

New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association

2021-2022

Bylaws-Article V

Eligibility Outline

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NJSIAA BYLAWS – Article V

2021-2022 Eligibility of Athletes Outline

Section 1. Enrollment – Article V, Section 1

A student to be eligible for participation must be enrolled and meet all the eligibility requirements.

CL1: Home-school-BOE policy, credit requirement



Section 2. Amateur-Athlete

- A. Fraud-assumed name
- B. Accepting pay or material remuneration for a display
- C. Signed contract
- D. Professional sports
- E. Counselor, national instructor
- F. Appearance – Radio or T.V.
- G. Awards & Mementos
- H. Only BOE awards unless prior approval NJSIAA
- I. US Olympian
- J. Non-NJSIAA sponsored event
 - 1. Reasonable travel expenses: travel, meals, lodging
 - 2. Accept items with a monetary value not to exceed \$250

Section 3. Reinstatement of Amateur Eligibility

Section 4. Eligibility Requirements

A. Eligibility Certification & Ineligibility Lists

B. Eligibility Responsibility-must check all students before interscholastic contest

1. Record on File – Principal’s Office

- a) Name
- b) DOB
- c) Doc. Proof
- d) Date of enrollment in 9th grade
- e) School – transfer from and year
- f) Credits passed (previous year or previous semester)
- g) Participation prior to 9th grade

2. CL – Local option – practice & preseason scrimmage – ineligible students

C. Age

1. 19 age rule – prior to September 1
2. 16 prior to September 1 – no frosh participation (CL1)
3. Verify age (CL2): Birth certificate, etc. (a-e)
4. 6, 7, 8 – 16 years old (CL4) – Waiver Request

D. Athletic Recruitment Statement

1. No scholarships, free, or monetary assistance, school or affiliated for athletic reasons
2. No proselytizing (entice with mail, letters, brochures, social media)
3. Associated with school/director of school (admin, staff, coach, students, parents, booster club)
4. Controversies committee – school or associated as a result of recruitment
5. Student enrolling or transfer – EAC

E. Credits – Eligible for the Season

1. First Semester – Sept 1 to Jan 31
 - a) 30 = 25% of 120
 - b) Fall – Previous year
 - c) Winter – Previous year
 - d) Two Seasons (CL9) – Eligible for winter to the end
2. Second Semester – Feb 1 to June 30
 - a) 15 = 12.5% of 120
 - b) Feb 1 (CL7) – Winter recovery



3. Clarifications

CL1: Local school grading

CL2: Transfer – previous school

CL3: No makeup work for second semester-spring season or winter/Feb. 1

CL4: Senior fails subject first semester, passing all next M.P. and on track to graduate

CL5: (9,10,11 grade) Ineligible, recover May 1 if passing courses-3rd MP & 22.50

4. Eligible beginning to end of that season

CL1: All courses equal

CL2: Graduation requirements-diploma finish the semester

CL3: Senior accelerate-passing courses or withdraw passing for Spring season eligibility

CL4: Passing all (out of state)

CL5: Previous school credit, ex. Religion-use for athletic eligibility

CL6: Re-admission

CL7: Ineligible for Winter may become eligible Feb 1 (15 credits)

CL8: Summer work sixth day of school-course for course

CL9: Winter to end of season remain eligible based on 30 credits

CL10: Passing grade for course-only once for eligibility

F. Handicapped/Classified Students

1. NJ DOE (IDEA) comply with the athletic eligibility rules and regulations with exception of Article Section 4.E. credits
 - a) Parent/Guardian consent
 - b) CST – I.E.P. Final approval
 - c) CL1: Initial classified – 90 days
 - d) Written in I.E.P. waive credit requirement – Extracurricular activities or sports
 - e) Submit verification to NJSIAA-Letter from Principal
 - Parent Consent
 - CST
 - Medical Inspector
 - Principal Final Approval

Note: ADA or 504 students not included in credit waiver (CL2)
2. Definition (a,b,c) & School Participation (d&e)

G. Enrollment

1. Late – After Oct 1 is ineligible for 30 days
 - CL1: Enrolled and attends
 - CL2: Short Period



Enrollment - Continued

2. Initial Enrollment

CL2: VoTech/Public Academy shared time

Official Register – Participate

Both – Student Choice Full Year

CL3: VoTech/Public Academy full time

Agreement both principals

CL 4: VoTech Transfer

CL5: Charter School

No sport – school of residence – both principals

CL6: Choice school – school attends

CL7: Disabled students – own expense – BOE written approval

H. Post Grads (H.)

1. Not eligible in member schools

2. Graduates – days or weeks – OK

CL: L&C waiver – first year post grad, play against

I. Pre-High School

1. Pre H.S. Age 16 age rule (CL4)
2. Practice and scrimmage – students below 9th grade not permitted (CL2)
3. 6, 7, 8 play forfeits-games (CL3)

J. Semesters of Eligibility

1. 8 in a row upon entrances in 9th grade – consecutive
2. Classified-participation at any level
3. Special note - #4 Pre-high school participation (outside NJ) – move to NJ and transfer
4. EAC – Proportionality – pre-HS participation

K. Eligibility Waiver Request – Age, Credit, Semester

- Circumstances beyond the control of the student
- EWR form completed and full
- Principal's letter – descriptive
- Transcript
- Transfer Form
- Proof of DOB – Age
- IEP – Classified student
- Relevant information (medical or other)
- Athletic Impact

L. Transfers – After Initial Enrollment

1. Bona fide change of residence by his/her parents/guardians or through assignment BOE – eligible unless recruitment or athletic advantage. Fall-9/1, Winter-11/2, Spring-3/1

- a) Parent/guardian moves WITH one public HS district to another public HS district
- b) Parent/Guardian – NJSIAA Student Athlete Residency Affidavits & Proofs (2)

- NJ Drivers License or Non-Drivers License
- Mortgage or lease document
- Utility bill
- Voter registration
- Bank statement
- Homeowners or renter's insurance
- Business record or doc – government entity
- Guardian – definition emancipation-not bona fide change of residence.

CL1: DCPD or Courts (ordered)-Guardian court ordered or DCPD placement

CL2: Parent to parent; subsequent return may not in same district

CL3: Non-tuition policy – employees – first opportunity BOE or a non-public

CL4: Recruitment of athletic advantage – EAC

CL 5: Military Transfer-New



2. Transfers

- a) Varsity participation – not a bona fide change of residence WITH, ineligible to participate for 30 days or half the maximum. (previous year or during season)
- b) Home Campus – all transfers and affidavit (CL5)
<https://www.njsiaa.org/sites/default/files/document/Home%20Campus%20Letter-3.pdf>; Home Campus on Line Transfer Form, Affidavit required for all transfers. (Revised April 2020)
- c) Transfer after NJSIAA competition date – ineligible for post season
- d) Ineligible due to transfer sit may practice and pre-season scrimmage
 - CL1: Clarifies transfer sit: deterrent/lenient. Sit 30, play day 31 or ½ max or ½ scheduled games if the sport has NO max acclimation and students-**NO APPEALS!**
 - CL2: Regular schedule transfer sit begins with first game/match/event played by school
 - CL3: May not participate at any level
 - CL 6 & 7: Clarify attendance and participation
- e. Transfers to schools – subject to transfer sit
 - VoTech/P.A. shared (CL8)
 - VoTech/P.A. Full (CL9)
 - Charter (CL10)
 - Choice (CL11)

3. HIB CL12 - Letter

4. Expulsion – rule in effect (4)

5. Athletic Advantage (5) EAC

- a) Seeking a superior athletic program
- b) Seeking a relief due to conflict or philosophy
- c) Seeking a team consistent with athletic abilities
- d) Seeking to nullify punitive action by previous school
- e) Seeking to be coached by a particular coach or coaches

M. Administrative Responsibility

- 1. Voluntary Compliance
- 2. Forfeits CL1 & CL2
- 3. Corrective Action Plan

N. Covid-19 Compliance Package – Relaxation of Certain Rules

1. Transfer Back - Student may “transfer back” to the school at which he/she was enrolled and attending on March 16, 2020, without having to meet the “bona fide change of residence” requirements provided that the transfer back occurs on or before September 1.
2. Evictions – If a student-athlete must transfer as the result of an eviction, there shall be no 30-day sit period, so long as the principal submits the requisite documentation that shows the transfer was made due to eviction and an explanatory letter.
3. Bona fide change of residence – For the fall semester, in order to qualify as a bona fide change of residence, the change of residence must occur on or before September 1, as opposed to August 1.
4. Credits – If a student-athlete cannot meet the credit requirements in Section 4(E) because of the pandemic, i.e. did not have the necessary technology or had difficulties participating in an on-line environment, the rule may be waived if the student’s principal sends NJSIAA a letter explaining the circumstances that were “beyond the student’s control” and setting forth the Action Plan to get the student back on track. This is only in effect for the first semester. Webform: Covid Credit Waiver Request Form.

O. Compliance Review Process

Compliance review checklist located on website: Resources/Important Resources

P. International Student Eligibility Guidelines

DEFINITION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

An international student is defined as a “non-immigrant” student visitor who comes to the United States temporarily to take classes. A non-immigrant is someone who:

- Intends to stay in the US temporarily
- Does not have US Citizenship or legal permanent resident status (a “green card”)
- Applies for a student visa (either F-1 or J-1) to be allowed entry into the US
- Is enrolled in an NJSIAA member school for credit whose parents/guardian(s) have not moved into your school district at time of enrollment

If a student does not qualify as an international student, then NJSIAA transfer rules apply.

CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

(ALL INFORMATION SHOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH WHEN POSSIBLE)

- **An international student is eligible for interscholastic athletic competition only if enrolled in a member school:**
 - a) Under the sponsorship of a program that has achieved Full, Conditional or Provisional approval from CSIET.
 - b) That has gone through the CSIET review process and achieved Full, Conditional or Provisional approval.

To be eligible for interscholastic competition, a student may not reside with the coach of any sport, or any other member of the athletic staff, paid or volunteer, at that member school.

Q. Disqualifications (Coaches & Players)

1. Flagrant verbal or physical unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - 1st DQ sits for two games (One game in football)
 - If DQ occurs in final game, it carries over to next sport or next year
2. 2nd DQ in a calendar (365) year – penalty is doubled (4 games) and athlete is ineligible for State Championship.
3. 3rd Team DQ – Not eligible for State Championship.
4. Any coach having 3 or more varsity players DQ'ed will be required to pay a fine and complete the NJSIAA coaching course in order to be reinstated for the following season.
5. Any coach receiving 1 or more DQ'ues will be required to pay a fine and complete the NJSIAA coaching course in order to be reinstated for the following season.

R. Classifications

1. Public/Non-Public
2. Groups determined based on population
3. Sections determined based on geography
4. May be different by sport



S. Cooperative Sports Program Process (CSP) NJSIAA Bylaws Article III, Section 10

1. A public high school can only enter into a CSP with another public high school while non-public schools can only enter into such programs with another non-public school.
2. A member school may enter into Cooperative Sports Programs with more than one other school for more than one sport; however, a member school may only enter into one Cooperative Sports Program for a particular sport.
3. CSPs involving ice hockey will allow three member schools to combine to form a tri-school CSP but their combined rosters may not exceed thirty (30) student athletes.
4. The enrollments for all schools involved in a CSP may be combined for classification determination made by the Classification Review Committee.
5. A CSP application is for a two year period with an automatic two year renewal.
6. A participating school may withdraw from a CSP during the approval period. Written notice must be submitted to the NJSIAA and other participating school(s).
7. A CSP for a particular sport will cover all levels of competition (i.e. Varsity, JV, Freshman). However, either school may establish a stand-alone sub-varsity team while continuing in the cooperative program in that same sport.
8. The LEA will be entitled to all League & Conference an NJSIAA awards; however, a disqualification will be assigned to the member school that the student athlete attends.

Please review **Article III, Sections 10.D and 10.E** of the NJSIAA Bylaws for details on the CSP approval process.

The seasonal deadlines for a CSP application are:

Fall Sports:	January 15 th	Winter Sports:	April 15 th	Spring Sports:	September 15 th
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Lastly, the participating schools shall agree on the legal, financial, staff and personnel responsibilities of each school, including but not limited to, such considerations as transportation, release time, equipment, training, rules and medical, police, supervisory and custodial services.

Online Application: Can be found on NJSIAA website

Reference Section 10 NJSIAA Guidelines, Policies, Procedures (D-L)

Out of Season Period

- The out of season period is from the last completed contest of the season until the next official practice start date for that sport, excluding summer recess.
- Out-of-season practice is not permitted under the direction of any coach or student.

Program	Athletes	Coaches	School Sponsorship
Intramurals	Yes	Yes (No Athletes)	Yes
Open-Gym	Yes (No Coach)	Yes (No Athletes)	Yes
Camps (NJSIAA Sport)	Yes (No Coach)	Yes (No Athletes)	No
Clinics/Participatory*	Yes (No Coach)	Yes	No
Clinics/Non-Participatory	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recreations Program	Yes (No Coach)	Yes (No Athletes)	No
Independent Play (AAU/Club)**	Yes (No Coach)	Yes (No Athletes)	No

* Coaches may be spectators. See Student-Athlete Guidelines, Section 6. School may not assist, i.e. provide uniforms, funds or equipment.

** An athlete may compete on a non-school team (AAU/Club) without the use of school equipment, uniforms or related services. See Student-Athlete Guidelines, Section 8 for Limitations.

Summer Recess Period

The summer recess period begins the Monday after the last scheduled Spring NJSIAA event. The summer period beginning date will not change because of postponements to the last NJSIAA spring events. The last day of the summer period is August 31.

There are no NJSIAA-imposed restrictions during the summer recess period, with the exception that interscholastic competition/scrimmages are not permitted during the summer period. Scrimmages consistent with the early season opening or regular season opening provisions are permitted. Workout sessions during the summer period are the prerogative of the member school within the existing rules and regulations of the school district.

Intramurals

Student-Athletes are permitted to participate in all intramural activities during the out-of-season period, except those in which they have attained team status.

Coaches may supervise or serve as directors, including officiating of intramurals, recreational, club, camp, or open-gym programs when the school district's Student-Athletes are not involved in their specific phase of the program during the out-of-season period.

Faculty Games

Student-Athletes of a particular sport may engage in faculty or similar games in that same sport.

8th Grade Contact

- High school coaches are permitted to have contact with student-athletes in grades eight and below as it pertains to camps, clinics and the like, as long as such contact does not involve current high school students
- All camps, clinics and the like must be open to all. In no way may these activities be held by invitation only when they are involving high school coaches except for the summer period.
- High school coaches are permitted to coach teams that involve student-athletes in grades eight and below as long as such coaching does not involve high school students.
- Student-athletes in grades eight and below are not permitted to take part in activities that involve high school student-athletes until they have graduated from the eighth grade.
- Eighth grade students that graduate before the summer period start date are not permitted to have contact with high school teams until the summer period start date.
- Eighth grade students that graduate after the summer period open date are permitted to have contact with high school teams the day after their graduation from eighth grade.
- Publicity by a school or anyone employed by the school regarding incoming students shall not focus on or promote athletics.

Open Gym Programs

All open gym programs, including sports specific open gyms, are permitted as long as no members of the coaching staff are present.

Interscholastic competition of any kind is not permitted during open gyms.

Coaches may supervise open gym programs during the out-of-season period only when their student-athletes are not involved.

- CL 1: The soccer coach may supervise a “basketball open gym” during the soccer out-of-season period, as long as there are no members of the soccer coach’s team participating.
- CL 2: Coaches may not exchange supervisory and/or coaching duties in their sport to circumvent the out-of-season rule.

Sports Specific Strength & Conditioning Guidelines

Out-of-season sports specific strength and conditioning sessions conducted by school district approved coaches of that sport are permitted as long as the following apply:

- The coach has completed the online NFHS Strength & Conditioning Course, unless already certified.
- The strength and conditioning sessions are purely designed to improve athletes in the field of strength and conditioning.
- No sports specific equipment permitted during these sessions.
- No sports specific drills permitted during these sessions.
- No sports specific walkthroughs or game planning permitted during these sessions.
- The strength and conditioning sessions cannot be mandatory.