

**RULES GOVERNING INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS**

(See high school section if not covered in junior high)

**RULE 1 - AGE, PHYSICIAN AND PARENTS' CERTIFICATE**

Section 1. Any student who reaches his/her sixteenth birthday before September 1 will not be eligible if enrolled in the ninth grade or below. Any student who reaches his/her fifteenth birthday before September 1 will not be eligible for the eighth grade or below. Any student who reaches his/her fourteenth birthday before September 1 will not be eligible for the seventh grade or below.

Section 2. No pupil shall be eligible to represent his/her school in athletics until there is on file with the principal a physical examination and parental consent certificate. The form used shall contain the information on the standard OSSAA form. Other forms may be utilized, by the physician, physician's assistant, or the advanced practice nurse, if the information contained is compliant with the information on the OSSAA form. Any other information, depicting the athlete's previous history, can be added to this form for the purpose of clearance for athletic participation. A qualified physician, physician's assistant, or an advanced practice nurse covered by professional liability insurance shall give the physical examinations. If you have questions concerning the qualifications or the insurance coverage of a health care practitioner offering to give examinations, it is suggested that you check with your school district attorney for an opinion. Physical examinations are required for students each year. All physicals given for OSSAA participation must be given no earlier than May 1 of the preceding year in which the students are to participate and before the first day of practice in that student's particular sport. The physical will be valid from the date of the physical given until the next required physical. Parent(s) or guardian(s) must sign the parental consent form each year before the pupil participates in any organized athletic practice session including contest participation.

**RULE 2 - ATTENDANCE**

A student who has not attended classes ninety percent of the time for the semester in a member school becomes ineligible. Exceptions may be made by the principal due to illness, injury, death in the immediate family, or valid reasons for late enrollment.

**RULE 3 - SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY FOR JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL (SEE HIGH SCHOOL RULE 3)****RULE 4 - CONDUCT (SEE HIGH SCHOOL RULE 4)****RULE 5 - AMATEUR STANDING**

A student who has used, or is using, his/her athletic skill or knowledge of athletics for gain, or who has competed under an assumed name, or who has competed for any cash prize, or for merchandise, shall not be eligible to participate on a junior high school team in that sport. A student who becomes ineligible under this rule shall make application to the Board of Directors and be accepted for reinstatement in order to be eligible.

**RULE 6 - POST-GRADUATES**

A student shall not be eligible to participate in junior high school interscholastic athletics after he/she has attended two semesters in the ninth grade.

**RULE 7 - PARTICIPATION**

Section 1.

- a. Attendance for part of fifteen separate days or participation in an interscholastic contest during a semester shall be regarded as a semester under this rule.
- b. A student shall be considered as having participated when he/she represents his/her school in an interschool game, contest or meet as a member of the varsity, junior varsity, B team, etc. A student in uniform with his/her team shall be considered as having participated.
- c. An interschool scrimmage is considered to be a meet or contest.

Section 2. The first year of attendance in either the seventh and/or eighth grades shall constitute a season of participation regardless if the student participates or not.

Section 3. A student shall not participate more than two seasons in one sport in a two-year (seventh and eighth grade) junior high school, or more than three seasons in one sport in a three-year junior high school.

When a student enters the ninth grade he/she is permitted eight semesters of opportunity to participate. A semester of attendance and a semester of opportunity are concurrent.

Section 4. A student shall not be eligible for athletic participation during the year when repeating either the seventh and/or eighth grades. This applies even though he/she comes from a non-member school. A student may participate in non-athletic activities.

Section 5. He/she shall not be eligible to participate in junior high school interscholastic athletics if he/she has completed six or more full credit subjects in the ninth grade or above.

#### **RULE 8 - RESIDENCE AND MIGRATION IN GRADES 7-12 (ONLY APPLIES TO ATHLETICS - SEE HIGH SCHOOL RULE 8)**

#### **RULE 9 - CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY - (NOT REQUIRED)**

Section 1. Certificate of Eligibility forms shall not be sent to the OSSAA office unless a request is made by an OSSAA staff member.

Section 2. The principal shall keep on file a form provided by the Association for new students enrolling in your school district. (See Entry Forms Booklet)

#### **RULE 10 - BEGINNING AND ENDING OF SPORT SEASONS (SEE HIGH SCHOOL RULE 16)**

#### **RULE 11 - ENROLLMENT OF OFFICIALS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND JUNIOR HIGH**

The regulations of the OSSAA provide that all officials used in regular season basketball and football competition and Association sanctioned tournaments where participants are 7th-12th grades must be enrolled with the Association.

These regulations also apply to regular season competition in baseball, soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling where participants are 9th-12th grades.

It is strongly recommended that enrolled officials be used in all competition where participants are 7th-12th grades.

#### **RULE 12 - GAME LIMITATIONS (SEE CHART IN BACK OF BOOK)**

Section 1. A student may participate in a maximum of two football games during a week (Monday thru Sunday).

Section 2. A player may participate in both games of a double header in basketball but may not enter in more than five quarters in the two games.

Section 3. For baseball and softball see High School Rule 16 - Section 5e.

Section 4. For wrestling see High School Rule 16 - Section 3e.

#### **RULE 13 - ALL-STAR CONTESTS**

The Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association shall have jurisdiction in sanctioning any all-star games held in the State of Oklahoma.

Football: No all-star games will be approved during the school year.

Basketball and Baseball: Before the season closes, area or conference all-star contests will be approved upon application to the Association office.

Other Sports: Area or conference all-star contests which are to be held prior to the close of the season may be approved upon application to the Association office with all students being eligible for participation.

#### **RULE 14 - RULE WAIVERS (SEE HIGH SCHOOL RULE 20 AND HARDSHIP WAIVER SECTION)**

#### **RULE 15 - CO-OP TEAMS AND GROUPS (SEE HIGH SCHOOL RULE 22)**

#### **RULE 16 - REGULATIONS FOR SANCTIONED BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS AND FESTIVALS (SAME AS HIGH SCHOOL)**

#### **RULE 17 - REGULATIONS FOR SANCTIONED BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS**

Section 1. All athletic events where more than two schools participate in grades 7 thru 12 related directly or indirectly to any activity in which the Association sponsors a play-off series leading to a state championship should be sanctioned. The responsibility lies with the participating schools as well as the host member school, non-public school host, or any non-school individual host.

Section 2. A ninth grade student is eligible to participate on either the junior or senior team, but shall not be permitted to participate on both in the same tournament.

Section 3. The National Federation edition of the baseball rules will govern in all contests which includes (1) the Re-entry Rule and (2) coaches permitted in coach's box. It is mandatory that each batter and base runner wear a head protector.

Section 4. A player may pitch a full game of any length in a day. If he pitches less than six innings in a game, he may pitch in a second game that day, but not more than a total of ten innings in the two games. Appearance during an inning shall count a full inning. A player who has pitched six innings or more in a day shall not be used as a pitcher the following day. The pitching regulation shall apply to regular season games as well as to tournaments and any violation of such rule shall constitute game forfeiture. A pitcher may not appear in three games in one day.

Section 5. Games will be no more than seven innings unless extra inning(s) exist with a provision that a team ahead ten runs or more at the end of five innings, any completed inning thereafter of a seven inning game, or any completed extra inning thereafter will be the winner.

Section 6. All umpires used in any tournament involving ninth grade students or above must be enrolled with the Association.

#### **RULE 18 - REGULATIONS GOVERNING SANCTIONED TRACK MEETS**

Section 1. A ninth grade student is eligible to participate on either the junior or senior team, but may not participate on both in the same meet.

Section 2. A participant is limited to a total of four events. This includes relays.

#### **RULE 19 - JUNIOR HIGH POLICIES AND INTERPRETATIONS**

Section 1. The Board held that it is not the policy of the Activities Association to endorse or approve junior high championships in athletics; therefore, any publicity and any awards given in an approved invitational meet shall not indicate that they are district, regional or state championship awards.

Section 2. When the senior high is a member of the Association, the junior high automatically is a member. The junior high consists of the seventh, eighth and ninth grades and all interschool competition of teams from these grades is under the special junior high regulations of the Association. If ninth grade students are included on a team, then the team is limited to junior high students only. Ninth grade students are eligible to

participate on either or both the junior high and senior high teams; however, they cannot participate on both teams the same day. (Exception: See individual activity regulations.)

Section 3. Teams composed of students below the ninth grade may use students of any grade below the seventh grade, without such students being charged with a season of participation. Any such student must be eligible under the junior high regulations. The use of Association officials in matched or tournament games for such teams will be optional according to agreement of competing schools.

Section 4. All attendance areas in multiple junior high school districts should be treated as separate districts for eligibility purposes.

Section 5. Under no circumstances may volunteer coaches be the person in charge of the school team. Under no circumstances may a volunteer coach confer with game officials about interpretation of the rules. Student teachers may be used in the capacity of coaches provided they have been assigned to that particular school and a certified teacher is present at each athletic contest.

Section 6. In the absence of specific rules in the junior high regulations, the senior high regulations will apply.

#### **RULE 20 - APPROVAL OF EVENTS (SEE HIGH SCHOOL REGULATIONS -- FORM LOCATED IN ENTRY FORMS MANUAL)**

#### **RULE 21 - RULE ENFORCEMENTS**

##### **A. OFFICIALS TO GIVE EXPLANATION**

The Board has inaugurated the policy that the athletic game or contest official who disqualifies a contestant for a violation of the game rules or is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct of serious nature associated with an athletic contest, when aware of such, is to make a written report to the Association's office within twenty-four hours, giving the reason for the disqualification.

##### **B. SPECIFIC RULING**

A specific enumeration of the Board's action will be made on questions of eligibility of individual student or general problems presented for a decision.

##### **C. WARNING**

In addition to the specific ruling an official notice may be given a school or team that it is a matter of record that there has been an inexcusable violation of the Association's rules, or unethical or unsportsmanlike conduct in connection with an athletic contest, and that such is not expected to happen again.

##### **D. PROBATION**

In addition to the specific ruling, a more severe type of penalty known as "Probation" may be given. A school or team on "Probation" may compete in regularly scheduled activities, but will not be eligible in one or more sports for any conference or Association championship, nor may the school or team enter an invitational meet in such sport or sports. Games played during a period of probation with schools which are members of a conference shall not count in conference standings. Any game played by a school or team during a period of probation shall not count in conference standings for the school or team on probation. It shall, however, count for its opponents.

##### **E. SUSPENSION**

In addition to the specific ruling made, a school may be suspended from membership in the Association and will not be eligible to compete with any member of this Association or the Association of any other state.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING HARDSHIP ELIGIBILITY FORMS (SEE HIGH SCHOOL REGULATIONS)**