



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

October 10, 2014

Greetings to each of you as you wind down the fall season. Ready or not...it all repeats itself again and I am sure you are already finding that. Picture Day, Pre-Season Meetings, Fall Sport Banquets & teams in Tournament. AND...Eligibility. Hopefully a few tips here to help.

Eligibility 102 (I used "101" Before!)

Most of you are reaching the end of the 1st grading period at your school. Checking eligibility will be a major undertaking, especially for football and any sport that you are currently in tournament. Here are a couple key points and basic explanations of some scenarios:

- **Vocational Students/PSEO Students/Home Schooled Students/Students from Non-Public Schools Playing at YOUR School**
Individuals not in your school playing for YOUR school teams has changed the landscape considerably. They are often not on the same schedule as their home school where they are competing – yours. So, what do you do? Answer: You need to use YOUR grading period. So even though the Vocational School (or PSEO school) grading period ended or has not ended on the same schedule as yours, you need to obtain the grades from that school at the point your school's grading period ends. Use those grades to determine his/her eligibility.

Legislation that provided eligibility to Home Schooled students at the public school of residence presents a challenge for Athletic Administrators at the end of the school's grading period. All Home Schooled students must submit a course of study that is approved by a district administrator (usually the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent). Regardless of when the Home Schooled student's grading period ends, parents must submit grades at the point your school's grading period ends. The student must meet all requirements students enrolled at your school must meet. These grades should be submitted in writing in a format you request and are used to determine the student's eligibility. For students at a non-public school playing for your teams – same thing....you must get their grades on YOUR schedule. That can be challenging.

- **"The Fifth Day"**
Student-athletes become eligible OR ineligible **on the 5th SCHEDULED school day following the end of the grading period**. If your grading period ends on Friday, October 17, for example, any student-athlete would become ineligible or eligible on the 5th **scheduled school day** – Friday, October 24 in this case. **But...now look at the following scenarios:**

***What about a "Fog Day" (or SNOW Day in the winter) and school is cancelled?** Answer: Since the day was originally SCHEDULED as a school day, it would count as one of the 5 days.

***What if a Holiday (Columbus Day for example) were one of the days?** Answer: If your school was scheduled to be out of school on this day, then it does not count as part of the 5 day period. Yes, it would 'extend' the time. Using the winter time (since this may come up for you) IF for example, your grading period were scheduled to end on Friday, January 18 and you were not in session on Martin Luther King Day (Monday, January 19), the 5th scheduled school day would not be until Monday, January 26. He/She would become eligible/ineligible on Monday, January 26.

"So, What's this '24 Hour' thing?"

Answer: This is official known as "Exception 2 to Bylaw 4-4-3" (Don't worry...I had to look it up also!)

A few years back and in an effort to 'get kids back from ineligibility', the member schools passed a referendum that permits an individual to become eligible 24 hours after the mandatory grade report date. Using the first scenario above with your grading period ending on Friday, January 11 and your school's mandatory grade report date is Wednesday, October 23 at 3:00 p.m. (just an example), an athlete who has been Ineligible may become ELIGIBLE at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 24. To utilize this, Your school must have a **board established date for grade reporting**. You can find the form to verify this on the lower left corner Of the "Administrator's Corner" from the OHSAA's website. This form is known as "[Template for Board of Education Approval Of Policy for Bylaw 4-4-3 Exception 2 - Mandatory Grade Report Date](#)"

NCAA Study....

I heard the other day a Junior High QB recently committed to an NCAA Division I school. Doesn't help with our message to parents, I guess. You've often heard the numbers; less than 2% go on to compete at the college level, etc. At the recent NAIAAA conference a session sponsored by the NCAA presented an interesting study that detailed the probability of making it to advanced levels of play beyond high school. How interesting. For example, consider the following statistics regarding High School Boys basketball players and the possibility of advancing in that sport:

High School	High School Seniors	NCAA Freshmen	NCAA Seniors	NCAA Students Drafted
535,289	152,940	5,111	3,976	51

Percent of High School to NCAA: 3.3%
Percent of NCAA to Professional: 1.3%
Percent of High School to Professional: 0.03%

Get the entire study that includes several different sports at: http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Athletics_Information/Probability_of_Competing_Past_High_School.pdf
This is great to use at Pre-Season Meetings.

Speaking of NCAA Eligibility

All of the above aside, as you know, most think they STILL will be part of the small percentage that plays at the NCAA level. Recently, the NCAA and the NFHS agreed to make the NCAA Eligibility Online course **FREE**. This was a great move and one that I would recommend you provide to ALL parents who think they indeed ARE going to the next level. It is available at www.nfhslearn.com or directly at: <http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=14000> A great help for Athletic Directors and Coaches.