



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance Officer

Date: March 29, 2023

RE: NJSIAA 50% Rule Clarification – Fencing, Swimming, Ice Hockey

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NJSIAA currently has a 50% participation rule applicable to fencing, swimming and ice hockey.

NJSIAA rules for ice hockey currently state:

Section 16 Championship Eligibility. A student competing on an interscholastic ice hockey team must play as a member of his/her high school team in at least 50% of the school's total games/meets to be eligible for the NJSIAA Championship Tournament.

*CL: This means a student must play in at least 50% of the school's games up to and including the cut-off date while he/she was properly enrolled and eligible at said school according to NJSIAA regulations. Extraordinary circumstances (i.e. injuries or participation on US National teams) will be reviewed on a case by case basis for the purposes of this clarification.*

The purpose of the Championship Eligibility rule is to ensure that student-athletes participate in at least 50% of the school's total games in order to participate in the NJSIAA state tournament. This rule was put in place as a result of student-athletes who were rostered but did not compete during the regular season – they only competed during the post-season. This was due primarily to their club sport commitments and was prevalent in the sports of ice hockey, swimming, and fencing. NJSIAA staff feel that this rule is necessary to protect those student-athletes who participated during the regular season and also to maintain the competitive balance and integrity of the state tournament. This proposal is to update the clarification above to better reflect how extraordinary circumstances are handled to avoid confusion moving forward.

Below is the updated clarification for your consideration. Upon acceptance, we would add the same language for fencing and swimming:

*CL: Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must play in at least 50% of the school's games, up to and including the cut-off date, less those games in which the student was not able to compete due to the Extraordinary Circumstance. Extraordinary Circumstances shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the NJSIAA upon request by the school.*