

Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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Blake Ress, Commissioner



Athletic Eligibility

A Basic Guide for Schools, Students and Parents

To Students

Your high school years will provide some of the most memorable and enjoyable moments you will ever experience. Competition in interschool athletics is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, which will influence you forever.

Your participation in high school athletics is dependent on your eligibility.

Keep that eligibility. Read the following summary of Indiana High School Athletic Association rules which govern your participation.

Review the rules with your parents/guardians. Ask questions of your principal, athletic director/s and coaches.

To Parents

The value of participating in athletics has been well documented. Participants earn better grades, have better attendance and have a greater chance for success in later life than non-participants.

Students must meet certain standards in order to maintain the privileges of competition.

Review the following rules with your son or daughter. Your role in stressing and supporting the value of following these rules cannot be emphasized enough.

From the IHSAA

The Indiana High School Athletic Association has been the governing body of high school athletics in our state since 1903.

Your school is a voluntary member of the IHSAA and has agreed to follow its rules. Both your school and the IHSAA believe in equal competition among schools and the close relationship between academics and athletics.

The IHSAA rules listed in this brochure are only a summary of some of the regulations affecting student eligibility. All rules are found in the IHSAA By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation publication. Your principal and athletic director/s have copies. An on-line version also is located on our website: www.ihsaa.org

You are ineligible if:

1. **Age**

- You are 20 years of age prior to or on the scheduled date of the IHSAA State Finals tournament in a sport.

2. **Amateurism**

- You play under an assumed name.
- You accept money or merchandise directly or indirectly from athletic participation.
- You sign a professional contract in that sport.

3. **Awards and Gifts**

- You receive in recognition for your athletic ability any award not approved by your high school principal or the IHSAA.
- You use or accept merchandise as an award, prize, gift or loan or purchase such for a token sum.
- You accept awards, medals, recognitions, gifts and honors from colleges/universities or their alumni.

4. **Conduct and Character**

- You conduct yourself in or out of school in a way which reflects discredit on your school or the IHSAA.
- You create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral and educational environment in your school.

5. **Enrollment**

- You did not enroll in school during the first 15 days of a semester.
- You have been enrolled more than four consecutive years, or the equivalent (e.g. 8 semesters or 12 tri-mesters, etc.), beginning with grade 9.
- You have represented a high school in a sport for more than four years.

6. Illness and Injury

- You are absent five or more consecutive school days due to illness or injury and do not present to your principal written verification from a physician licensed to practice medicine stating that you may resume participation.

7. Participation

a. During Contest Season

- You participate in try-outs or demonstrations of athletic ability in that sport as a prospective post-secondary school student-athlete.
- You participate in a non-school contest that required participation during school time, without gaining approval by the school principal or his/her designee.
- You participate in a practice with or against players not belonging to your school.
- You participate in a non-school-sponsored contest without an approved waiver.
- You attend a non-school camp.
- You attend and participate in a student-clinic.

b. During School Year Out-of-Season

- You participate in a team sport contest as a member of a non-school team where there are more than the following number of students listed below in each sport, including incoming freshmen, who have participated the previous year in a contest as a member of their school team in that sport.

Basketball - 3 Baseball - 5 Football - 6

Volleyball - 3 Softball - 5 Soccer - 6

- You receive instruction in team sports from individuals who are members of your high school coaching staff (Exception: open facility).

c. During Summer

- You attend a non-school fall sports camp and/or clinic after Monday of Week 4 (See your athletic director for specific dates).
- You attend any other non-school camp and/or clinic after Monday of Week 5 (See your athletic director for specific dates).

8. Practice

- You have not completed the required number of separate days of organized practice in your sport under the direct supervision of the high school coaching staff in your sport preceding participation in a contest.

9. Scholarship

- You did not pass 70% of the full credit subjects or the equivalent that a student can take in your previous grading period. Semester grades take precedence.
- You are not currently passing 70% of the full credit subjects or the equivalent that a student can take.

10. Consent and Release Certificate

- You do not have the completed certificate on file with your principal each school year, between May 1 and your first practice.

11. Transfer

- You transfer from one school to another primarily for athletic reasons.
- You were not enrolled in your present high school your last semester or at a junior high school from which your high school receives its students unless —
 - a. You are entering the 9th grade for the first time.
 - b. You are transferring from a school district or territory with a bona fide move by your parents.
 - c. You are a ward of the court.
 - d. You are an orphan.
 - e. You transfer to reside with a parent.
 - f. Your former school closed.
 - g. Your former school is not an IHSAA member school and is not accredited by the state accrediting agency in the state where the school is located.
 - h. Your transfer was pursuant to school board mandate for redistricting.
 - i. You enrolled and/or attended, in error, a wrong school.
 - j. You transferred from a correctional school.
 - k. You are emancipated.
 - l. You did not participate in any contests as a representative of another school during the preceding 365 days.
 - m. You return to an IHSAA member school from a non-member school and reside with the same parent/s or guardian/s.
 - n. You transfer to a member boarding school with a corresponding move from the residence of your parent/s or you transfer from a member boarding school with a corresponding move to the residence of your parent/s.
 - o. You are a qualified foreign exchange student attending under an approved CSIET program, who has attended a member school for less than one year.

12. Undue Influence

- You have been influenced by any person to secure you as a student or one or both parents or guardians as residents.

Athletic Participation

Physical Examination, Parent Permission Slips, and Insurance Waivers

All students who participate in athletics, which includes cheerleading, must have on record a current school physical examination, signed by a licensed physician and the student and their parents. Per Board policy, all students participating in athletics must have a proof of insurance form signed by both the student and a parent.