

**INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS REGULATION**

The following regulation shall apply with respect to interscholastic athletics:

1. Bona Fide Students:

- A. High School - a student must be a bona fide student of the high school which he/she represents and must be taking at least four subjects, including physical education.
- B. Middle School - a student must be a bona fide student of grades 7 or 8 of the school represented.

Note: If it becomes necessary to combine member schools to maintain a team or sport, a written request must be submitted and approval obtained from the league and section involved. Schools which have combined teams must submit a report to the Modified Committee and this will be submitted to the Executive Committee.

2. Registration:

A student must have enrolled during the first fifteen (15) school days of the semester and must have been in regular attendance 80% of the school time. Bona fide absences caused by personal illness are excepted.

3. Transfer:

The Farmingdale School District will adhere to all sectional and state guidelines in regard to residency eligibility. Copies of the sectional and state guidelines are available in the office of the Director of Athletics.

4. Age and Grade

A high school student shall be eligible for interschool competition in grades 9,10,11 and 12 until his/her nineteenth birthday. If the age of nineteen years is reached on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate during the school year in all sports. Appeals to the age limit for the extension of athletic eligibility, based on extreme circumstances, must be made to the Director of Athletics, who will follow the appeals process set forth by the Nassau Athletic Association (Section 8).

Note: Students may be eligible regardless of age or grade if they have been approved through the State Education Department's Selection/Classification program according to the Farmingdale School District Guidelines.

A middle school student upon entry into the 7th grade is eligible for modified program competition. One is ineligible when the sixteenth birthday is attained; however, if a student attains the sixteenth birthday during a sports season, he/she may complete that sport season. In program B, (football and boys' lacrosse) when the fifteenth birthday is attained during a sports season, he/she may complete the sport season.

5. State Eligibility

A student is eligible for senior high athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons commencing with the youngster's entry into the ninth grade, unless he/she has satisfied selection/classification according to school guidelines.

All athletes must be bona fide students of their districts and comply with age, grade and registration guidelines.

6. Selection/Classification

I. Introduction

The intent of the Selection/Classification program is to permit students in grades 7 through 12 to safely participate at the appropriate level of competition based upon readiness rather than age and grade. It is designed for mature and elite exceptionally skilled students to advance to an upper level and less developed students to participate at an appropriate lower level that is suited to their development and ability.

In order to assure that all students in the Farmingdale School District are afforded a fair and equitable chance to make a team and experience the ability to participate on either a team or individual sport, the Farmingdale Board of Education has established a number of selection/classification guidelines.

Students will not be permitted to apply for selection classification in the event that the district adopts a contingency budget or removes middle school Interscholastic Sports from the budget.

II. Guidelines

- A. Where an interscholastic team sport is offered at the Middle School level, a 7th/8th grade student athlete will not be permitted to apply for selection/classification status. A list of the team sports is available in the office of the Director of Athletics. (This does not apply to student/athletes selectively classifying down from high school to middle school sports).

- B. Where a team sport is not offered at the Middle School level, or in the case of a sport that provides for individual competition, a 7th or 8th grade student/athlete may apply for selection/classification status. A listing of sports that provide for individual competition is available in the office of the Director of Athletics. All rules and regulations established by the State Education Department in its current selection/classification program procedures must be followed. These include, but are not limited to, parental permission, developmental screening, individual athletic profile, athletic performance test, coach's sports skill evaluation and notification to appropriate schools and agencies. The Director of Athletics will review all data submitted including coach's recommendation and conduct an on-site evaluation.

### III. Calendar

In order for a student to be selectively classified, he/she must have all paperwork and/or any appeal process completed prior to the first day of practice. The student must be able to try out in the same fashion as the other athletes on the team during the initial try-out period. The student is responsible for making sure that he/she finds out all necessary information about practice and try-out schedules and for meeting all deadlines.

### IV. Appeals

An appeals process is in place to allow students their right of due process. In the event a 7th or 8th grade student wishes to participate on an interscholastic team at the high school level in a sport that is not offered at the middle school, the following must take place:

- A. The student/athlete must be able to demonstrate to the appeals committee that he/she is so exceptional that s/he will be able to compete at the high school level.
- B. The student/athlete must provide documentation of prior experience in the sport.
- C. The student/athlete must meet all academic and health requirements as stated in the school policy book.
- D. The student/athlete must complete the State Education Department's Selection/Classification procedures for his/her particular sport.

Any student has the right to an appeals hearing; however appeals will not be heard until after the student successfully completes a physical, an electro-cardiogram, selection/classification test.

V. Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee will be made up of an assistant superintendent for curriculum, a middle school principal, a high school principal, the director of physical education and athletics, the coach and the school physician/nurse. In order for a student to be approved, he/she must receive a 4/5 vote of the appeals committee. An absentee vote may be accepted with a statement of assurance that all material pertaining to the student has been reviewed.

7. Health Examinations

- A. A student who may engage in interschool competition shall receive an adequate health examination and health history update when required, and may not practice or participate without the approval of the school medical officer.
- B. All students who participate on a high school team must have an EKG done prior to their initial participation.

Note: Medical examinations may be scheduled at any time during the school year and shall be valid for a period of twelve continuous months. Unless the medical examination is conducted within thirty days of the start of a season, a healthy history update is required. Any pupil whose safe participation is in question as a result of the health history interview, or injury, or prolonged absence, must be re-qualified by a physician prior to participation.

8. Amateur

- A. All contestants must be amateurs. An amateur is one who has never used, or is not now using, his/her knowledge of athletics or his/her skill for gain and who has always contested under his/her own name. A student who signs a contract with a professional team is no longer eligible for interschool sports. (This rule does not apply to officiating, recreational or playground work).
- B. A student who violates the above rule may apply to his/her league or to the member of the central Committee in his/her section for reinstatement one year from the date of the latest violation.

9. College

A student is no longer eligible to represent the school in that sport in that season if the student participates in practice or competition with or against any college athletic squad during that season.

10. Professional Try-Outs

No try-outs or practice with professional teams are approved except during the summer vacation. A student who participates in such a try-out is ineligible to represent his/her school in that sport.

11. All-Star Contests

Because school authorities have a responsibility for preventing the exploitation of high school students who have qualified for a letter in school sports; the NYSPHSAA, Inc. recommends that school authorities discharge this responsibility by protecting students from being exploited by individuals or groups interested in promoting, for any purpose, spectator or revenue producing contests such as all-star, charity, and similar exhibition games. Exceptional senior contests as stipulated in the Eligibility Standards are permitted.

Furthermore, it shall be the responsibility of the school authorities to inform their teaching personnel to do nothing which shall impair this responsibility of boards of education to protect athletes against such exploitation.

12. Local Eligibility

Students involved in difficulties in the areas of behavior, academics, drug or alcohol abuse, smoking and quitting teams will be referred to the school academic eligibility committee.

Standards established by the committee are meant to include all students. However, parents may, of course, impose more stringent standards for their children.

13. Behavior

In order to participate on any school co-curricular and extra-curricular programs and interscholastic athletic programs, a student must be a good school citizen. A good school citizen is one who is not referred to the office for behavior reasons. In case of such referrals, the school eligibility committee will meet with the student and discuss the situation. A decision will be made that will be in the best interests of all concerned.

#### 14. Academics

The Board believes that a meaningful academic policy must be established concerning co-curricular and extra-curricular programs and interscholastic athletic program participation. All high school students must follow the academic eligibility policy as outlined below. An academic eligibility committee will be selected by the high school principal each year with the specific purpose of reviewing those students who are either on probation or ineligible. It will be the responsibility of the building principal to notify all club advisors and the district athletic director to notify all coaches of those students who are either on probation or ineligible. The committee will consist of: a building principal, director of athletics, director of guidance, guidance counselor, two coaches, two club advisors and one teacher not associated with clubs or interscholastic athletics activities. The committee will notify all students, after report card distribution, of their eligibility status. Students who are on probation are permitted to participate in extracurricular and interscholastic activities. Students who are ineligible are not permitted to participate in extracurricular and interscholastic activities.

Any student failing two or more subjects shall automatically be placed on probation by the eligibility committee and will remain on probation for the entire marking period. A student on probation may participate in all extracurricular activities and interscholastic sports provided that he/she adheres to the following criteria immediately upon being notified of his/her status:

1. The student submits weekly eligibility progress reports from all teachers to his/her advisor or coach every week. Poor performance may cause a student to be declared ineligible.
2. The student must seek help in the problem areas and provide proof of such to the eligibility committee.
3. Failure to comply with the above criteria will move the student to ineligible status.

After the next report card, any probationary student no longer failing two subjects will be removed from probation at that time.

The high school principal will insure that any student who remains on probation for two or more marking periods or is declared ineligible will be referred to the appropriate staff members for the development of a plan for academic improvement. Any student failing three or more subjects will automatically be declared ineligible by the eligibility committee and will remain ineligible for the entire marking period unless a written request is made by the student (in writing) to the eligibility

committee for an appeal. The written request must be counter-signed by the student's parent or guardian.

If the appeal is granted, the student must:

1. Submit weekly eligibility progress reports to a mentor appointed by the committee.
2. The student must seek help in the problem subjects (homework helpers, extra help, Honor Society tutors) and provide proof to the committee.

A student who is ineligible may not practice, compete or participate in any interscholastic sport or extracurricular activity unless an appeal is granted by the eligibility committee.

If a student does not meet the conditions of the criteria appeal process, he/she cannot come before the eligibility committee until after the next report card.

After the next report card, any student no longer failing three or more subjects will be removed from ineligibility and either placed on probation (if failing two subjects) or removed from ineligibility entirely.

If a student is declared ineligible or placed on probation at the end of the fourth marking period, he/she must attend summer school. Failure to attend summer school will cause the student to begin the next school year with the same status that was determined by the fourth marking period grades.

#### 16. Drop-outs

Any student quitting an athletic team for reasons unacceptable to the coach (i.e. not informing the coach of reasons, not attending practice sessions, etc.) must be brought before the eligibility committee to decide whether said student will be able to join another team. Any student who has the ability to participate in two sports during the same season will be eligible to compete only after both coaches give consent for dual participation and the student has established one of the teams as his/her priority team with the athletic director. In the event of a conflict that cannot be resolved, the student will participate with the priority team.

#### 17. Awards

The following requirements must be completed to earn a letter:

1. Varsity
  - A. Participate in  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the total number of quarters, periods, matches or innings (pitchers must pitch  $\frac{1}{4}$  total of innings). A track letter may be awarded to an individual who has earned a minimum of ten points for his/her team.

- B. A senior may earn a varsity letter by having participated in a particular sport for two consecutive years.
- C. Anyone scoring points in a tournament or Division championship may also win a letter.
- D. In addition to meeting the above requirements, each candidate must be, in the opinion of the coaches of that sport, a good school citizen, attend all practices and maintain a proper attitude at all times.
- E. The White letter may be awarded to a team member who, in the opinion of his/her teammates and coaches, has shown outstanding skill, leadership, citizenship and general overall attitude in the school and on the team.
- F. Squad certificates will be awarded to team members that do not fulfill the above requirements.

2. Junior Varsity and Middle School (7-8)

Any Junior Varsity and Middle School (7-8) team member may earn a letter providing the following requirements have been met:

- A. Attendance at all practices
- B. Good effort and willingness to work throughout the season
- C. Proper attitude to his/her team, coach and school

3. The size of the letter shall designate the team played on:

- A. Varsity - 8" Block "F" Green Chenille
- B. Junior Varsity - 6" Block "F" Green Chenille
- C. Middle School (7-8) - 4" Block "F" Green Chenille

The sport designation will be indicated by a metal sports pin.

- 4. Only one letter may be awarded in any one sport. Any player earning more than one letter in any given sport will be awarded an appropriate chevron.
- 5. Awards will be presented at the year end awards assembly or individual team assemblies held shortly after the close of the season.

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