

Vernon Parish High Schools Athletic Eligibility

All Vernon Parish High Schools are members of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA). The LHSAA, a voluntary organization, whose duties shall be to promote, regulate, and direct the interscholastic athletic activities of Louisiana High Schools.

There are strict eligibility rules enforced by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association and a basic understanding is needed to ensure that your child is eligible if he/she plans to participate in interscholastic athletic competition.

Following is a summary of eligibility rules intended only as general information:

1. Upon entering the 9th grade, a student shall be eligible for competition on high school athletic teams only during the ensuing eight consecutive semesters, unless he/she is a “hold-back repeat student” then they are eligible for only six semesters.
2. A student becomes ineligible for interscholastic athletic participation if he/she reached his/her 19th birthday before September 1 of that school year.
3. A student athlete is eligible immediately at their home school in their attendance zone. Fort Polk has been declared a neutral (dual) attendance zone for both Leesville High School and Pickering High School only. LHSAA rules state that, if a student resides in an attendance zone containing more than one LHSAA school, the student upon entering an LHSAA school for the first time, shall have his/her choice of any LHSAA school in the same zone and shall be immediately eligible upon enrolling in the school of first choice. Once a student exercises his/her choice of schools, that LHSAA school shall become the student’s school of eligibility in that zone. After exercising this choice, should the student transfer to another LHSAA school, he/she shall become immediately ineligible for a period of one calendar year from the date of enrollment at the second school.

EXAMPLE: A family with a student athlete transfers to Fort Polk, the student enrolls in Leesville High School, Leesville High School becomes that student’s school of first choice and he/she is immediately eligible at Leesville High School and they become ineligible at Pickering High School. Should the student transfer to Pickering High School they would have to attend Pickering High School for one consecutive calendar year from the date of enrollment to gain eligibility to participate.

CAUTION: MAGNOLIA HOUSE is located in this dual attendance zone, please have your student athlete choose their school carefully.

EXCEPTION: (Effective July 1, 2001)

If the neutral zone is located on a United States Armed Forces military reservation, and if the school choice by the student is executed while the student is residing in temporary living quarters located on the base, he/she shall be afforded a second choice once the student's parents are assigned and move into permanent housing on the same base. Once this second choice is made, the student shall not be granted an additional choice for any reason while residing in the neutral zone located on the military base. (This second choice must be executed no later than the day that permanent housing is occupied or the school of first choice becomes the school of eligibility, and if a student transfers after this time all other rules apply.)

4. If a student elects to transfer to a LHSAA school located outside of his/her home attendance zone, he/she shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at that school for one calendar year from date of enrollment in that school.

EXAMPLE: A student lives in Fort Polk Housing and transfers to Rosepine High School and want to participate in athletics. The student would be ineligible for one calendar home attendance zone. The student may transfer back to his/her home school in their attendance zone and be immediately eligible.

5. For eligibility purposes, under the transfer rule the LHSAA shall not honor legal custody or guardianship granted to a person who is not the student's parent (s) unless both parents are deceased.

The above is not intended to be all encompassing and should not be used as such. Student athletes must meet all other eligibility requirements including scholastic requirements.

If you have specific questions regarding athletic eligibility, please contact:

Athletic Director
Vernon Parish School Board
201 Belview Road
Leesville, LA 71446
Phone # (337) 239-3401