

North Adams Public Schools

Rules: Interscholastic Athletics

1. At the initial organizational meeting of every athletic team the regulations of the Massachusetts Secondary School Principals Association, the rules governing interscholastic athletics established by the North Adams Public Schools, and any other team rules or regulations, previously approved by the athletic director, shall be discussed. Copies shall also be transmitted to their parents.
2. To be eligible to participate in any athletic contest a student must, unless excused by the principal, attend school on the day of the contest or on the day prior to a contest scheduled for a non-school day.
3. Students participating in athletics shall conduct themselves at all times in a manner consistent with the generally accepted rules and customs of our society and by the principles of good citizenship. Failure to do so may result in immediate dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season and a prohibition against participating as a member of any other athletic team during that same season.
4. During the season of practice or play, a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use or consume, possess, buy/sell or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor. Local school systems are encouraged to prohibit the use of other tobacco products as well.

First Violation – Not in School or at a school sponsored/related activity

When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic events totaling 25% of all interscholastic events in that sport.

First Violation – Incident in School or at a school sponsored/related activity

When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic events totaling 50% of all interscholastic events in that sport.

Penalties shall be cumulative each academic year. If the penalty is not completed during the season of violation, the penalty shall carry over to the student's next season of actual participation, which may affect the eligibility status of the student during the next academic year.

Second Violation

Upon a confirmed second violation during an academic year, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, the student shall lose eligibility for 365 consecutive days from the date of the incident.

5. Any unexcused absence from a practice, game, or official team function shall be penalized. More than two unexcused absences shall be cause for immediate dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season and prohibition against participating as a member of any other athletic team during that same season.
6. Failure to return any piece of uniform or equipment when directed to do so shall be cause for immediate suspension of the player from participating in any athletic activity until the item is returned or compensation is made.
7. Any athletic team member suspended from school shall not participate in any practice, game, or official team function during the term of the suspension.
8. Only the athletic director may, after consultation with the coach, dismiss a student from a team.
9. Any student may appeal any judgment or decision pursuant to these rules to the principal or his/her designee. That decision may be appealed to the Superintendent. During the appeal process, the student may not continue to participate as a team member. The appellant may terminate the appeal process at any level.
10. Prior to participating in any athletic activity, the student must submit the attached contract, properly signed, along with a doctor's certification that he/she is physically sound and able to participate in interscholastic athletics.
11. Students may not represent their school if they have been assigned In-School (ISS) or Out-of-School (OSS/SE) for the day in accordance with the MIAA Good Citizenship Rule.

**Massachusetts Interscholastic
Athletic Association**

Interscholastic Athletic Eligibility Rules

The violation of any eligibility rule may result in forfeiture of a game won or the elimination of a player from participation for one year. A mistake could spoil a good season's record. If, in your opinion, there is any doubt concerning your eligibility, consult your Principal or Athletic Director. The rules apply to all teams, varsity, junior varsity, sophomore and freshman, all grades and to both girls' and boys' sports. The Board of Control of MIAA will resolve all questions of eligibility.

You are not eligible:

1. If you were not a member of some secondary school for the two (2) months, exclusive of summer vacation months, preceding the contest.
2. If you transferred from one high school to another.*
3. If you are taking fewer than twenty periods of prepared work.
4. The following criteria will be used effective September 2004 to determine academic eligibility for student-athletes: (Guidelines are based on a general framework provided by the MIAA)
 - A student must secure during the last marking period preceding the contest (e.g. second quarter marks and not semester grades determine third quarter eligibility) a passing grade in the equivalent of five (5) traditional year long major subjects
 - A student cannot at any time represent a school unless that student is taking courses which would provide Carnegie Units equivalent to five (5) traditional year long major English courses
 - To be eligible for the fall marking period, students are required to have passed for the previous academic year the equivalent of five (5) traditional year long major English courses
 - Academic eligibility of all students shall be considered as official and determining only on the published date when the report cards for that ranking period are to be issued to the parents of all students within a particular class
 - Incomplete grades may not be counted towards eligibility
 - A student who repeats work upon which he/she has once received credit cannot count that subject a second time for eligibility
 - A student cannot count for eligibility any subject taken during the summer vacation, unless that subject has been previously pursued and failed.
 - A student receiving services under Chapter 766 whose individualized education plan is a 502.4 or more restrictive prototype may be declared academically eligible by the principal provided that all other eligibility requirements are met

In addition, the guidelines below will also determine academic eligibility for student-athletes:

- Students who fail English or math classes required for graduation will be automatically ineligible (Note: Elective English and math classes will not be used in determining athletic eligibility)
 - Eligibility for try-outs for the fall season and participation in the first quarter will be based on the final averages the student receives on his/her June report card. Athletes participating in a fall sport with seasons that continue beyond the first marking quarter must maintain academic eligibility into the second marking quarter
 - Eligibility for the winter season will be based on the first and second quarter grades
 - Eligibility for the spring season will be based on the second and third quarter grades.
5. If, since you entered grade nine, twelve (12) consecutive sports seasons have passed, whether or not you participated.*
 6. If your nineteenth birthday is before September 01 of the present school year, you may no longer participate in high school sports.
 7. If you have graduated from any secondary school.
 8. If you are a student in grade seven, eight, or nine in a junior high school and the principal is not also the high school principal.
 9. If you are in a trade school or vocational division or alternative school that is not under the jurisdiction and supervision of the high school principal.
 10. If you were "persuaded" or influenced to transfer to your present high school by a coach, athletic director, principal, or any other person connected with the school.
 11. If you practice or play more than once in any one-day with a school team and a non-school team.
 12. If you are put out of a game for fighting or flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct, you are not eligible to play in the next scheduled game. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of threatening, abusive, or obscene language. If it is the second time during the same season, then you are disqualified from any further participation in that sport season for one full year.

There are many other important rules and regulations to which you must adhere. Those listed above are the most common and must be understood. Consult your Principal or Athletic Director if there is any possible doubt.

*There are some exceptions or variations to this rule. Consult your Principal or Athletic Director if there is any possible doubt.

**North Adams Public Schools
Interscholastic Athletics**

Student

I have received copies of, I understand, and I agree to abide by the rules governing participation in interscholastic athletics and established by the North Adams Public Schools and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent

I have received copies of and I understand the rules governing participation in interscholastic athletics established by the North Adams Public Schools and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and my son/daughter has my permission to participate as a member of the team.

I am aware that the North Adams Public Schools will not assume any financial obligation in the event of injury or accident to my son or daughter, but that the school system does provide non-duplicating insurance coverage for each student participating in athletics.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____