

Guidelines for Student Athletic Eligibility

Produced By The Ohio High School Athletic Association
For School Guidance Counselors



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As a school guidance counselor, you are a vital link of the OHSAA team in efforts to promote scholarship and protect the eligibility of students. Information contained on this card will acquaint you with the OHSAA scholarship bylaws and regulations. In addition to the OHSAA standards, your school may have other standards that apply. **Any questions you have concerning standards should be reviewed with your school principal or athletic administrator.**

NOTE: In addition to any local standards or state mandated standards (GPA), the OHSAA standards must be met **without exception** in order to maintain athletic eligibility.

OHSAA Bylaws for Students in Grades 7-12

Please familiarize yourself with the following OHSAA Bylaws:

- All beginning seventh graders are eligible insofar as the scholarship bylaw.
- All beginning ninth graders must have passed 75 percent of subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period.
- Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. **Semester and yearly grades have no effect on OHSAA eligibility.**
- **Grades 9-12:** To be eligible, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of **five** one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period (**Note:** Students taking post-secondary options must comply with these standards).
- **Grades 7-8:** To be eligible, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in 75 percent of subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period.
- For eligibility, summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year or for lack of enough courses taken the preceding grading period.

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility - Grades 9-12

Passing grades must have been received in a minimum of **five** one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. To determine credit equivalency, multiply full-year courses by a factor of 1; semester courses by a factor of 2; twelve-week courses by a factor of 3; and nine-week courses by a factor of 4.

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

| Subject | Grade | Credit & Duration | Factor | Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent) |
|----------------------|-------|-------------------|--------|---|
| English 10 | C | 1 - all year | 1 | $1 \times 1 = 1$ |
| Spanish I | D | 1 - all year | 1 | $1 \times 1 = 1$ |
| Health | B | 1/2 - semester | 2 | $1/2 \times 2 = 1$ |
| Algebra | F | 1 - all year | 1 | 0 |
| Computers | C | 1/2 - semester | 2 | $1/2 \times 2 = 1$ |
| Social Studies | C | 1/2 - semester | 2 | $1/2 \times 2 = 1$ |
| Total Credits | | | | 5 = eligible for 2nd grading period |

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period

| Subject | Grade | Credit & Duration | Factor | Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent) |
|----------------------|-------|-------------------|--------|--|
| English | C | 1 - all year | 1 | $1 \times 1 = 1$ |
| O.W.E. | F | 2 - all year | 1 | 0 |
| O.W.E. | D | 1 - all year | 1 | $1 \times 1 = 1$ |
| History | B | 1 - all year | 1 | $1 \times 1 = 1$ |
| Health | B | 1/4 - semester | 2 | $1/4 \times 2 = 1/2$ |
| Typing | C | 1/4 - 4th 9 weeks | 4 | $1/4 \times 4 = 1$ |
| Total Credits | | | | 4 1/2 = ineligible for 1st grading period of next school year |

Post-Secondary Options

Note: If a student is taking all course work at the post-secondary institution, the minimum number of credits required (under either the quarter or semester system) in order to maintain athletic eligibility is **13**.

It is highly recommended that you obtain a copy of *Ohio's Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program* from the State Department of Education. In addition, students electing to enroll in PEOP must be certain that 1.) The faculty members at the post-secondary institution understand that they will need to provide grades or a progress report at the time when the high school's grading period is over, and 2.) The student-athlete is taking enough course work at the post-secondary institution exclusively or between the post-secondary institution and the high school combined to be equivalent to five one-credit courses. Calculating equivalency of credits in the post-secondary institution is conducted in the same manner as in the high school, based on the Carnegie unit. **College courses for which five semester hours (7 1/2 quarter hours) of credit are earned shall be awarded one Carnegie unit. Fractional Carnegie units will be awarded proportionately.** Examples of post-secondary options:

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

| Subject | School | Credit & Duration | Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent) |
|----------------------|--------|-------------------|---|
| History | High | 1 (year course) | $1 \times 1 = 1$ |
| Literature | PEOP | 3 quarter hours | $.4 \times 3 = 1.2$ |
| Calculus | PEOP | 5 quarter hours | $.67 \times 3 = 2.01$ |
| Biology | PEOP | 3 quarter hours | $.4 \times 3 = 1.2$ |
| Total Credits | | | 5.41 = eligible for 2nd grading period provided all courses passed |

The factor of 3 is used for post-secondary institutions that are on the quarter system.

(Over)

| Subject | School | Credit & Duration |
|----------------------|--------|-------------------|
| French | PEOP | 5 semester hours |
| Sociology | PEOP | 3 semester hours |
| Computers | PEOP | 2 semester hours |
| Geology | PEOP | 3 semester hours |
| Total Credits | | |

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period

Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)

$$1 \times 2 = 2$$

$$.6 \times 2 = 1.2$$

$$.4 \times 2 = .8$$

$$.6 \times 2 = 1.2$$

5.2 = eligible for 1st grading period of next school year provided all courses passed

The factor of 2 is used for post-secondary institutions that are on the semester system. Note that this student is taking all courses at the post-secondary institution, which is acceptable.

Block Scheduling

Block scheduling or double blocking of courses does not change the calculation of credit equivalencies as required in OHSAA bylaws. Courses taken over one semester or one quarter (9-week period) carry a factor of 2 and 4, respectively. Therefore, if a student takes an English course during the first semester only and receives one credit for passing that course, that class carries an equivalency of 2 (1 credit x the factor for a semester course (2) = 2). Examples of block scheduling:

| Subject | Grade | Credit & Duration |
|----------------------|-------|-------------------|
| English 10 | C | 1 - semester |
| Spanish 2 | C | 1 - semester |
| Health | B | 1/4 - 1st 9 weeks |
| Total Credits | | |

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)

$$2$$

$$2$$

$$4$$

$$1 \times 2 = 2$$

$$1 \times 2 = 2$$

$$1/4 \times 4 = 1$$

5 = eligible for 2nd grading period

| Subject | Grade | Credit & Duration |
|----------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Calculus | B | 1 - semester |
| French | C | 1 - semester |
| Phys. Ed. | A | 1/4 - semester |
| Total Credits | | |

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)

$$2$$

$$2$$

$$2$$

$$1 \times 2 = 2$$

$$1 \times 2 = 2$$

$$1/4 \times 2 = 1/2$$

4 1/2 = ineligible for 4th grading period

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility - Grades 7-8

Passing grades must have been received in 75 percent of subjects in which enrolled in the immediately preceding grading period. All courses in which a student receives a grade count toward the 75 percent eligibility requirement.

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

| Subject | Grade |
|-----------------------|--|
| English | F |
| Math | B |
| Ohio History | A |
| Home Economics | B |
| Physical Education | B |
| Computers | C |
| Music | C |
| Health | B |
| Credits Passed | 7 of 8 classes - 87.5 percent = eligible for 2nd grading period |

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

| Subject | Grade |
|-----------------------|--|
| English | F |
| Math | D |
| Ohio History | F |
| Industrial Arts | C |
| Music | B |
| Computers | B |
| Physical Education | B |
| Credits Passed | 5 of 7 classes - 70.4 percent = ineligible for 4th grading period |

Quick Reference for Protecting Student Eligibility

- Do not permit a student-athlete to drop a course without first determining whether it will affect athletic eligibility.
- Do not permit a student-athlete to transfer without first determining whether it will affect athletic eligibility. At the beginning of the ninth grade year, students may enroll in and attend any member school that accepts them. Once eligibility has been established at a member school, a student will be ineligible for athletic participation for one calendar year from the date of enrollment at the new school should he or she transfer unless one of the exceptions to the transfer bylaw is met. Should one of your student-athletes plan to transfer, set up a meeting between the student-athlete, his/her parents and your school principal or athletic administrator to review what effect the transfer will have on athletic eligibility.
- Be knowledgeable of the OHSAA eligibility requirements.
- Attempt to identify students who are or may become athletes when reviewing class schedules.
- Insure that student-athletes are taking enough courses to meet the eligibility requirements so that they may participate the next grading period.
- Work closely with the coaches and athletic director.
- Contact the athletic director or principal on questions pertaining to eligibility.

NOTE: By state law, your school district has adopted a minimum grade point average (GPA) for participating in interscholastic extracurricular activities. In determining eligibility, the GPA is calculated on the grades the student received the immediately preceding grading period. It is not a cumulative GPA.

For additional information, contact:
Ohio High School Athletic Association

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The complete text of the Bylaws and Regulations is published in the OHSAA Handbook, which is mailed to your school each summer and is posted on the OHSAA web site.