

Nebraska School Activities Association Rules

In order to represent a Nebraska high school in interscholastic competition, a student must abide by eligibility rules of the Nebraska School Activities Association. A summary of the major rules is given below. Contact the principal or activities director for an explanation of the complete rule.

If you do not understand a summary of these rules listed below or you need an explanation of other requirements, consult the high school principal or athletic director.

- Student must be an undergraduate.
- After a student's initial enrollment in grade nine, he/she shall be ineligible after eight semesters of school membership beginning with his/her enrollment in grade nine.
- Student is ineligible if 19 years of age before August 1 of the current school year. (Students in grades 7 or 8 may participate on a high school team if he/she was 15 years of age prior to August 1 of current school year.)
- Student must be enrolled in some high school on or before the 11th day of the current semester.
- A student entering grade nine for the first time after being promoted from grade eight of a two-year junior high, or a three-year middle school, or entering a high school for the first time after being promoted to grade ten from a three-year junior high school is eligible. After a student makes an initial choice of high schools, any subsequent transfer, unless there has been a change of domicile by his/her parents, shall render the student ineligible for ninety school days. If a student has participated on a high school team at any level as a seventh, eighth, or ninth grade student, he/she has established his/her eligibility at the high school where he/she participated. If the student elects to attend another high school upon entering ninth or tenth grade, he/she shall be ineligible for ninety school days. **Student eligibility related to domicile can be attained in the following manners:**
- If the change in domicile by the parents occurs during a school year, the student may remain at the school he/she is attending and be eligible until the end of the school year or transfer to a high school located in the school district where the parents established their domicile and be eligible.
- If the parents moved during the summer months and the student is in grade twelve, the student may remain at the high school he/she has been attending and retain eligibility.
- If a student has been attending the same high school since initial enrollment in grade nine, he/she may remain at that high school and retain eligibility, or he/she is eligible at a high school located in the school district where his/her parents established their domicile.
- If the parents of a student change their domicile from one school district that has a high school to another school district that has a high school, the student shall be eligible immediately in the school district where the parents established their domicile.
- Transfer students who have their Enrollment Option applications signed and filed prior to March 15 shall be eligible immediately in the fall. Those students who do not have their Enrollment Option applications signed and filed prior to March 15 shall be ineligible for ninety school days, with such transfers being subject to hardship waiver guidelines.
- Other non-enrollment option transfer students must have signed and delivered all forms necessary to make such transfer to the school in which he/she intends to enroll for the next school year prior to March 15; for the student to be eligible, the school to which the transfer is being made must have notified the NSAA office in writing, postmarked not later than March 15. Those students who did not have their enrollment forms signed, delivered and accepted prior to March 15, shall be ineligible for ninety school days, with such transfers being subject to hardship waiver guidelines.
- Once the season of a sport begins, a student shall participate in practices and compete only in athletic contests/meets in that sport, which are scheduled by his/her school. Any other competition will render the student ineligible for a portion of, or all of, the season in that sport. The season of a sport begins with the first date of practice as permitted by NSAA rules.
- During the season of a particular sport, athletes participating in that sport for a high school may attend, but may not physically take part, either as an individual or as a member of a team, in the sport activity in which instruction is being offered in the clinic, camp or school.
- A student shall not participate on an all-star team while a high school undergraduate.
- A student must maintain his/her amateur status.
- A student shall not participate in a contest under an assumed name.

Eligibility Determinations

The Director of Athletics/Student Activities or his/her designate, hereinafter the "Director," shall act as the member school and the Superintendent's designate and shall conduct the initial investigation and shall make the initial determination and declaration of eligibility or ineligibility for students to represent a member school in interscholastic competition in those activities which are under the jurisdiction of the Nebraska School Activities Association, hereinafter "NSAA." Any questions, problems, or issues by building level athletic directors, coaches, or sponsors regarding a student's eligibility shall be referred to the Director for initial determination. After initial investigation, the Director shall issue an initial written determination of eligibility or ineligibility. If the initial determination is that the student is ineligible, the director shall issue a notice of ineligibility. If, within five (5) days, after the initial determination, the Director receives a written request from such student, the member school shall sponsor an appeal on behalf of the student declared ineligible to the Executive Director of the NSAA for a hardship waiver in accordance with NSAA procedure. If the decision of the Executive Director of the NSAA is unfavorable to the student, the member school shall continue to sponsor an appeal on behalf of the student to the Board of Control in accordance with NSAA procedure.

Athletic Information

If the student, parents, coach, or athletic trainer feel that the student is not in good physical condition, participation will not be permitted. The school principal and/or athletic director will be notified of the student's physical condition if there is a question regarding participation.

In case of injury received either in practice or in a game, the Board of Education will endeavor to furnish temporary first aid only. The school cannot perform or be held responsible for any medical attention which might be required, nor can it assume or be liable for loss or damage suffered by reason of injuries to pupils. If, in case of injury, the parent or the family physician cannot be located, the staff is authorized to use their best judgment in obtaining competent medical care and service. **Parents are obligated to pay for professional medical and/or related services; the school shall not be liable for the payment of such services.**

Insurance coverage is recommended for all participants at parents' expense. Parents are urged to purchase the accident coverage they prefer. The Board of Education and the Nebraska School Activities Association require each student who participates in any phase of the athletic program to have an annual physical examination to be given after May 1 of each year. This certifies that the athlete is qualified for the entire school year: June 1 through the following school year. Physical Examination reports, Parents' Consent Record and Emergency Information report forms **MUST** all be completed and returned to the school athletic director.

Caution

Participation in these activities involves the potential for injury which is inherent in all sports. Even with the best coaching, use of the most advanced protective equipment and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility. On rare occasions these injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis, or even death.

A Statement on Transportation Relating to Student Athletics

It is important that parents be aware of the types of transportation which may be used in connection with the athletics program of the Lincoln Public Schools.

1. Senior high students are transported from the school to participate in athletics in other cities and returned to the school after the event.
2. Students may be expected to find their own transportation to and from the event in town.
3. Students that are transported to events are to travel to and from the events on school provided transportation. Parents or guardians may submit advance written request to have a parent personally pick up their student only.

Student Application for Participation

This application to participate in interscholastic activities for the Lincoln Public Schools is entirely voluntary on my part and is made with the understanding that I have read the eligibility rules and regulations of the Nebraska School Activities Association and the rules and regulations of the Lincoln Public Schools and I am not in violation of such rules.

Date _____ Student _____
(Student Signature)

Parent's or Guardian's Consent

I hereby give my consent for _____ to participate
(Student's Name)

for _____ School in activities approved by the
(Name of School)
Lincoln Public Schools.

I/we realize that participation involves the potential for injury which is inherent in all sports. I/we acknowledge that even with the best coaching, use of the most advanced protective equipment and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility. On rare occasions these injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis, or even death.

I/we acknowledge that I/we have read and understand this warning.

I/we have read the rules of eligibility pertaining to activities participation and acknowledge and understand the purpose and content thereof, including the parent domicile, student transfer and eligibility crediting rules.

I/we acknowledge that parents are obligated to pay for professional medical and/or related services; the school shall not be liable for payment of such services.

I/we acknowledge that insurance coverage is recommended for all participants at parents' expense, and insurance information is available in the Athletic Director's office and/or in the main office of the school.

I/we acknowledge that all activity participants are required to have on school records a minimum of 20 hours credit for the immediate preceding semester, must currently be taking 20 credit hours of instruction each week and that some Lincoln High Schools requirements are greater than this minimum. We also acknowledge students enrolled in schools with modular scheduling are required to be enrolled in a minimum of 15 credit hours per quarter and must also pass a total of 20 credit hours the previous semester.

I/we understand the activity may be conducted at a location other than the student's school of attendance. The school and district will not provide transportation between the school of attendance and the site of the extra-curricular activity.

I/we also understand transportation to the site is the responsibility of the student and/or parent/guardian, and may involve transportation by a private vehicle driven by others.

I/we understand good sportsmanship is essential to the success of any athletic program. It is also understood that inappropriate behavior at any Lincoln Public Schools contest may result in removal from the contest and may result in suspension from attending future contests.

I/we give our permission for academic information including grade point average, class rank and any academic awards/recognition received by the student/athlete to be released for the purpose of recognizing excellence in both athletics and academics. Most typically this information will be used by newspapers, school publications and for awards banquets or assemblies, all-conference or all-state awards.

I/we understand and agree that participation in NSAA sponsored Activities is voluntary on the part of the student and is a privilege.

I/we consent and agree to our student being photographed, video taped, audio taped, or recorded by any other means while participating in NSAA activities and contests, consent to and waive any privacy rights with regard to the display of such recordings, and waive any claims of ownership or other rights with regard to such photographs or recordings or to the broadcast, sale or display of such photographs or recordings.

Date _____ Signature of Parent/Guardian _____