your sport.
2. Explain the following:
 - _ What is expected and required of the athlete who plans to participate.
 - _ Requirements for earning a letter.
 - _ Damage to any school property will not be tolerated.
 - _ Each athlete not only represents Dade County High School but also the community. Any conduct that detracts from either will result in his/her case being reviewed by the Principal and Athletic Director which could lead to a suspension or expulsion from the team.
 - _ Any type of theft by the student athlete may result in his/her expulsion from the team with the very definite possibility that he/she will not be permitted to take part in any other sport for the balance of the year.
 - _ Academic requirements to maintain athletic eligibility.
 - _ Procedures to follow in the event of injury.
 - _ Attendance policy of the system and the effect on practice and game participation.
 - _ Cover all paperwork requirements that include: Permission to Treat, Insurance Card Copy, and Physical Examination. All physicals are accepted for one calendar year from the date of examination. All physicals dated on or after April 1 are good for the entire following school year.