

Randolph County  
High School  
Athletic  
Handbook

## HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

The NCHSAA has set up regulations to which all athletic participants in North Carolina Public Schools must adhere. Some of the regulations are quite lengthy and detailed. Each coach should access a copy of the NCHSAA Handbook and review these regulations prior to their season. The basic rules are condensed and are as follows:

1. **Age** – A student may participate in athletic contests during a school year. If he/she **WILL NOT** become **NINETEEN (19)** years of age on or before October 16 on or before said school year.
  
2. **Amateurism** – A student **MUST BE AN AMATEUR** in order to be eligible to participate. An athlete becomes a professional in a sport whenever he/she:
  - a. Enters competition for money
  - b. Sells or pawns his/her awards
  - c. Accepts money or anything that can normally be exchanged for money.
  - d. Competes under a false name.

A professional in one sport is considered a professional in all sports at the high school level. A student athlete would **NOT** lose his amateur status because of reimbursement for officiating, instructing, teaching or coaching a sport for YMCA, city/county recreation, elementary and junior high-type programs, church leagues, or summer camp programs.

3. **Enrollment** – A student is eligible to participate at the school to which the local Board of Education assigns him/her in accordance with the provisions of the Pupil Assignment Act (G.S. 115-176).
  
4. **Attendance** – A player must have been in attendance for at least 85 percent of the previous semester in a school that is recognized by the State Board of Education or any non-public school that is accredited by the State

Department of Public Instruction. The player must also at the time of any game in which he/she participates, be regularly enrolled member of the school's student body. It is further recommended that a student be in school the day of a game or practice in order to participate.

5. **Scholastic Requirements** – A player must score passing grades on at least three courses during the preceding semester to be eligible at any time during the present semester.
6. **Eight Semester Rule** – A student upon first entering grade nine (9), is eligible for competition on high school athletic teams **only** during the succeeding eight (8) consecutive semester or terms of 90 days each.
7. **Eligibility Limitations** – A student cannot participate more than four (4) seasons in **any** sport. Enforcement of this rule is to begin with entry into the ninth grade.
8. **Medical Examinations** – Each player **must** receive a medical examination by a physician **each** school year **prior** to the beginning of practice for participation in interscholastic athletic contests.
9. **Proof of Age** – It is required that there be on file (in the principal's office) evidence of the legal birth date of each player. There **will** also be evidence of the date of each player's first entry into the ninth grade. Either of the following will be considered sufficient evidence of the legal birth date of each player:
  - a. Copy of birth certificate
  - b. A record from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Raleigh
  - c. An infant baptismal record
  - d. A record from the county Register of Deeds office
  - e. A recording from the attending doctor's registry or cashbook if specific
  - f. A news item at the time of birth from a local newspaper, or an official register sheet from the first grade
  - g. SIMS data report

10. **Dressing Out** – A player shall not dress for a game when he/she is not eligible to participate in the game. Dressing and sitting on the bench shall be interpreted as participating in the game.

## **INSURANCE**

**Board of Education Policy:** The Randolph County Board of Education requires that all students who participate in high school athletics be covered by accident insurance. As a result the Randolph County Board of Education has purchased a secondary insurance that provides limited coverage for students who participate in athletics. However, there are limitations in the athletic student accident insurance coverage and it will not always pay all charges for every accident. If the parent has personal insurance, their other insurance is considered the primary carrier and the school athletic insurance coverage is considered secondary. If the student's parents do not have other coverage, then the school insurance is the primary insurance coverage. Again, however, this is a low-option primary insurance coverage, and will not pay for everything. Neither the Board of Education nor any of its employees will assume responsibility for claims resulting from injury to a child while he/she is participating in an athletic program in the Randolph County Schools. This mean that the parents/guardians will have to pay for any necessary medical treatment not covered by the Accident Insurance provided by the county or by any personal insurance coverage they might have.

All potential athletes must have a signed Insurance/Waiver form, a signed parental-permission form, and physical examination form completed **before** being permitted to practice or participate in any interscholastic sport. This form must be signed by the student, his/her parents, and the examining physician. These forms are kept on file in the athletic director's office.

## **ATHLETIC RULES AND POLICIES OF RANDOLPH COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

All coaches, athletes, managers, trainers, and cheerleaders are responsible for the following policies:

**Grades** – The regulations set forth by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association shall be followed. Each student athlete must pass three subjects the semester preceding the one in which he/she wishes to participate in a sport in

order to be eligible. The only exceptions are first semester freshmen who have been promoted from the eighth grade the preceding semester. These first semester freshmen are immediately eligible academically based on their promotion from the eighth grade.

**School Attendance** – In order to practice or participate in athletics on a given day, it is recommended that an athlete must be in school at least half of that day. (Special conditions will be addressed by school administration and/or the athletic director.) Out –of-School suspension disqualifies the student from participation in practice and games during the period of suspension.

**Discipline** – The athletic department will operate with the philosophy that students participating in athletics must make choices and commitments regarding their personal habits and activities in order to deal fairly with their teammates and coaches.

With this in mind, all student athletes are encouraged to conduct themselves both on and off campus in a manner that will bring pride and honor to themselves, their homes, their school, and their community.

The athletic department (head coach, assistant coaches, and athletic director) will deal with any actions on the part of an athlete that are not in the best interest of the athlete, his/her team, and our athletic program.

It is understood that each coach has his/her way of handling discipline. There will be some general areas to which all coaches will adhere. Violations of any of the following should be reported to the athletic director. The coach, athletic director, and principal will then decide an appropriate punishment. This may range from written/verbal apologies to immediate removal from the team program depending on the severity of the act. Due process will be followed.

1. Stealing from peers, school, or the athletic department will not be tolerated.
2. Abusive language, disrespect to teammates, coaches and administrators will carry definite disciplinary action.

3. The use of tobacco is prohibited by the Randolph County Board of Education and is not acceptable for student athletes.
4. The athletic department does not condone the use of alcohol or drugs. Violations will be dealt with accordingly.

**Ejections** – It is the opinion of the county’s administration that there is no place in high school athletics for behavior by an athlete or coach which leads to an ejection. It is a privilege to participate on a Randolph County public school athletic team. An ejection not only reflects negatively on the individual but also on the school and community. The NCHSAA has set up an ejection policy should an ejection occur. Refer to your NCHSAA handbook.

If an ejection occurs, the offending party is automatically suspended for the next two contests at that level of play and all contests in the interim (football is one contest). Further, disciplinary action may be enforced at the discretion of the principal/designee. In the event of an ejection, the head coach must inform the school athletic director of the offense no later than 8 a.m. the school day following the infraction. The athletic director will notify the Superintendent’s office. Failure to do so may result in a fine from the NCHSAA to the school. Such fine will be the responsibility of the head coach.

**Leaving a team** – Any athlete who leaves a team will adhere to the school’s policy, a site-based decision, regarding eligibility to condition, practice, or participate with another team until the end of the sport’s season. Medical reasons and any other special circumstances may be appealed to the athletic director.

**Participation on two athletic squads at one time** – An athlete, under normal circumstances, will be permitted to participate on only one athletic team during any one sport season. However, due to an occasional athlete who may be capable of contributing successfully in two sports, and at the agreement of both head coaches and the athletic director, a request to participate on two different teams during the same sports season may be allowed.

**Travel** – All athletes and those associated with the teams are required to ride school-furnished transportation to and from all athletic events. The only exception to this will be when a parent contacts the head coach and requests that a player be allowed to ride home with them after an event. Travel arrangements are left up to the discretion of the head coach, which includes communication with the parents.

**Cutting players** – The head coach of each sport will have the authority to cut athletes from his/her squad, based on their best judgment. These decisions will be based totally on what is best for the team and may involve not only athletic ability, but attitude, desire willingness to make a commitment for the team, etc.

**Fund raising** – Generally speaking, fund raising for individual teams/sports is not encouraged. If, however, there is a strong desire/need for a team fund raiser, this must be approved by the athletic director and coordinated through the assistant principal in charge of fund raising, following all school and county policies regarding fund raising projects. All money collected must be receipted and turned in to the school treasure.

**Ordering equipment** – The athletic department will not be responsible for payment of materials not approved by the athletic director. A coach may not order equipment. The following procedure must be used to request the purchase of equipment.

1. A formal request must be made to the athletic director. This should be in writing and presented in person.
2. If approved, the athletic director will contact the appropriate sporting goods dealers to obtain bids and place the order.

**Bus use and care** – It is imperative that each coach assume responsibility for the care and usage of our activity buses.

1. Obtain the appropriate bus key from the school designee on the morning of your contest.

2. Check the bus for gas
3. Check the bus for cleanliness. Do not accept a dirty bus.
4. Pick up all trash, sweep the bus, close all windows and be absolutely sure that the bus is clean after you use it. Inspect it yourself, because the last person who uses the bus will be responsible if the bus is reported to be dirty.
5. Make sure the bus key is returned promptly the next school day.

**Equipment/facility use and care** – It is the responsibility of all coaches and administrators to take care of facilities and equipment. As participants in the athletic program, it is imperative that the following policies be adhered to and enforced:

1. Locker rooms, showers, toilets, etc. should be kept clean and sanitary.
2. Keep lockers neat and organized.
3. Do not allow anyone to “hang” on the rims in the gym.
4. Do not allow anyone on the gym floor with shoes that will scratch or scuff the floor.
5. Do not put chairs or other objects on the gym floor unless authorized by the administration.
6. Do not place tape on the playing court of the gym floor.
7. Help keep grounds, practice fields, track, etc. clean by picking up any paper, etc. you may see from day to day.
8. Put all athletic equipment in its proper place after every practice and/or game. Each coach is responsible for the equipment that is issued to him/her.
9. Each school will decide who is responsible for the care and maintenance of his/her field/court. This entails all game day preparations, sweeping, watering, mowing, field markings, etc.
10. Coaches are to keep the coaches’ offices, bathrooms and showers clean and sanitary.

11. Coaches are responsible for providing guidance to all students/athletes in the aforementioned areas, whether they are under our immediate supervision or not.

**Telephone use** – Athletes may use the phone, upon request of any coach, for transportation purposes only. Students should only be in a coaches' office for business purposes and in the presence of the coach. Do not leave students in the coaches' office unattended.

**In-school-suspension regarding athletes** – If a student is assigned to ISS for one period in a "holding" type assignment, he or she is eligible to practice, play, or otherwise participate in extracurricular activities on that specific day. If the student is assigned to ISS for more than one period or is assigned to the Intervention Center, he or she is not eligible to practice, play, or otherwise participate in extracurricular activities on the day(s) spent in either of those two programs. **(Note: If the assignment to ISS is for one period or less on two or more consecutive days, the student is not eligible to play, practice, or otherwise participate in extracurricular activities on the days assigned to the ISS program.)**

As an example, if a three day ISS assignment ends at the end of the school day on a Friday, the student would not be eligible to participate on that same Friday. **If the assignment to ISS or the Intervention Center includes a Friday, regardless of whether or not the assignment ends on that Friday, the student also is not eligible to practice, play, or otherwise participate in extracurricular activities held on the weekend immediately following that Friday.**

Also, **if the student is assigned to ISS or the Intervention Center on the day when an extracurricular activity is canceled for some reason, he or she may not participate in that same activity regardless of the day on which it is eventually held.**