



GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFYING ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

FOR PRINCIPALS AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

[Click here to link to the MIAA Handbook](#)

1. *Sample Protocol for Certifying Eligibility*

- ❖ Consider each athlete to be ineligible until you have certified him/her to be eligible.
- ❖ Prior to the first practice sessions, require each coach to submit a roster of all team members for your eligibility certification.
- ❖ Emphasize with each coach that a student may not participate in any interschool competition until the certifying administrator signs off on that student. However, it is better to go through this process BEFORE a student is allowed to practice (e.g. part of the certification includes the physical examination requirement).
- ❖ Coaches must be certain “late arrivals” do not slip through the cracks.
- ❖ Once a student is certified as eligible, he/she still must be monitored with regard to such things as dropped classes, other changes in academic status, etc.
- ❖ It is important that your guidance staff is aware of potential eligibility implications resulting from any change in academic status.

2. *Review of Key Rules:*

Carefully review the actual rules discussed below as they appear in the "Handbook." These rules apply to each student who will represent your school this season. Do not hesitate to call the office if you have any question about the application or interpretation of any eligibility standard. (For ready reference the current Handbook rule number is designated.)

- 32.1 Only the Board of Directors (or the executive staff) may interpret or apply rules. If you have any question about the application or interpretation of a rule, be safe and call the MIAA office.
- 32.2 All MIAA rules apply to all high school teams and individual team members, regardless of the level of competition.
- 32.6 No special privileges are permitted to student athletes that are not granted through previously approved policy to all students within that school.
- 32.10 Neither member schools nor school committees may make rules that are in any way less restrictive than those of the MIAA. More stringent rules may be adopted. Care must be taken to ensure that any such adoption does not create a scenario that would render that local standard less restrictive. For example, a local academic standard that requires a student to meet a first **semester grade** requirement is actually less restrictive when a student does not satisfy the Association standard regarding second quarter grades.

51. No individual may practice or compete with a high school team who is not a member of that school's student body. To represent a school on its athletic team, a student must be a candidate for that school's diploma, that school principal must have the authority to suspend the student from classes, and the principal must have control and knowledge of the student's daily attendance and academic achievement.
52. Any student in an alternative, collaborative, detached, or other "non-traditional" educational program will require extra care in the certification of eligibility. These students must satisfy the full criteria within Rule 52 before they can be certified as eligible.
55. A student may not represent a school on any athletic team if he or she has not been a continuous member of a secondary school for at least two months preceding the contest, and has been issued a report card.
- 56.1 A physical exam covers the student-athlete for 13 months from the date of the exam.
57. Consider every transfer student into your school to be ineligible until certified otherwise.
- 57.6 Foreign athletes are ineligible unless certified otherwise by the receiving school principal.
58. Initial academic eligibility for the fall season is based upon satisfactorily passing the necessary subjects during the previous year. A student athlete's academic eligibility for the second marking period of the academic year is based upon academic success during the first marking period. Academic eligibility for the third marking period is determined on the basis of academic success during the **second** marking period (and **not** semester grades). Academic eligibility during the fourth marking period is determined on third quarter grades. Fourth quarter grades would be used for underclassman to determine late spring season participation. Third quarter grades determine full spring season eligibility for seniors. A student must be always taking at least the equivalent of four major subjects in order to maintain academic eligibility after being initially certified.
59. Special care must be taken to ensure that no student participates beyond four consecutive years after first entering grade 9. Even if a student did not participate during a given season, he/she is eligible only for four consecutive years after first entering grade 9.
60. A student who is 19 years of age prior to September 1 is not eligible for high school athletic participation.
61. A student who has graduated from a secondary school anywhere in the world, or who has achieved sufficient credits to graduate, should be considered ineligible. The rule itself does include exceptions.