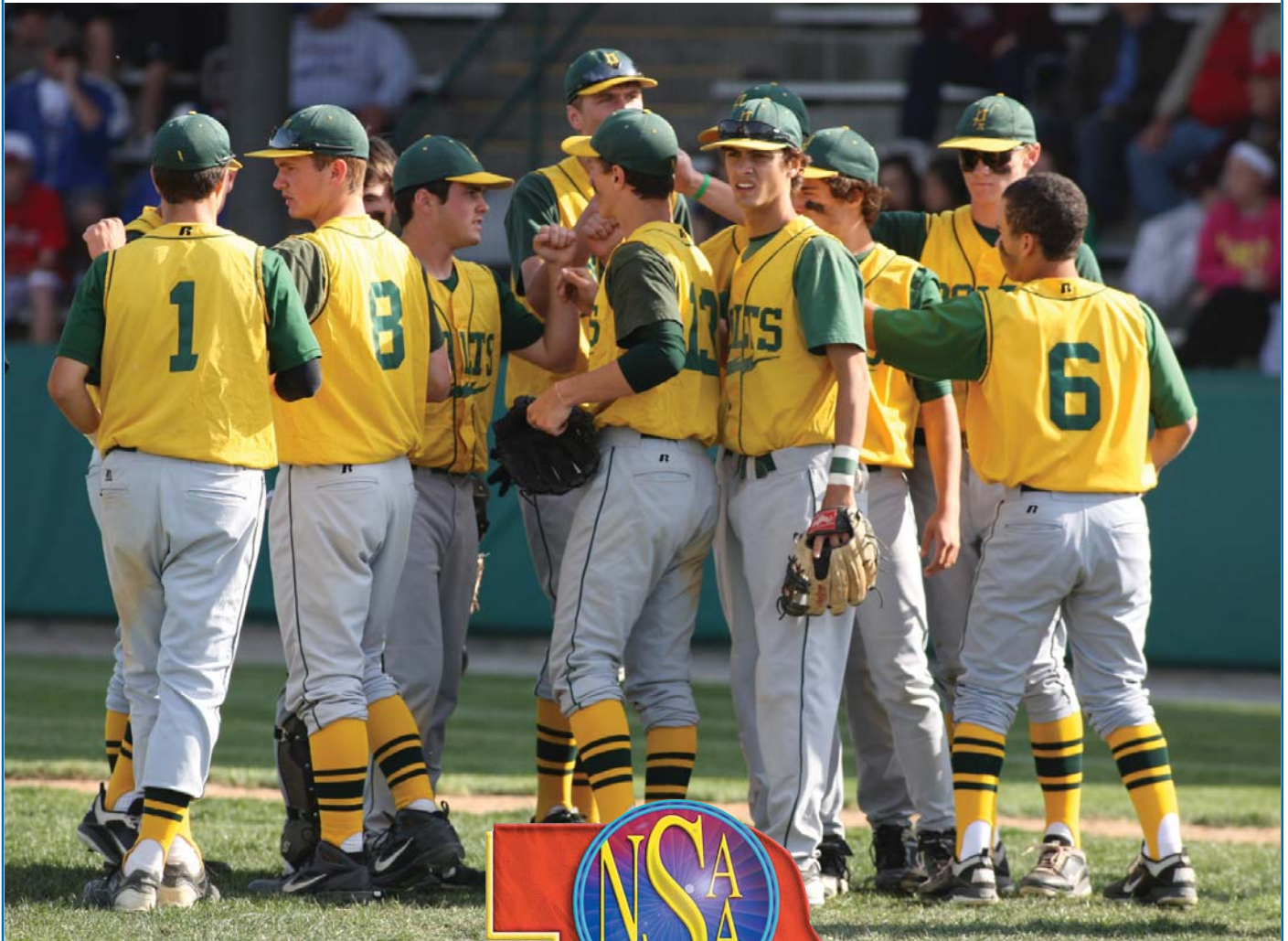


Guard Your Activities Eligibility

The NSAA Guide to Interscholastic Eligibility Bylaws



Compliance with the rules will prevent your team, school or community from being penalized.



FORWARD

The responsibility is placed on the administration of a school to determine the eligibility of students for participation in interscholastic activities. The rules governing eligibility are listed in the NSAA Yearbook. All applicable rules must be met before a student is permitted to participate in an interscholastic activity. The NSAA staff is available to assist with any eligibility questions you may have. It is recommended you review the eligibility of all students each year.

This eligibility booklet contains forms and guidelines to be used in determining the eligibility of students in your school for interschool activities participation. **Please give this material to the person in your school who has the responsibility of determining eligibility such as the Athletic/Activities Director or Counselor.**

When a student enters your school for the first time, or when students are planning their academic program, a counselor often works with these students. As a rule, counselors are not familiar with the rules governing activity eligibility. It is recommended that counselors be made aware of the major eligibility rules such as the domicile and transfer rule, preceding semester scholastic rule, and eight-semester rule.

If it is necessary to declare a student ineligible for interscholastic competition, be certain that the individual is provided due process. Refer to the Due Process Procedure in the NSAA Yearbook. After using the Due Process Procedure and the determination is made that the student is ineligible, provide the individual and his/her parent(s) with written notice of ineligibility.



Verification of Students' Eligibility	3
Eligibility Reminders	4
Eligibility Checklist	5
Guard Your Eligibility Poster	6



Mission

The public and non-public high schools of Nebraska voluntarily agreed to form the Nebraska School Activities Association for the following purposes:

- To formulate and make policies which will cultivate high ideals of citizenship, fair competition, sportsmanship, and teamwork, which will compliment the member schools' curriculum programs.
- To foster uniformity of standards in interscholastic activity competition.
- To organize, develop, direct, and regulate an interscholastic activity program, which is equitable, and will protect and promote the health and physical welfare of all participants.

Verification of Students' Eligibility to Participate in High School Activities

The requirement that students be eligible to participate in interschool activities is a fundamental rule of all bodies that sponsor and regulate competition at the high school and collegiate levels. In reviewing the history of the NSAA, the setting of eligibility standards for interscholastic participation was the basic reason why the Nebraska School Activities Association was formed. The integrity of the Association and fair competition between schools is dependent upon schools making every effort to comply with student eligibility rules and the enforcement of penalties for those that fail to carry out this responsibility.

In the majority of cases in which the NSAA has become involved when an ineligible student was used, the use of the ineligible student could have been prevented if the individual(s) delegated the responsibility for determining eligibility had done their job. It is this disregard of responsibility that places team or individual accomplishment in jeopardy.

The responsibility for determining the eligibility of students is set forth in Article 2, Paragraph 2.1.2, NSAA Bylaws. All member schools should have an established procedure or policy that is to be followed to fulfill this responsibility. To help school personnel, the following packet of material is provided. It will take additional time and effort, but it may save time, embarrassment, and forfeiture of contests later.

Eligibility Requirements: The eligibility requirements are key factors, which need to be considered and verified in determining the eligibility of all your students who will participate in interschool competition. If there is any uncertainty, this should serve as a warning and the need to obtain additional information.

Eligibility Checklist: The Eligibility Checklist should be used to verify the eligibility of transfer students and students entering high school from a junior high school or middle school. This form should be completed during a conference with the student and, if possible, the parent(s).

Parental Consent Form: A Parental Consent Form is to be signed by the student and his/her parent(s). Be certain that each form has the parent's or guardian's signature and current address. The purpose of this form is to inform parents and students of the rules, to provide the "giving notice" requirement of due process, and provides a warning as to the potential of injury while participating. It is important that the enclosed Parental Consent Form language be used as it contains wording to accommodate some potential issues regarding roster information and photographs. It is essential that each individual participating in NSAA activities have a Parental Consent form on file at your school. The insurance carrier for the Nebraska School Activities Association requires the WARNING to accompany the Parental Consent Form. THE PARENTAL CONSENT FORM SHALL BE SIGNED EACH YEAR.

NSAA Enrollment Option Students: Students who transfer under the Enrollment Option Program will be immediately eligible in the fall for varsity competition if the student's Enrollment Option Application was signed, filed, and approved by May 1st. Students whose Enrollment Option Applications are approved after May 1st, shall be ineligible for 90 school days. A student may transfer under this rule one time during his/her high school years, unless there is a change of domicile by the legal parent.

Any student who files transfer paperwork and who elects not to transfer in the fall shall become ineligible for 90 school days in his/her current school.

Transfer Students: A student transferring from public school-to-private school, private-to-public, private-to-private, intradistrict, or from out-of-state, without an accompanying permanent change of domicile of the legal parent, is generally ineligible for 90 school days. However, a student who has his/her transfer papers signed and filed on or before May 1st shall be eligible immediately in the fall, providing the school into which the student transfers notifies the NSAA of the transfer online no later than May 1st. A student may transfer under this rule one time during his/her high school years, unless there is a change of domicile by the legal parent.

Any student who files transfer paperwork and who elects not to transfer in the fall shall become ineligible for 90 school days in his/her current school.

Foreign Exchange Students: Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Students indicate that the eligibility for Foreign Exchange students will be granted for a maximum of two consecutive semesters, regardless of subsequent change in visa, residency, or guardianship. The two consecutive semester periods begin with the student's initial enrollment in any high school in the United States. Foreign exchange students must possess a J-1 visa and must be a member of a recognized (by CSIET) foreign exchange program. Approved students possessing a F-1 visa, and being part of a religious or missionary program are also eligible.

Foreign Exchange Student Eligibility Confirmation Form: If your school has a foreign student who has elected to attend the school under the sponsorship of a recognized Foreign Exchange Program (J-1 visa) or is part of a religious or missionary program (F-1 visa), and the student wishes to participate in interscholastic activities, this form should be completed online. The Executive Director will make an eligibility ruling and the ruling/confirmation will appear on the AD's NSAA login page.

Please understand that administrative oversight will not be accepted as a reason for the use of an ineligible student.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Prior to completing the Nebraska School Activities Association online eligibility database, be certain you have checked the following eligibility requirements for each student who may participate in an interschool contest prior to certifying the individual(s) as being eligible.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT

Each student received twenty hours of credit the immediate preceding semester (unless a 9th grader).

The student is presently enrolled in classes in your school, which will give him/her twenty semester hours of credit that will partially fulfill your school's graduation requirements.

Home school students shall have received, or be granted, twenty credit hours for the immediate preceding semester. The twenty credit hours must be accepted and entered on the records of the student as partial fulfillment of the school's graduation requirements.

AGE REQUIREMENT

Student was not nineteen years of age prior to August 1 of current year.

SEMESTER AND SEASON LIMITATION REQUIREMENT

Student has not been a member of a school eight or more semesters since initial enrollment in grade nine.

Student has not participated in four or more seasons of the activity in which eligibility is being determined.

DOMICILE REQUIREMENT

School attended the previous year or previous semester.

1. Did he/she attend your high school?
2. Did the student attend high school at another high school within your school district?
3. Was the student's domicile located within another school district and entering a high school for the first time?

Is the permanent domicile of the student's legal parent(s) located in your school district?

Does the student live with his/her legal parent(s) as defined by NSAA Bylaw 2.6.2?

1. Is it a single parent family? If yes, which parent has custody? There may be some eligibility issues if the student is living with the non-custodial parent.
2. Does the student live with a guardian? (Guardianship does not meet the definition of a legal parent.)

Has the Parental Consent Form and Pre-Participation Physical (athletes only) been signed and returned?

VERIFICATION OF RULES

This form should be used to verify the eligibility of students NSAA Option Enrolling/Transferring to your school for the first time and planning to participate in interschool activities.

Yes	No	Does Not Apply	
			1. The student is not or will not be nineteen years of age before August 1 of the current school year.
			2. The student has received twenty hours of credit for the semester immediately preceding the semester in which she/he wishes to participate (except incoming 9th graders).
			3. The student has been enrolled in some high school on or before the eleventh day of the school during the semester in which the student wishes to compete in varsity interscholastic competition.
			4. The student has not been a member of a school more than eight semesters since initial enrollment in grade 9.
			5. The student is enrolled in school and is taking courses, which will give him/her a minimum of twenty credit hours.
			6. Is the student living with one of the following: natural parents, adoptive parents, or foster parents if student is placed in a foster home after becoming a ward of the state, courts or welfare agency, or legal guardian if parental rights of custody of both parents have been terminated by death, incompetency or unsuitability?
			7. The legal parent(s) established their bona fide domicile in the school district where the high school is located at the following address: _____
			8. Has the student previously attended another high school within the school district where your high school is located?
			9. If the answer to statement 8 is yes, has the legal parent(s) changed domicile prior to the student's enrollment in your school?
			10. Is the legal parent(s) paying tuition to attend your high school?

Date _____ School Official _____