

The Coaches Role in the Student Eligibility

Process





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WIAA Office Contact for Eligibility

- Use the back of your handout to list questions you may have as we review the material on Student eligibility

Why does the coach have a role in the student eligibility process?

- You are part of your School TEAM
- Very mobile society
- Coach is often the first contact for a new student/athlete
- Ask the student or parents a few key questions beyond their athletic participation or ability

Questions to ask a prospective student/athlete

- Where do you live?
- Whom do you live with?
- Where did you go to school last semester?
- How many classes did you pass last semester?
- Did you attend school on a regular basis the entire previous semester

More Questions to ask

- What grade are you in school?
- When did you enter the 7th and 9th grade?
- How old are you?
- Are you currently enrolled in our school district?
- Are you a running start or home schooled student?

What do you do next.....

- Alert your Athletic Administrator and School Administrators of the prospective student/athlete
- Direct any inquiries from parents or others to your school administration
- Do not put yourself in a position to be accused of recruiting athletes
- Notify your AD so they can check the student's athletic eligibility in depth

Be sure you understand your school's Athletic Registration process.....

- Understand and communicate to your athletes your school athletic registration process.
- Make registration materials available to athletes: team meetings, mailings.
- Let athletes know where they can get the athletic registration materials at school.

Registration process continued:

- Follow your school registration process
- DO NOT LET ATHLETES PRACTICE IN ANY MANNER WITHOUT ATHLETIC CLEARANCE
- Do not accept athlete registration materials at practice. You do not have time to review for accuracy and completeness.

LIABILITY ALERT

- Do not put you, your school or coaching staff in a potential liability conflict by letting an athlete practice without athletic clearance.

Listen for Eligibility RED FLAGS

- Know the basic eligibility rules at all levels: State, League and School District
- Don't be the last to know
- Listen with a focus on potential eligibility red flags.

NEVER COMPROMISE YOURSELF, YOUR TEAM OR YOUR SCHOOL

- No individual is bigger than the TEAM
- Parents and students will lie to you to gain athletic eligibility
- There are NO shortcuts to athletic eligibility
- You will never be perfect, do the right thing all the time and you will still have eligibility violations. You cannot catch EVERYTHING ALL the time.

What are the Key Elements of Student Eligibility

- Age
- Scholarship
- Residence
- Transfer Student
- Previous Semester
- Season Limitations
 - *Lets look at each area in depth*

AGE

- HS—Shall not be 20 years old by 9/1, 12/1 or 3/1 for respective season
- JH—Shall not be 16 prior to June 1 of the previous school year
- MS—Shall not be 15 prior to June 1 of the previous school year.

SCHOOL MEMBER

- Regular member of the school they represent
- Regular student if enrolled half time or more. Remember to include:
 - Registered Home School Student
 - Running Start Student
 - Alternative School Student

SCHOLARSHIP

- WIAA Standard: currently passing and have passed during the previous semester:
 - 3 classes in a 4 period schedule
 - 4 classes in a 5 period schedule
 - 5 classes in a 6 period schedule
 - 6 classes in a 7 period schedule
 - 7 classes in a 8 period schedule
- NOTE: Your District may have a more restrictive scholarship requirement

RESIDENCE

- The place where the family unit has established its home, where the student is habitually present, and returns on a daily basis.
- Family unit is the adult(s) who has/have had legal custody of the student for at least one year and with whom the student resides.

TRANSFER STUDENT

- A transfer student is any student enrolling in a school other than their public school of residence
- A transfer student has JV eligibility for one year
- Rule 18.25.3 Varsity eligibility in any sport the student did not participate in the previous year at the school, club or community level
- Appeal to WIAA District Eligibility Committee if a hardship exists

PREVIOUS SEMESTER

- Student must have a previous semester
- Student must have passed minimum number of classes in previous semester
- Student must have been enrolled within the first 3 weeks of the semester—Change of residence Okay

Previous Semester

- **ACADEMIC**: in regular attendance but did not meet scholastic requirements—The suspension period for HS is the end of previous semester through the last Saturday of September in the fall and the first five weeks of the succeeding semester/trimester.

SEASON LIMITATION

- 6 years once the student enters or becomes eligible to enter the 7th Grade
 - Academic Exceptions for 7th or 8th graders
 - Repeat 9th grades can compete at HS
- 4 years once the student enters or becomes eligible to enter the 9th Grade
 - 5th year granted by Eligibility Committee when a hardship exists.
 - No 6th year granted

WHAT IS HARDSHIP

- A hardship exists only when some unique circumstances concerning the student's physical or emotional status exist and only when such circumstances are not the result of acts or actions by the student or family unit. Usual maturation problems or family situations that do not cause severe and abnormal emotional problems and academic or athletic

The WIAA Eligibility Packet

- Contact your Athletic Director or Building Administrator for the WIAA Eligibility Packet.
- The Eligibility Packet is also available at www.wiaa.com under publications.

Your School can help transferring students

- Refer to Eligibility Brochure
- Sample Letters to new incoming students or students leaving your school district
- Letters alert student that there may be eligibility concerns involved with their change of schools
- Refer student to School Administrator to review their eligibility

Eligibility Q and A

Refer to Eligibility Q and A Handout

Any More Questions?

