

W.S. Neal High School

Athletic Handbook

2017-2018

Athletic Director: Andro Williams

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Athletic Statement..... 2

Departmental Philosophy..... 2

Alabama High School Athletic Eligibility..... 3

Residency Requirements..... 5

Before First Practice..... 5

W.S. Neal Athletic Eligibility..... 5

- Academic Eligibility..... 6**
- Attendance Eligibility..... 6**
- Conduct Eligibility..... 7**

Conduct Notes..... 7

Awards..... 8

Information For Athletes..... 8

Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Initial Collegiate Eligibility..... 11

Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Students With Disabilities..... 15

W.S. Neal High School Warning Statement And Consent To Participate Form..... 17

Alabama High School Athletic Association Concussion Information Form..... 18

Helmet Warning..... 20

Acknowledgement of Athletic Handbook..... 21

**W.S. NEAL HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
FOR STUDENT ATHLETES**

ATHLETIC STATEMENT

This athletic handbook is designed to inform student athletes and their parents of the rules, regulations, and information that helped develop the rich tradition of competition in W.S. Neal Athletics. Participation in athletics is a privilege which carries with it varying degrees of honor, responsibility, and sacrifice. Since competition is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate shall be expected to follow the rules established by the Athletic Department and other specific coaches' rules for their sport. Each student athlete represents his/her family, W.S. Neal High School and the community.

While an attempt has been made to answer as many questions as possible and provide information on all aspects of athletic participation, it is possible that you may have some questions that are not answered here. Please contact the athletic director for this information.

The Athletic Department will enforce all rules and regulations as described in this Athletic Handbook. Parents and athletes are asked to sign an acknowledgement document located at the end of this handbook stating that they have read and understand the information in the handbook and that the athlete is subject to disciplinary measures should he/she violate the rules and regulations.

DEPARTMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the Athletic Department is to provide the best opportunities for student athletes to excel in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and character. In addition to developing skill in a sport, the purpose is to provide each participant with experiences that will be positive and memorable and that help develop the capacity for commitment to a cause, acceptance of responsibility, and loyalty toward any chosen endeavor.

SPORTSMANSHIP

A policy statement from the **National Federation of State High School Associations** expresses the concept of sportsmanship as follows.

“The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, awareness is expected of the impact of an individual’s influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity.”

One of the main goals of the athletic program is to teach the concept of sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship requires that everyone be treated with respect. This includes members of the opposing team, officials, coaches and spectators. Good sportsmanship includes showing courtesy and kindness

toward your opponent as well as fellow team members. The contest is exciting, but winning at any cost is not the goal. Negative treatment of any participant is outside the spirit and interest of the contest.

All AHSAA sanctioned events are a reflection of our community and school. The conduct of the team is extended to parents and fans before, during, and after athletic events.

Assaults of sports officials, coaches, or administrators (SB-16): This bill became law on March 31, 2002, and creates new crimes of harassing, menacing, and assaulting sports officials, coaches, and administrators. The punishments are harsher than normal for convictions of harassment, menacing, and assault. For example, a second-degree assault can carry a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, but under the new law, a second-degree assault of a sports official, coach, or administrator could result in a sentence of up to 20 years.

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

To Represent Your School in Athletic Contests

1. You must be a regularly enrolled student and must have enrolled in school no later than the 20th school day of the semester in which the contest occurs.
2. You must not have graduated from an accredited high school or equal grades.
3. You must not have reached your 19th birthday (15th birthday in middle school) prior to August 1 of the current school year. (A student reaching age 19[15 for middle school] on or after August 1st is eligible for the entire year.)
4. You must have a certified birth certificate (issued by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state where you were born and bearing its official seal and birth/recording number) on file in your principal's office and an official eligibility list (a Form 3 with required information about you included) submitted to the state office at least five (5) days before you are eligible.
5. You must not have attended high school more than eight semesters after entering the ninth grade (Fifteen days of attendance during a semester count as a semester).
6. You must not have participated in any sport more than four seasons after entering the ninth grade or have participated more than six seasons in any sport after entering the seventh grade.
7. You must have received an adequate physical examination for the current school year and have a Physician's certificate on file in the principal's or superintendent's office prior to participating in interscholastic athletics.
8. You must have passed a minimum of six full units of work (subjects) with a composite numerical average of 70 for those six units during the year preceding the year in which you participate. Not more than one unit in physical education may be counted per year. A maximum of two units may be earned in an accredited summer school. You must be taking six new units of work (subjects) during the current school year. A new unit (subject) is one not previously passed.

Four core courses (English, math, social studies, and science) must be included in the six courses passed. A student declared ineligible at the beginning of the school year may reestablish his/her eligibility at the semester provided he/she meets the requirements of passing a minimum of three full units of work with a composite numerical average of 70 for those three units.

Middle school students must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least five new subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects. (7th and 8th graders must be carrying at least five new subjects.)

9. You may be eligible in your home school at the beginning of each new school year as far as any transfer of school is concerned. Your home school is the one that serves the area where your parent/guardian resides. Eligibility may be established in any school by attending that school for a period of one school year from the date of original entry. If you attend school outside your "home school" district, you must attend that school for one full calendar year in order to establish eligibility in that school. Always check your eligibility status before changing schools.
10. If your parents make a bona fide move from one school zone to another, you may transfer your eligibility to the new school. You become eligible five days after a Form 3 is submitted by the new school to the state office if you meet all requirements. If you change schools before your parents move, you do not become eligible in the new school until your parents complete a bona fide move into the new school district and five days have elapsed after a Form 3 is submitted to the state office.
11. You may not participate on a non-school team or in an outside sport activity in you sports during your school season. Exceptions are as follows: tennis, golf, swimming, track, or cross country team member, who may participate as an independent in two outside activities on non-school days during the season of that sport.
12. You must be an amateur athlete and never have played on a college team.
13. You must not have participated in any non-sanctioned all-star game.
14. You must not be guilty of flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct.
15. During the school year, you may not be coached by your school's coaching staff outside the school season in your sport(s). Weight training and conditioning programs are exempt from this restriction. During the summer months (from the end of school until the fall sports practice date), mandatory practice is prohibited, and games between schools are prohibited.
16. You may not dress in uniform for an athletic contest or sit on the bench in a game uniform or be on the field or court as a player if you are not eligible to participate in the game or event.

17. You may not participate in two levels of competition (varsity, junior varsity, B-team, junior high, or middle school) in one sport during the same event or the same day (This includes county tournaments even though they are played over several days.)

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

All students, including student athletes, managers, or support group members must meet the residency requirements of the Escambia County Board of Education as well as the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

Bona Fide Move

A student whose parents make a bona fide move from one community, school zone, or district to another may transfer all rights and privileges to the new school that serves the area into which the parents moved and where the parents reside.

Notes on Legal Bona Fide Move

1. Household furniture of the family must be moved.
2. All principal members of the family must reside in the new place of residence.
3. The original residence must be closed, leased, rented, disposed of, and not used by the family.
4. Nine months shall be required to make a move bona fide. (If a family moves into a new school zone and remains there for less than nine (9) months, the move will not be considered bona fide.)
5. Any students, upon completion of the highest grade taught in any school that offers less than the number of years required for high school graduation, becomes eligible immediately at the school that serves the area in which the student's parents reside if all other requirements are met. Example: A Berry student who resides in that zone is immediately eligible at Spain Park but would have to "sit out" a year if the student transfers to W.S. Neal High School for 9th grade.

BEFORE THE FIRST PRACTICE

The following things are required by the student athlete **before the first practice** with any team: 1) Take and pass physical examination; 2) Receipt of parent consent form; 3) Receipt of concussion information form; 4) Helmet warning form.

The following things are required by the student athlete **before the first contest** with any team: 1) Meet academic eligibility requirements; 2) Parent and athlete "Acknowledgment of Athletic Handbook" document.

W.S. NEAL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Students must display qualities of good citizenship if they wish to participate in extracurricular activities. Failure to be a good citizen at all times may result in probation and/or suspension from all extracurricular activities

The Alabama High School Athletic Association Constitution states:

Any pupil who is under temporary suspension or whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon the school is not eligible. A student's attendance, attitude, and classroom effort must be acceptable to the school in which the student is enrolled. Rule 1, Section 15, AHSAA By-Law.

- **AHSAA ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Students entering the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least six Carnegie units with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those six units.

- Four core curriculum courses must be included in those units passed and averaged. (English, mathematics, science, and social studies are core curriculum courses. Any combination of these courses is accepted.)
- Any student who accumulates more than four units of core courses per year may earn less than the required four core courses during the next school year and be eligible as long as the student remains on track for graduation with his/her class.

Students entering the 8th and 9th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least five new subjects with minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects and must have been promoted to the next grade.

Students entering the 7th grade for the first time are eligible.

Note: A New unit is one that has not been previously passed. A semester is half of a school year as defined by the local school system.

- **ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY**

Daily attendance at school and practice is expected. In order for an athlete to be eligible to participate in any after-school activity he/she must be present in school on the day of the activity. If the activity is to be held on a Saturday, then the student must be in attendance in school on the preceding Friday.

To be considered in school a student must be in school at least one-half of the school day. Students are required to be in school a minimum of 3 hours and 30 minutes on said day. If he/she is not in school from that time until the end of the school day, then he/she is not to participate or be involved in any way with the activity. Practices are considered an activity. Any exceptions must have the approval of the Athletic Director. An athlete must be in school on a regular basis in order to be eligible to participate in athletics. An athlete who accumulates an excessive number of absences or tardies as designated in the student handbook will be placed on probation for a specified time period. If absences continue during this time, the athlete will then be suspended from athletic participation until it is clear

that the attendance problem is resolved. An athlete who has excessive tardies to school and/or classes will be subject to restriction from athletic participation.

- **CONDUCT ELIGIBILITY**

Rule 1. Student athletes shall not possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of alcohol, and/or other drugs such as marijuana, controlled drug substances (hallucinogens, stimulant, depressant, or any other narcotic or controlled drug) or possess, use, or transmit paraphernalia for use of such substances.

Consequence: A student violating the substance abuse rule, **on the first offense**, will be required to meet with the head coach and athletic director to evaluate the situation. The head coach must inform the athletic director of the situation and arrange a meeting to determine the consequences of the violation. With approval of the athletic director, the head coach will administer the appropriate punishment following the disciplinary procedures set forth in the Student Code of Conduct Handbook.

A student violating the substance abuse rule, **on the second offense**, will be placed on suspension from athletic competition for a minimum of two weeks or 25% of their scheduled contest playing dates for the season, whichever is greater. Circumstances may warrant a longer suspension. Any **succeeding offense** may result in permanent dismissal from athletics. At all times, the Student Code of Conduct Handbook procedures will be followed.

Rule 2. Violation of school rules, disruptive behavior, showing disrespect toward school staff, unsportsmanlike conduct, and/or committing any act that reflects negatively on the Athletic Department will not be tolerated and such action(s) will lead to eligibility restrictions. If the behavior is serious enough, the athlete may be placed on probation or suspended. An athlete who continues such behavior will be suspended from all athletic participation.

Rule 3. Specific team rules may be set forth by the coach of each sport. Penalties for breaking team rules will be administered by the head coach, with the approval of the athletic director.

A student who is uncooperative, i.e. sleeps in class, disrupts, refuses to complete work etc., will be considered a discipline problem which could result in suspension from athletic competition and/or removal from athletics as possible punitive options.

CONDUCT NOTES

Consequences for off campus violations of the Code of Conduct will not be based on hearsay or rumor. When there is a reasonable suspicion (a belief or opinion based on the facts or circumstances) or when there is an admission of guilt by the athlete to a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct the Athletic Handbook rules will be enforced. Penalties for the violations take effect immediately upon determination of any violation and will include games in successions; i.e. season schedule, tournaments, and state series, in order of competition.

If a violation of the code of Conduct occurs in the last one-third (1/3) of the sport season, the student athlete will not be considered in good standing and, therefore, will forfeit all letters and awards for that sport season.

If a violation of the Code of Conduct occurs in the last part of a sport and the violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her consequences in that sport, the suspension **does carry over** until the suspension is fulfilled. This includes his/her next sport or the same sport next year. For example, if the suspension is for two football games with only one remaining, the student athlete must also miss his first basketball game or wrestling match or baseball game until the suspension has been paid.

Attendance at athletic events, whether a participant or spectator, and at practice is prohibited during the suspension period. If school rules are broken, the student athlete will be subject to the normal punishment for such misbehavior as well as subject to penalties under the Athletic Handbook.

AWARDS

An athletic award is a symbol of athletic accomplishment, good sportsmanship, and observance of athletic policies. Student athletes, managers, trainers, and cheerleaders are eligible to earn awards. Candidates must complete the season's play; however, this requirement may be waived in cases of physical injury. **No awards will be issued to an athlete until all equipment for his/her sport is turned in to the coach.**

INFORMATION FOR ATHLETES

Accidents/Injuries

All accidents or injuries, at home or away, are to be reported to the trainer and/or coach immediately.

Changing a Sport/Quitting a Team

Any athlete, male or female, that participates in an athletic program and quits during the season is ineligible to participate in another athletic program for the remainder of that calendar year. The rationale is to prevent student athletes from quitting a sport to participate in another for lack of success or for personal reasons. Appeals can be made to the athletic director if circumstances warrant consideration.

This change is effective Sept. 1, 2017

Conflicts Between Activities

Students are sometimes involved in concurrent activities, and there may be conflicts in schedules. Communication between coaches and sponsors of conflicting activities is vital. Consideration must be given to the importance of the event and the role the student athlete will play in it.

Doctor Visits

Medical expenses are the responsibility of the athlete/family. Written verification from the doctor is required when a physician removes an athlete from practices or games. Written verification from the doctor is required to return to athletic competition.

Dress

Participation in W.S. Neal athletics is a privilege, not a right. To be successful the participant must be well disciplined and willing to put aside individualism for the benefit of the team. Conforming to a dress code is part of this process. It is very important to our team/school reputation that our student athletes dress appropriately during the school day and at all school functions. An individual coach may add additional rules related to the dress code outside of the school handbook for his or her team.

Equipment

Equipment checked out by the athlete is his/her responsibility. It is to be kept clean and in good condition. Loss of issued equipment will be the athlete's/parent's financial obligation. The athlete will not be allowed to participate in other athletic programs or receive awards until this obligation is met. Equipment includes any issued supplies from the training room.

Insurance

All W.S. Neal student athletes are required to have medical insurance and must supply information verifying such before participating in practice and/or competition.

Participation in Two Sports in One Season

Student athletes may participate in more than one sport during one season with the approval of both coaches. Practice schedules will be worked out between the coaches involved. Consideration should be given to the importance of the sport (ex. Varsity versus non-varsity, playoffs versus regular season, and the games versus practice). If contests conflict, coaches will decide in which contest the student athlete is to compete. The student athlete must realize that extra time for practice is necessary to compete in two sports in one season. The student athlete must meet the requirements of both sports. If the requirements of one or both sports are not met, the student athlete may be cut from the sport(s).

Team Tryout Policies

Each coach of varsity sports has his/her policy on how he/she will choose his/her team. Arrangements for tryouts must be made for athletes involved in overlapping sports seasons. It is the responsibility of the student athlete to contact the coach and discuss possible conflicts well in advance of tryouts. A student athlete may be cut from a team anytime during a season for appropriate reasons.

Training Room (High School)

The training room is available to all athletes. Athletes are offered a wide variety of services to help meet the demands of athletic competition. The following are guidelines to be followed to help meet the demands of athletic competition. The following guidelines are to be followed when using the training room.

1. Only student athletes needing treatment and/or rehabilitation of an athletic injury are allowed in this area.
2. All taping, bandaging, and treatments will be done by the athletic training staff.
3. Only the athletic training staff is to switch the whirlpool on or off.
4. Do not use or remove supplies without permission. No athlete may participate until all issued supplies have been returned or paid for.

Transportation

Transportation to all scheduled athletic events will be provided by the school using the districts transportation fleet or charter buses when applicable. Under no circumstances will athletes transport other athletes in private vehicles.

Under no circumstances will an athlete transport other athletes

Frequently Asked Question on Initial Collegiate Eligibility***When should a student register with the NCAA Eligibility Center?***

Students should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at the beginning of their junior year in high school. At the end of the student's junior year, a transcript, including six semesters of grades, should be

sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the high school. Additionally, students should have their SAT or ACT scores forwarded directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center (by using code "9999") whenever they take the exam.

What is the fee to register?

The registration fee for U.S. students is \$65; and \$95 for international students.

Is this fee refundable?

All fees are nonrefundable after successful registration. No refunds will be given due to nonparticipation or disinterest at an NCAA Division I or II college or university. In the event a duplicate registration was completed and duplicate payment was processed, you may be eligible for a refund of the duplicate registration fee(s). A completed refund request form must be sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center for consideration. You can find the form by going to www.eligibilitycenter.org, clicking the link to enter for "NCAA College-Bound Student-Athletes." You will then click "Resources" at the top of the page and then "Forms."

What requirements do I need to be able to practice, play and get a scholarship at an NCAA Division I or II college or university?

You need to complete the following:

1. Graduate from high school;
2. Complete a minimum of 16 (for Division I) or 14 (for Division II) core courses;
3. Present the required grade-point average (GPA) (for complete details, see the Freshman Eligibility Standards Quick Reference Sheet for Division I or a minimum 2.0 GPA for Division II);
4. Present a qualifying test score on either the ACT or SAT (for complete details, see the Freshman Eligibility Standards Quick Reference Sheet); and
5. Request final amateurism certification (beginning April 1 for fall enrollees or beginning October 1 for spring enrollees).

How do I know if the courses I am taking will count as core courses?

You need to look at your high school's list of NCAA courses. Follow these steps:

1. Go to the NCAA Eligibility Center website at www.eligibilitycenter.org;
2. Click on the "NCAA College-Bound Student-Athletes" link to enter;
3. Click on "Resources";
4. Click on "U.S. Students";
5. Click on "List of NCAA Courses";
6. Input your high school's CEEB code (if you know it) or search by your high school's name and state; and
7. Review the list.

***Very important:** If a core course you took is not on the list, it will not be used in your eligibility determination. Courses that appear on your transcript must exactly match what is on the list.

What do I do if a core course I took is not on the list?

See your high school counselor immediately. Someone at your high school is responsible for keeping your high school's list updated. It is important your high school does this each year to make sure the core courses you are taking appear on the list.

What is the lowest grade that will be used for a course to count as a core course?

Follow your high school's policy regarding its lowest passing grade. If the NCAA Eligibility Center does not have this policy, the lowest passing grade that will be used is D.

Will credit-by-exam courses meet core-course requirements?

No. Courses completed through credit-by-exam will not be used.

Are vocational courses acceptable?

No. Traditional vocational courses (e.g., typing, auto mechanics, driver's education and health) are not acceptable.

Do pass/fail grades count?

Maybe, these grades may satisfy your core-course requirements. The NCAA Eligibility Center will assign your high school's lowest passing grade for a pass/fail class so long as the course receives credit toward graduation.

May courses taken in the eighth grade that are high school core courses (e.g., Algebra I, Spanish 1, Freshman Composition) be used to meet the core-course requirement?

A high school course taken in the eighth grade may be used if the course is on the high school transcript with a grade and credit and if the course is on the high school's list of NCAA courses.

May independent-study, Internet and correspondence courses count as core courses?

Yes, if following four conditions are met (beginning August 1, 2010):

1. Courses that are taught through distance learning, online, credit recovery, etc. need to be comparable in length, content and rigor to courses taught in a traditional classroom setting. Students may not skip lessons or tests out of modules. The course must be a four-year college preparatory.
2. All courses must include ongoing access between the instructor and student, as well as regular interaction for purposes of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance. This may include, for example, exchanging of e-mails between the student and teacher, feedback on assignments, and the opportunity for the teacher to engage the student in individual instruction. Any course taken must have a defined time period for completion. For example, it should be clear whether the course is meant to be taken for an entire semester or during a more condensed time frame, such as six weeks, etc.
3. Nontraditional courses should be clearly identified as such on the high school transcript.

Nontraditional courses completed prior to August 1, 2010, will be reviewed under NCAA standards in place prior to August 1, 2010.

It is important to remember that all courses need to be rigorous and four-year college preparatory in nature. Students should be encouraged to take courses that are quantitatively and qualitatively the same as courses offered through traditional means, and to take courses that will prepare them for the academic rigors they will face at a four-year college or university.

To read more about this new rule, go to www.eligibilitycenter.org and click the "High School Administrators Enter Here" link, then the "Resources" page and read the documents related to online/virtual/credit recovery courses.

May college courses count as core courses?

College courses may be used to satisfy core-curriculum requirements if the courses are accepted and awarded credit by the high school for any student and meet all other requirements for core courses. For NCAA Division I only, such courses must be placed on the student's high school transcript. Courses taken at a college will NOT appear on the high school's list of NCAA courses. The high school's list of NCAA courses will include only those courses taught/offered by the high school.

How are courses taken over two years counted?

A one-year course that is spread over a longer period of time is considered one course and will receive a maximum of one core-course credit. (Example: Algebra 1, spread over two years, would receive one unit of credit.)

May my study in a foreign country help me meet core-course requirements?

If you attended a secondary school outside the United States for all or part of grades nine through 12, different evaluation procedures will be applied to your international education documents. You must submit original-language documents with certified translations for NCAA Eligibility Center evaluation.

How is my core-course GPA calculated?

Your core-course GPA is the average of your best grades achieved for all required core courses. If you have taken extra core courses, those courses will be used in your GPA, only if they improve your GPA.

Can weighted grades for honors or advanced-placement courses be factored into the calculation of the student's core GPA?

A school's normal practice of weighting honors or advanced courses may be used, as long as the weighting is used for computing GPAs. Weighting cannot be used if the high school weights grades for the purpose of determining class rank. Additionally, in no instance may the student receive greater than 1.000 additional quality point for purposes of calculating the GPA for initial eligibility.

How is the NCAA core GPA different from a student's overall GPA?

The NCAA core-course GPA is calculated using only NCAA-approved core courses in the required number of core units. High school GPAs generally include the grades from most or all courses attempted in grades nine through 12.

Will courses taken after my senior year meet core-course requirements?

For Division I, maybe. Only courses completed in grades nine through 12 will qualify as core courses for Division I. If you graduate from high school on time (in eight semesters) with your incoming ninth grade class, you may use **one** core course completed in the year after graduation (summer or academic year) prior to full-time collegiate enrollment. You may complete the core course at a location other than the high school from which you graduated and may initially enroll full time at a collegiate institution at any time after completion of the core course.

For Division II, yes. All core courses completed before your full-time enrollment at any college may be used by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

For students with diagnosed disabilities.

- **For Division I only**, beginning August 1, 2010, a student must graduate "on time" in order to use up to three (3) additional approved core courses taken before full-time enrollment in college.
- **For Division II only**, students may use any approved core courses taken before full-time enrollment in college.
- **For Divisions I and II**, students may use courses for students with education-impacting disabilities that are designated on the high school's list of NCAA courses.

For more information regarding education-impacting disabilities, see the Frequently Asked Questions on Students with Disabilities page located at www.eligibilitycenter.org, then click "**NCAA College-Bound Student-Athletes**" and then "**Resources**." It is located under the "**U.S. Students**" section.

How does the NCAA treat courses similar in content?

Some approved core courses might be considered duplicates. That is, the content of one course is the same as that of another, even though the classes might have different titles. If you have taken two classes considered to be duplicates, you will receive only one core-course credit (typically for the course with the higher grade). Please ask your high school counselor if you have questions about duplicate courses.

May courses taken at high school "A" be accepted if they appear on high school "B's" transcript?

No. High school "A" may provide the NCAA Eligibility Center with an official copy of high school "B's" transcript, but grades from one high school cannot be accepted on another high school's transcript.

May a nonstandard ACT/SAT exam be used for initial eligibility?

Yes. Students with diagnosed education-impacting disabilities may take a nonstandard ACT or SAT exam. The test score must be provided to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency, just as any other test score.

How are students prioritized for processing at the NCAA Eligibility Center?

Students who have their status requested by an NCAA college or university are prioritized by the NCAA Eligibility Center for processing. If a student's eligibility status is never requested by a college or university, the NCAA Eligibility Center may not process such a student's certification.

NOTE: This is not a complete list of NCAA regulation regarding initial eligibility. Please call or write the NCAA Website if you have specific question.

NCAA
700 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
Phone: 317-917-6222
Fax: 319-917-6888

For students and parents with eligibility question:

NCAA Eligibility Center
877-262-1492 (Toll Free)
317-223-0700

Frequently Asked Question Concerning Students With Disabilities

Do the standards for initial eligibility change for students with disabilities?

No. All students must satisfy the same standards in order to compete in NCAA Division I and II athletics.

Will member institutions have access to my child's records?

No. Information submitted to NCAA disability Services is not released to member institutions.

What are the accommodations provided to students with disabilities?

- Use courses for students with disabilities that are designated on the high school's list of NCAA-Approved Core Courses;
- Use approved core courses taken before the student enrolls in college, including courses taken in the summer after high school graduation.
- Use ACT and/or SAT scores achieved during nonstandard administrations.

When should a student document his or her disability with the NCAA?

The only time disability documentation needs to be sent to the NCAA is if a student with a disability would like to use core courses taken after high school graduation. The Student should submit his or her disability documentation to NCAA Disability Services by submitting the following information:

- A signed copy of the most recent professional evaluation report diagnosing the student's disability, including the diagnostic test results (completed within the last three year's); and
- A copy of the student's most recent Individual Education Plan (IEP), Section 504 Plan, or for private high schools, a statement on the high school's letterhead describing the accommodations, if any, received by the student because of the disability.

Disability documentation should be sent to the following address:

**NCAA Disability Services
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222**

What if a student with disabilities receives a final Initial-Eligibility Certification Report that indicates the student is NOT CERTIFIED after her or she has received all of the disability accommodations?

The student athlete's institution where he or she has been regularly admitted may file an initial-eligibility waiver on behalf of the student athlete. All required waiver information must be submitted to the NCAA. In considering a waiver of the initial-eligibility standards, the following may be considered:

- Extent to which the student's failure to meet the initial-eligibility standards is attributable to a disability.
- Whether non-core courses taken by the student were specified in the student's IEP, satisfied graduation requirements and/or prepared the student to complete successfully a planned course of study at a particular collegiate institution.
- Student's overall academic record, including performance on standardized tests;
- Assessments of high school personnel attesting to the likelihood of the student's academic success in college while participating in athletics;
- Other factors useful in assessing the student's preparedness to succeed in college.

Are accommodations available for students with disabilities once they enroll in college or university?

Many collegiate institutions provide accommodations to students with disabilities. However, it is the student's responsibility to approach his or her college to determine if accommodations are available. Additionally, a student with a disability who was a non-qualifier out of high school may earn a fourth season of competition.

It is important to note that NCAA academic requirements are the same for all students, including students with a disability.

**W.S. NEAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC WARNING STATEMENT & CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE W.S. NEAL ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

Last Name First Name	M.I.	Sex	Birthday	Date of last tetanus	Current Grade
Address			City	State	ZIP
Social Security Number: _____					

As an athlete/athletic parent in the W.S. Neal High School Athletic program, I/We understand that participation in any sport can be dangerous activity involving MANY RISKS OF INJURY. I/We further understand that there are serious risks including and not limited to brain damage, cardiac arrest, serious injury or impairment to other aspects of the athlete's general health and well-being, and also include the potentially high cost of medical care. Recognizing these risks, I/We consent to the participation of my/our son/daughter in the athletic program offered at W.S. Neal High School. I/We also agree to comply with all rules, regulations, and recommendations of administrators, coaches, athletic trainers and doctors concerning injury prevention and care. I/We hereby consent to any and all health care providers designated by W.S. Neal High School to provide my child any necessary medical care as a result of injury or illness.

Signature of Parent/Guardian	Date	Student Signature	Date
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EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian Name			
Home Phone	Father's Work	Mother's Work	Other (beeper, cell, etc.)
Preferred Hospital		Doctor's Name	

Health Insurance Information: NOTE: THIS MUST BE COMPLETE. You must have medical insurance to participate. If you do not have health insurance, you must take the accident policy offered through the school. Also, please inform us of any changes in your insurance coverage during this school year.

Insurance Carrier	Policy Number	Group Number
Policy Holder's Name		Relationship
Medical History: List any allergies or medical conditions: _____		

STAPLE A COPY OF THE FRONT OF
YOUR INSURANCE CARD HERE

STAPLE A COPY OF THE BACK OF
YOUR INSURANCE CARD HERE

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, if parents cannot be contacted notify:

Name	Relationship
Phone: Daytime	Nighttime
Other	

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
Concussion Information Form
(Required by AHSAA starting with the 2011-12 school year.)

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, **all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly.** In other words, even a "ding" or a bump on the head can be serious. You cannot see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

Symptoms may include one of more of the following:

- Headaches
- "Pressure in head"
- Nausea or vomiting
- Neck pain
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish or slowed down
- Feeling foggy or groggy
- Drowsiness
- Change in sleep patterns
- Amnesia
- "Don't feel right"
- Fatigue or low energy
- Sadness
- Nervousness or anxiety
- Irritability
- More emotional
- Confusion
- Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays)
- Repeating the same question/comment

Signs observed by teammates, parents and coaches include:

- Appears dazed
- Vacant facial expression
- Confused about assignment
- Forgets plays
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily or displays incoordination
- Answers questions slowly
- Slurred speech
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit
- Can't recall events after hit
- Seizures or convulsions
- Any change in typical behavior or personality
- Loses consciousness

(Continued of Page 19)

AHSAA Form adapted in 2011 from the CKC and the 3rd International Conference on Concussion in Sports.

AHSAA Concussion Information Form (Page 2)

What can happen if my child keeps on playing with a concussion or returns too soon?

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one. This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often fail to report symptoms of injuries. Concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key to a student-athlete's safety.

AHSAA Concussion Policy:

Any student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from the contest and shall not return to play until a medical release is issued by a medical doctor. Any health care professional or AHSAA certified coach may identify concussive signs, symptoms or behaviors of a student athlete during any type of athletic activity. Once concussive signs are identified, only a medical doctor can clear an athlete to return to play. Any school in violation of the AHSAA policy application of the National Federation rule will be subject to sanctions.

If you think your child has suffered a concussion:

Any athlete even suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without clearance from a medical doctor. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. You should also inform your child's coach if you think that your child may have a concussion. Remember it's better to miss one game than miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out.

This form is required by Alabama Law established in June, 2011, coinciding with the AHSAA Concussion Policy in effect since 2009.

I have reviewed this information on concussions and am aware that a release by a medical doctor is required before a student may return to play under this policy.

_____	_____	_____
Student Athlete Name Printed	Student Athlete Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Parent Name Printed	Parent Signature	Date

AHSAA Form adapted in 2011 from the CKC and the 3rd International Conference on Concussion in Sports.

W.S. NEAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

HELMET WARNING

DO NOT USE THIS HELMET TO BUTT, RAM, OR SPEAR AN OPPOSING PLAYER. THIS IS IN VIOLATION OF THE FOOTBALL RULES AND CAN RESULT IN SEVERE HEAD, BRAIN, OR NECK INJURY, PARALYSIS, OR DEATH TO YOU AND POSSIBLE INJURY TO YOUR OPPONENT.

THERE IS A RISK THESE INJURIES MAY ALSO INCUR AS A RESULT OF ACCIDENTAL CONTACT WITHOUT INTENT TO BUTT, RAM, OR SPEAR.

NO HELMET CAN PREVENT ALL SUCH INJURIES. USE THIS HELMET AT YOUR OWN RISK.

BLOCKING AND TACKLING PROCEDURES

Don't block or tackle with the top of your helmet. You must see what you hit! Use proper blocking and tackling techniques at all times to protect your spine and neck. Always play heads up football.

INHERENT RISKS IN FOOTBALL

Football is a collision sport. The potential exists for injury at any time whether it be in practice or in a game situation. Injuries may range from relatively minor bruises/scraps to career or life-threatening injuries. You are hereby forewarned that by participating in this sport, football, there is the possibility of a serious injury occurring to you and understand these injuries could result in the loss of an athletic career, partial or complete paralysis, or even death. These injuries are usually very rare in occurrence, but you need to be aware of this possibility.

I have read the above statements, understand them, and agree to follow the proper procedures for tackling and blocking. I understand that no helmet can prevent all head, neck, or back injuries. No equipment can prevent all injuries, but can reduce the risk. I understand that I am using this helmet at my own risk and understand the inherent risks involved in playing football. Any questions you may have should be directed to the Head Coach or Athletic Trainer. (Please sign below.)

Student-Athlete

Date

Parent

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

I acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Athletic Handbook for Student Athletes and have read the rules concerning eligibility and conduct for W.S. Neal student athletes. I understand the rules and realize that I am subject to disciplinary measures should I violate them. I do agree to participate and conduct myself in accordance with the rules of our athletic program and with any other specific rules of my coaches.

We, the undersigned, agree that we have been given the following information and understand it fully.

- I. The school agrees to provide:
 - A. Supervision
 - B. Instruction
 - C. Proper equipment (This excludes equipment or uniforms provided by the participant)
 - D. Proper safety precautions

- II. The student athlete agrees to abide by all written rules regarding behavior and safety.

- III. The student athlete and parent/guardian acknowledge that participating in athletics may cause serious injury or death.

- IV. Policy Consent/Release Form
I have read the above statement of policy and agree to abide by the rules set forth by the W.S. Neal Athletic Department

Signature of Student Athlete	Date	PRINTED Name of Student
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Signature of Parent/Guardian**	Date	PRINTED Name of Parent
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****By signing this Acknowledgement of Athletic Handbook** I also give W.S. Neal High School permission to use my student athlete's photo/video/audio tape in publication and/or on the website for publicity/promotion purposes. I waive any right to inspect and/or approve the finished product, release W.S. Neal High School from any liability by virtue of distortion by processing, and agree that they can be used without reservation or fee. **If you DO NOT wish for your student's photo to be used, please sign and date below this clause.**