



1161 Route 130 North | Robbinsville, NJ 08691  
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### **Independent Athletes**

An Independent athlete is a student enrolled and attending an NJSIAA full member school that does not sponsor a particular sports program and would like to enter a state individual tournament. Federated member schools are not permitted to enter any NJSIAA tournaments. Independent athletes are permitted, provided the school follows all independent entry requirements listed in the tournament regulations for their sport. In addition to the sports-specific tournament entry regulations, the following general procedures for all schools of independent athletes must be followed.

### **Independent Athlete Procedures**

1. All independent athletes must be accompanied by a certified faculty member (chaperone), or a coach approved by the schools administration.
2. The independent athlete will be disqualified if they are not accompanied by a certified faculty member (chaperone), or a coach approved by the schools administration.
3. The chaperone must have with them written authority from the school's administration and remain with the athlete throughout all contests.
4. Independent athletes will not be able to check-in to the event with a parent, a coach/chaperone must be present at the time of check-in.
5. Any properly appointed "coach" will be subject to all out-of-season practice rules.
6. The school district must be able to certify the independent athlete has met the required six (6) practices.
7. The school district must be able to certify that the independent athlete has a completed physical on file.
8. The penalty for failure to comply will be the disqualification of the athlete.
9. If you compete on a co-ed team, you cannot be an independent athlete. You will have to follow the tournament regulations on how to qualify as an individual.

### **Clarifications:**

1. Independents will not qualify for team scoring.
2. Any sport that has a qualifying component will have unlimited entries (no max).
3. Any sport that does not have a qualifying component will have maximum entries.
4. For winter and spring track, independents may choose as many events that are permitted.

### **Sports that Permit Independent Athletes:**

1. **Bowling:** Must qualify for the Individual championships. (no max)
2. **Cross Country:** No qualification, competitors will be placed in a sectional meet, and they must advance from there. (Max of 2 per gender)
3. **Diving:** Must qualify for the Individual championships (no max)
4. **Fencing:** No qualification, competitors will be placed in a district meet, and they must advance from there. (Max of 3 per gender)
5. **Golf:** Must qualify for the sectionals and they must advance from there. (no max)
6. **Gymnastics:** Must qualify for the Individual championships (no max)
7. **Swimming:** Must qualify for the Individual championships (no max)
8. **Tennis:** Singles only - Must qualify for the Individual championships (no max)
9. **Track-Indoor:** No qualification, competitors will be placed in a sectional meet, and they must advance from there. (Max of 3 per gender)
10. **Track-Outdoor:** No qualification, competitors will be placed in a sectional meet, and they must advance from there. (Max of 5 per gender)
11. **Wrestling:** No qualification, competitors will be placed in a district (boys) or region (girls), and they must advance from there. (Max of 4 per gender)