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Interscholastic Athletic Participation R 7-45A. Generally

In order to be eligible to try out or to participate in any school-sponsored interscholastic athletic program, the student-athlete must submit to a physical examination and give the coach (or his/her designee) the completed examination, properly signed by the doctor, parent/guardian, and student. The physical examination must be conducted after May 1 for participation in athletics for the succeeding school year and must be completed before the student will be allowed to participate in any manner. This includes try-outs for all interscholastic teams including cheerleading squads.

B. High School Student-Athletes

1. Coaches shall require all athletes participating in high school athletics to read the Lynchburg City Schools High School Student-Athlete Handbook which highlights relevant sections of the Virginia High School League, Inc. Handbook (VHSLH).
2. Each high school student-athlete shall sign a certification indicating compliance with number 1 above prior to engaging in any athletic practice. This shall be kept on file by the high school athletic director.
3. Each high school student-athlete must agree to random drug testing during his/her competitive season; a parent or guardian must also signify agreement with this policy.
4. Transfer Rule (28-6-1 from VHSLH)

The student shall not have enrolled in one high school and subsequently transferred to and enrolled in another high school without a corresponding change in the residence of his/her parents, parent, or guardian.

Note: The provisions of the Transfer Rule apply to students transferring from one school to another, including transfers from a private school to a public school as well as transfers from one public school to another. For the purposes of this rule only, the phrase "high school" is defined as a school providing instruction at the ninth or tenth or eleventh or twelfth grade level(s).

Exceptions Rule (28-6-2 from VHSLH)

- (1) A student shall become eligible for interscholastic competition after he/she has been enrolled in the school for 365 consecutive calendar days.

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- (2) A student transferring from a school closed by executive or administrative order to the school serving the district in which his/her parent, parents or guardian reside.
- (3) A student transferring to the high school serving the district in which his/her parents reside upon completion of the highest grade level offered by the intermediate school, middle school, junior high school or nonpublic high school from which he/she transfers.
- (4) The first time a student transfers from a nonmember high school to a member school of the attendance area of the student's parents or guardians, he/she shall be eligible immediately provided that he/she has not participated at the school from which he/she transferred in the sport in which he/she wishes to participate during the current school year at the member school to which he/she transfers. For the purpose of this exception only, the student must have been a ward of the guardian for at least one semester prior to his/her transfer.
- (5) A student entering the eighth grade for the first time becomes immediately eligible in the high school in which he/she enrolls regardless of his or her residence status. A student entering the ninth grade for the first time becomes immediately eligible in the high school in which he/she enrolls regardless of his or her residence status.
- (6) A foreign exchange student may become immediately eligible in the high school in which he/she is placed regardless of his/her residence status by meeting the conditions of this exception; however, all other eligibility requirements shall be met. A bona fide foreign exchange student with a J-1 visa may be immediately eligible the first year in residence and is limited to eligibility only during that first year in residence, and only while the student remains enrolled in an established foreign exchange program accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). The foreign exchange program must comply with all applicable CSIET and federal regulations and there must be no evidence of athletic recruitment resulting in the student's attendance at the school either by school personnel or other outside parties. Once the student no longer is a participant in a foreign exchange program or subsequent to his/her first year of enrollment in such program, he/she must meet all normal requirements of the Transfer Rule and would have to meet 28-6-2 (1), discounting any period while enrolled in the foreign exchange program, at the high school in which the student wishes to be eligible.
- (7) A school board or division superintendent may transfer a student, by name, within the school division without affecting that student's eligibility by specifically granting a waiver of the Transfer Rule (28-6-1). Such waivers should be considered for the welfare of the student and/or school system and not for athletic and/or activity purposes. The Master Eligibility List of all teams

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- which have students who have been so waived shall reference the specific school board minutes or written documentation granting the waiver.
- (8) When a local school board requires students within a geographical area, or those who fall within any other category as distinguished from individuals by name, to attend a high school other than the one the students have been attending, such students shall become eligible in the high school to which they are required to transfer at the time the transfer becomes effective.
 - (9) In the case of a school reorganization or consolidation which results in the discontinuance of one or more high schools in which students had been or would be eligible under this rule, these students become eligible in the school designated by the school board to receive pupils from the discontinued school at the time set for the reorganization or consolidation and only in the high school so designated.
 - (10) If the city or county school board redistricts the city or county for high school purposes, students who by this action are required to transfer to another high school are immediately eligible at the school to which they are reassigned.
 - (11) A student under the care and guidance of any department of welfare, any department of corrections or an orphanage who is required to change residence by court order, unless that order was sought to enable the student to participate in extracurricular activities, or who is legally adopted, is eligible to participate in League activities in the school district in which he/she is placed.
 - (12) In cases of court-ordered custody, a copy of the appropriate legal custody document, signed by the presiding judge of the appropriate jurisdiction, shall be submitted to the Executive Director for review and approval. Approval is contingent upon the receiving school's principal attesting that there is no evidence that the transfer was for athletic and/or activity purposes. A student, 18 years of age or older, who would be subject to a transfer of custody if he/she were less than 18 years of age may petition the Executive Director through the student's principal for eligibility, and the Executive Director has authority to grant such eligibility immediately.
 - (13) If the district committee of the district in which the student wishes to participate approves such eligibility, a student may, for the first time only, transfer from one school to another as result of a move from one parent to another parent or from a guardian to a parent, when the parents are residing in different school attendance zones, and become eligible immediately provided the student has not participated during the school year at the school from which he/she transferred in the sport in which he/she wishes to participate at the school to which he/she transfers.
 - (14) The eligibility of students transferring to a Governor's School or a magnet school shall be determined by the policies approved by the respective Governor's School or magnet school's Board of Directors. The eligibility of

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students transferring from a Governor's School or magnet school back to the home school of the student shall be approved by the home school division superintendent.

C. Middle School Student-Athletes

1. Coaches shall require each middle school student-athlete participating in middle school athletics to read the Lynchburg City Schools Middle School Student-Athlete Handbook.
2. Each middle school student-athlete and a parent/guardian shall sign a certification indicating compliance with number 1 above prior to engaging in any athletic practice. This shall be kept on file by the middle school athletic director.
3. Athletic eligibility will be based on report card grades, except in the case of rising sixth grade students. Students whose grades do not meet the established criteria will not be permitted to try out for teams or participate in interscholastic athletics.
4. All rising sixth grade students will be eligible for the first six weeks. Students who are repeating the sixth grade will follow the eligibility requirements for rising seventh grade students.
5. The fall eligibility for all rising seventh and eighth grade students will be determined by both the grades earned for the sixth six-weeks and end-of-course grades. A student must not earn any failing grades for the sixth six-weeks grades or for end-of-course grades in order to be eligible to participate in athletics in the fall.
6. Summer school grades will not be considered for interscholastic athletic eligibility in the fall.
7. To maintain eligibility, a student must have no failing grades on the most recent report card. If a grading period ends mid-season and a student does not meet the eligibility requirements, he/she will immediately become ineligible and will no longer be permitted to participate beginning the day report cards are distributed.
8. Once a student is determined to be ineligible for a season, he/she remains ineligible for the entire season. Students are not permitted to regain eligibility mid-season.
9. If a student has an incomplete grade, the determination of his/her eligibility is

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delayed until the grade is received. He/She has up to 10 days to complete the required work and have the grade changed. He/She may participate during the 10-day grace period.

Approved by Superintendent: August 4, 1981

Revised by School Board: March 15, 2005