

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Beaufort County Board of Education endorses athletic activities that support students' attainment of high academic achievement. The Board believes that student participation in interscholastic athletics should be contingent on student successes in school as measured by grade point average, attendance and conduct. Subject to law, local rules adopted by BCSD and rules established by the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL), high school students are eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics. Eligibility of students in the programs for exceptional children will be in accordance with local, state and federal guidelines. The Beaufort County Board of Education has established standards for student eligibility and developed forms and assurances for students, parents, coaches and assistant coaches.

Violations of any standards established for athletic participation by students or their parents or guardians and/or any misrepresentation of any information submitted for athletic participation may result in the loss of the student's eligibility to participate in athletics in Beaufort County School District, and, potentially, in any school sanctioned by the SCHSL. Additionally, staff members who exercise direct or indirect influence upon prospective athletes in an attempt to influence an athlete's choice of school assignment for the purpose of athletics or who otherwise violate any part of the rules regarding athletic eligibility will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Grade Point Average and Eligibility to Participate in Athletic Activities

To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, students participating in athletics must pass a minimum load as established by SCHSL during the preceding semester and must meet BCSD promotion standards. In addition to existing academic requirements, all students are required to earn a weighted GPA of 2.0 each semester. First semester eligibility is determined by the GPA earned during the preceding school year's final grades and second semester eligibility is determined using the GPA in the first semester of the same school year. Students first entering the 7th and 9th grades are academically eligible to participate in athletic activities. The GPA requirements outlined above will be fully implemented during the 2012-13 school year.

Out of District Transfer Students

Out of district transfer students with a GPA less than 2.0, but eligible according to SCHSL policy, will be eligible to participate on probation for the remainder of the semester in which they enroll. Thereafter, the student must meet the BCSD 2.0 grade average eligibility requirement.

Special Education Students

Special Education students being served in a non-diploma program are eligible to participate if they are meeting the requirements of their IEP. Diploma program students must meet the requirements of the 2.0 GPA standard.

Summer School

Courses taken during the summer school program under guidelines established by BCSD may be used to recover credit affecting athletic eligibility for the fall semester. Per SCHSL guidelines, credits earned during summer school may be applied to the immediately preceding spring semester for athletic eligibility purposes.

Student Conduct

A student who is suspended from school is not eligible to practice, play, dress out, travel or attend any meeting during the time of suspension. If the suspension includes the last day of school before a vacation or weekend, the student becomes eligible at their base school the next calendar day after the last day of the suspension. Students who transfer in lieu of completing or in the midst of serving a long-term suspension at their base school are not eligible to participate in athletics at their new school for 365-days.

A student who is absent from school will not be allowed to practice, play, dress out, travel or attend any meeting of the team or group on the day of the absence. Exceptions such as funerals, field trips and college visitations must be approved by the principal in advance.

The superintendent shall develop procedures for the implementation of this policy.

