



Council for Lifelong Learning Extracurricular Activities

Fact Sheet

September 2001

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| <p>1. Who sets and oversees eligibility requirements for athletic programs in public schools?</p> | <p>In 1997, the Legislature statutorily designated the Florida High School Activities Association (FHSAA) as the organization to operate, govern, regulate, and oversee athletic programs, including eligibility requirements, for Florida's public schools in grades 6 through 12. The FHSAA is not a state agency, but has a quasi-governmental function.</p> |
| <p>2. What requirements must a student meet to be eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular student activities?</p> | <p>A student is eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities in the school in which he or she first enrolls each school year, or is a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in a practice prior to enrolling in the school. The student is eligible in that school as long as he or she remains enrolled in that school.</p> <p>To become eligible a student must maintain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) or above on a 4.0 scale in the semester preceding participation; OR• a <i>cumulative</i> 2.0 GPA. <p>However, a student is not required to maintain a <i>cumulative</i> 2.0 GPA until his or her junior and senior year.</p> <p>Prior to a student's junior year, if his or her GPA falls below the minimum <i>cumulative</i> 2.0 required for graduation, the student must enter into a contract with the school district, the appropriate governing association, and the student's parents or guardian. The contract must require the student to attend summer school or its graded equivalent.</p> <p>If a student is convicted of a felony or commits a delinquent act that would have been a felony if committed by an adult, the student's eligibility for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities will be determined by the established and published policy of the school board. This rule applies regardless of whether adjudication is withheld.</p> <p>A school district may set additional eligibility requirements, but the requirements must not make participation less accessible to home education students than to other students.</p> |

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| <p>3. When can a home education student participate in extracurricular activities?</p> | <p>To participate in extracurricular activities, a Florida home education student must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate educational progress by an agreed upon method of evaluation; • meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school; and • register his or her intent to participate with the school before the beginning date of the season for the activity. <p>Home education students are allowed to participate at the public school to which they are assigned or at the public school which the student could choose to attend pursuant to open enrollment provisions.</p> <p>A public school student who has not maintained academic eligibility may not participate in extracurricular activities as a home education student until the student successfully demonstrates educational progress in a home education program for one grading period.</p> |
| <p>4. Can private schools participate in FHSAA and compete against public schools?</p> | <p>Nonpublic schools that wish to compete against public schools may become members of the FHSAA. Florida law prohibits the FHSAA from recruiting students for athletic purposes. The FHSAA must also provide penalties for violations and an appeals process.</p> |
| <p>5. How is FHSAA governed and structured?</p> | <p>The FHSAA includes a 15-member board of directors, a representative assembly, a public advisory committee, and a committee on appeals. Each member school appoints an official representative who must be either the principal, an assistant principal, or an in-house athletic director. The organization's membership is divided along existing county lines into four contiguous and compact administrative regions, each containing approximately the same number of member schools.</p> <p>The FHSAA was restructured to operate as a representative democracy in which the sovereign authority is within the member schools.</p> |
| <p>6. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p> | <p>Section 232.425, F.S. -- Standards Section 232.43, F.S. -- Cheerleaders Sections 232.60 through 232.68, F.S. -- Florida High School Activities Association</p> |
| <p>7. Where can I get additional information?</p> | <p>Florida High School Activities Association (352) 372-9551 www.fhsaa.org</p> |

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| | <p>The Florida House of Representatives Council for Lifelong Learning (850) 414-6694</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Education Innovation (850) 488-7451</p> |
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