RING THAT BELL!

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL
Extra-Curricular Interscholastic
Athletic Handbook
2025-2026

Golf
Volleyball
Football
Basketball
Baseball
Track & Field
Cheerleading
Soccer
Softball
Cross Country

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guide is to provide a statement of philosophy on interscholastic athletics for Saint Paul Lutheran High and an operating code for the Athletic Director with the respective coaches who work throughout the program.

It is the philosophy of Saint Paul that a quality interscholastic program should be conducted as an integral part of the learning program. We use every situation and opportunity in our lives, as well as in the lives of our student athletes, for His purpose as we are commanded in Col. 3:23, "Do everything as unto the Lord." As many sports as possible will be offered at as many different skill levels as personnel, (adult and student) and facilities will permit. Students are encouraged to participate in the areas that interest them.

Saint Paul maintains membership in the Missouri State High School Activities Association, the I-70 Conference, and Central Rivers Conference for 8-man football. Athletic competition is governed by the rules and regulations for these organizations excepting that local rules of a more restrictive nature may be adopted.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

All students who participate in the interscholastic athletic program at Saint Paul must have a physical examination by a physician or doctor of chiropractic of their choice. In addition, the physician, the parent(s) or guardian(s), and the athlete must sign the form in the appropriate spaces. All student athletes must have completed forms on file in the school office before they may practice or play. Coaches are to see that athletes do not practice or play until this form is on file. MSHSAA has stated that physicals are good for 2 years. Some doctors will only sign the physical for one year.

A team member is not allowed to practice or compete on a day (or any part of the day) when that member is unable to attend school. Exceptions must be approved by the athletic director after consultation with the principal. Students who are absent from practice for one week or longer for medical reasons, must have written permission from a physician prior to returning to practice. Such permission should be on file in the school office.

INSURANCE

A student who is participating in any sport should be covered by some basic insurance, a copy of which will be on file in the school office. Saint Paul insurance is the primary carrier up to $100. If the amount is more than $100, the student's insurance is filed with Saint Paul insurance being the secondary carrier. * In some cases the full amount charged may not be eligible.

DEFINITION OF ELIGIBILITY

Interscholastic activities are offered at Saint Paul as an integral part of the curriculum. Interscholastic activities are governed by the Missouri State High School Activities Association, the I-70 Conference, and the rules and regulations of Saint Paul Lutheran High. The official Handbook of the Missouri State High School Activities Association states that, "to be eligible to participate in school activities is a privilege-not an inherent right." This particular privilege is granted if you meet the eligibility standards as set forth by the MSHSAA and Saint Paul. According to the MSHSAA eligibility standards, participants must be good citizens in their school and community as approved by the executive director/principal. More specifically, any student who represents his/her school in interscholastic activities must be a creditable citizen and be judged so by the proper school authority. Students whose character or conduct is such to reflect discredit upon themselves or their school are not considered creditable citizens. Their conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline.

The privilege of being on a team or in an organization carries with it the responsibility of good citizenship, abiding by rules and regulations, and meeting responsibilities.

ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

Athletes must attend 14 practice days before they can participate in a game.

Students must be creditable high school citizens. All court penalties, fines, etc., must be finished before eligibility is granted.

Students must be enrolled in courses that offer 3.00 units of credit and must have earned 3.00 units of credit the preceding semester.

Students must have a 2.0 grade point average. Saint Paul also requires that a student have no "F's" on their grade card. Students believing that extenuating circumstances concerning their case should be considered, eligibility possibly granted, may request a review of the evidence as outlined in the student handbook.

Students cannot compete in any activity for more than four seasons or in any but the first eight semesters they are enrolled in high school, including special education.

Students must enter school within the first eleven school days of the semester to be eligible to participate that semester.

High school students who reach their 19th birthday prior to July 1 will be ineligible for further competition the succeeding year.

During the activity season a student represents his/her school by competing in an interscholastic activity contest. They cannot compete as a member of a non-school team or as an individual participant in organized non-school competition in that same activity. This includes the intramural program at Saint Paul Lutheran High.

You must have a current physical examination on file in the school office. Physicals may be good for one or two years depending on what the doctor performing the physical checks.

You must have a signed MSHSAA participation certificate form on file signed by you and your parents.

You must submit evidence of medical insurance that covers the student in case of injury.

Students are to maintain a 2.00 grade point average to be eligible to represent the school in activities. Students will be ineligible for the 2nd and 4th quarter if their 1st and 3rd quarter grades are below 2.00, or if they receive an "F" in any course. They will be ineligible for 1st and 3rd quarter if their 1st semester or 2nd semester grades are below 2.00, or if they receive an "F" in any course. A student must take and pass 3.0 units of credit the preceding semester to be eligible for the current semester. Any course work completed after the end of a semester cannot count toward the 3.0 units required by MSHSAA for eligibility.

A committee shall be comprised of the Principal, the coach or activity sponsor involved, the teacher of the subject, and the advisor. If there is any duplication of members, faculty members and/or the resident hall counselor will be used to complete the committee. The committee and the student, who is appealing, shall meet. This will take place one week after the student is declared ineligible. This provides a week long period for the student to take personal action to correct the difficulty. Concerns addressed shall be:

What is the cause of the failure?
Is the activity a helpful and growing experience for the student?
What is best for the student involved?
Is the student involved in making an effort?

A student may appeal his eligibility only twice during his/her high school career.
Based on these questions, the committee will vote. If there is a ¾ majority in favor of the appeal, the student will be eligible.

You must have all non-school competition approved by your coach or the athletic director.
You must abide by the regulations of Saint Paul as written in the student handbook. Coaches may have stricter guidelines and will share them with the participants before the season.

A student suspended from an activity is not eligible to participate in any other activity program until that activity season is completed.

Students should maintain good citizenship in school, out of school, and on the team. Any student involved in inappropriate behavior in the community, will be required to attend a hearing at which time the question of eligibility will be determined. Any student arrested by law enforcement agents is subject to losing eligibility for all high school activities.

Any in-school or out-of-school suspension will prevent students from participating in practices or contests during the suspension. If excessive, the student will be removed from the team.

Students may participate on a school team and a non-school team in different activities during the same season; however, you may not practice for the non-school activity or participate in organized non-school activity competition on the same day that you practice with or participate for the school team without approval of the Athletic Director. This includes the intramural program at Saint Paul Lutheran High.

PARTICIPATION

Student athletes are expected to attend and participate in all classes during the academic day. Participation in athletics should not cause a hindrance to daily classroom attendance.

Excused absences (college visit, doctor appointment, funeral, etc.) will not affect eligibility that day.

Students who miss any classes for **illness** must attend their 5th hour class through the rest of the day in order to participate in practices or contests on that day.

Student athletes with injuries will be expected to contribute in a positive manner in any PE courses.

DUAL SPORTS

Students may participate in dual sports - two sports in the same athletic season - only if one or both of the sports are categorized as an individual sport. Students are not permitted to participate in multiple team sports within the same athletic season.

A head coach always has the right to deny the dual participation if he/she feels that the dual participation is detrimental to the athlete's potential in either sport or to team chemistry.

An individual sport is defined as a sport where wins and losses can be attributed to the individual. Individual sports currently available for participation at Saint Paul Lutheran High School are: Cross Country (Fall), Track (Spring), and Golf (Spring).

If a student chooses to participate as a dual sport athlete, he/she will be required to choose a primary sport which will take precedence in the event of a conflict where both sports have a contest on the same day.

No matter what the primary sport, dual sport athletes should attend the practice of the team sport everyday, unless it conflicts with an athletic contest of the individual sport, as the success of the team hinges on their participation and commitment. Practice and preparation for the individual sport is the responsibility of the athlete during a time arranged with the coach outside the time of the practice of the team sport.

Dual sport athletes whose primary sport is their individual sport must be aware that missing team practices for individual contests could impact coaching decisions on whether or not the athlete will be a starter for his/her team, amount of playing time, and/or being selected for a varsity position. This is the case for all athletes as missing practices for any reason, even excused, can affect these decisions.

Participation in any sport should not adversely affect the academic performance of the student as academics is the primary purpose of the school. Therefore, because participation in multiple sports in a single season is a major commitment of time and energy it should only be undertaken by those students who have shown they can be successful in managing the rigors of academic and extracurricular activities effectively by maintaining a GPA no less than 2.5. Students who are participating as a dual sport athlete whose GPA falls below 2.5 but remains above the eligibility requirements of 2.0 and no Fs will be considered as ineligible for his/her secondary sport while remaining eligible for their primary. There is no appeals process for ineligibility of a secondary sport.

Ultimately, it is the decision of the coach whether or not to allow a dual sport athlete to participate within his/her sport.

SAFETY OF SQUAD MEMBERS

When a student is injured, the school's Director of Health Services should be notified immediately. If the emergency is serious, the emergency rescue squad should be contacted. The student should be taken or accompanied to the doctor's office or the hospital by the school's Director

of Health Services.

Coaches must fill out a report form for the school's Director of Health Services about all injuries (major or minor) that occur during practice or contest. These should be filled out within 48 hours.

TRANSPORTATION

All Saint Paul Lutheran High students will ride SPLH transportation to SPLH sponsored athletic events, unless given permission to do otherwise. Permission may be granted if the following requirements are met:

- You receive permission from the coach and athletic director after consultation with the principal.
- You ride with a SPLH parent.
    - You have a note from that parent, stating such.
    - You have the note signed by the resident hall supervisor. (for resident hall students)
    - You give our bus/van driver the note.

All athletic participants will ride SPLH transportation to school sponsored activities. If you wish to ride back with someone else, permission may be granted if the following requirements are met:

- You ride with a SPLH parent.
- You have a note from that parent, stating such.
- You have the resident hall supervisor sign the note.
- You give the note to your coach, who signs it.
- You give our bus/van driver the note.

The athletic director after consultation with the assistant principal, reserves the right to make exceptions to this policy, in extenuating circumstances.

LETTERING POLICY

Students who meet the following criteria will be awarded letters:

Students are expected to attend all practices as well as all contests.

-Students who have legitimate reasons for missing practice or contests must clear it beforehand with their coach. Failure to do so will result in the absence being unexcused.

-Students who have an unexcused absence for either practice or contests may not receive their letters. It will be left to the coach's discretion.

Students will participate in the prescribed amount of participating time. Participation requirements will be distributed to each member before the season begins, by the coach.

Students will have remained eligible for the entire season in the following areas:

-Academically - grades kept above the prescribed level for the duration of the season.

-Socially - school policy states that student athletes may be removed from the team (for any length of time) at any time during the season for discipline reasons.

-Team wise - students will follow the agreement signed at the beginning of the season.

Students who are withheld from a contest due to inappropriate behavior may not earn their letter.

Students will have to exhibit a positive, cooperative, and enthusiastic character and work totally for the activity.

Participants who quit, are suspended, or are dismissed from the team for disciplinary reasons will not be eligible for letters or postseason honors.

Individual sports may have their own written policy in addition to the above and will be given to each participant by the coach. The coach must have these policies approved by the athletic director.

IN ADDITION TO THE PREVIOUS STIPULATIONS THE FOLLOWING MUST BE MET IN ORDER TO EARN A VARSITY LETTER IN THE FOLLOWING SPORTS.

BASEBALL – TO APPEAR IN AT LEAST 1/3 OF ALL VARSITY INNINGS.

GIRLS BASKETBALL – PLAY IN AT LEAST HALF OF VARSITY GAME QUARTERS.

BOYS BASKETBALL – PLAY IN AT LEAST HALF OF VARSITY GAME QUARTERS.

CHEERLEADING – FOLLOWING THE ABOVE STIPULATIONS PLUS SPECIFIC GUIDELINES CONCERNING CHEERLEADING DISCIPLINE OUTLINED IN THE HANDOUT GIVEN BY THE COACH THE FIRST WEEK OF PRACTICE.

CROSS-COUNTRY – NO MISSED PRACTICES UNLESS APPROVED BY COACH. COMPETE IN 80% OF VARSITY MEETS. PLACE IN 50% OF VARSITY MEETS OR DISTRICTS

FOOTBALL – PARTICIPATE IN AN AVERAGE OF 10 PLAYS A GAME.

SOCCER – PLAY IN AT LEAST HALF OF VARSITY GAMES.

SOFTBALL – TO APPEAR IN AT LEAST 1/3 OF ALL VARSITY INNINGS.

TRACK – NO MISSED PRACTICES UNLESS APPROVED BY COACH. COMPETE IN 90% OF VARSITY MEETS. EARN POINTS IN 60% OF VARSITY MEETS AND/OR CONFERENCE MEET, AND/OR DISTRICT MEET.

VOLLEYBALL – PLAYED IN 50% OR MORE OF ALL VARSITY MATCHES FOR A SEASON OR 15 MATCHES OVER THEIR CAREER.

GOLF -

Students who earn a varsity letter before lettering in JV, will be given the JV numeral.

ALL COACHES, WITH THE ATHLETIC DIRECTORS'S APPROVAL, RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LETTER OR NOT LETTER A PARTICIPANT FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES. E.g. Quitting team, skipping practice, reoccurring altercations with the coach, breaking any agreements signed by coach, student athlete or parent.

AWARDS FOR LETTERING

JUNIOR VARSITY LETTER
1ST TIME ***– NUMERALS OF GRADUATION YEAR AND CERTIFICATE***
SUBSEQUENT YEARS – CERTIFICATE

VARSITY LETTER
1ST TIME – **P, MEDAL FOR ACTIVITY, BAR, CERTIFICATE**
SUBSEQUENT YEARS – **BAR AND CERTIFICATE**

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

Being a part of an interscholastic athletic team here at Saint Paul Lutheran High School is a honor and a privilege. To compete for your school, to use and develop your God-given talents is a chance in a lifetime.

Thus with the opportunity to use and develop your talents, we expect you to show your sportsmanship and cooperation while participating in the following areas:

Classroom: Cooperation in doing class work and tests. Good behavior without disruption of class. Respect for your classmates, teacher, and yourself in doing the best that you can do.

Residents: Cooperation in following all the guidelines of the resident halls, i.e. check out, bedtime, study hours, etc. We will support the residential hall counselors and their decisions concerning discipline.

Appearance: The way you present yourself describes yourself and your school, thus we expect you to look sharp and to be proud of belonging to Christ's body as a member of Saint Paul Lutheran High School.

Team: You are a part of a team and we expect you to show a good sportsmanship attitude. To be proud of yourself and positive with your teammates while supporting them. This relates to your relationship with the opposing team, officials, and spectators.

Work: If you are given a school-work study job, you are expected to work. It is YOUR responsibility to find someone to work for you if you are unable to. We will support your supervisor and his/her decisions. If you miss work unexcused, you will not participate in the next contest.

When all of these areas are taken care of with an honest effort, things will run smoothly and we will have a good athletic year. Let's work together in being proud of our teams and of our goal in participating for the Lord as He gives us all we need.

DEADWEEK

MSHSAA requires that all high schools have a mandatory week during the summer when there is no activity whatsoever in the school gymnasium or with school facilities. ie ... baskets, sleds, soccer goals, weight room, etc.

MSHSAA requires that there be a week before each seasonal sport where no sport activity can use any facilities. ie ... baskets, sleds, soccer goals, weight room, etc.

EXPECTATIONS OF GYM/WEIGHT ROOM USE

MAY BE USED UNTIL 5:00 pm unless being used by a team for practice.

A coach must be in the building in order to use the weight room.

You must have a partner to lift.

No Coach - No Partner - No Lifting

No black-soled shoes should be worn on the gym floor.

Equipment/trash must be put away in the gym & weight room.

The sound system in the gym is not to be used.

Foul music/language is not allowed in the weight room.

Not leaving the gym/weight room when asked will not be tolerated and could result in loosing privileges.

Abusing any of these expectations will result in the loss of the privilege to use the gym or weight room for any extended period of time.
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There is a separate policy which is now in place to be followed for adults and students who are not from Saint Paul. Saint Paul Lutheran High staff is responsible for execution of this policy. YOU ARE TO ASK THE SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN HIGH STAFF SUPERVISOR BEFORE YOU EXTEND AN INVITATION.

Turn on only those lights needed. For instance, sometimes only half the lights need to be on. For evening use, only light #5 on each side.

Be sure all lights, including bathroom lights, are off before leaving.

Check ALL outside doors before leaving - be sure they are actually latched. All inside doors (gym, locker rooms, weight room) should also be locked.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL
CODE OF ETHICS

SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROVIDE CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES IN A CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT THAT EQUIPS STUDENTS FOR JOYFUL, FAITHFUL SERVICE TO CHRIST AND HIS WORLD.

As a student selected to represent St. Paul Lutheran High School, I will sincerely endeavor to contribute my best to the success of that program. Therefore, I agree to abide by the provisions of the following "Code of Ethical Behavior". I am also aware that if I do not live up to this agreement, I must accept the consequences, which may include dismissal from the activity in which I am participating.

I realize that if school policies are violated, the procedure and penalties of those policies may take precedence over or be in addition to those described in the following rules of conduct for participants. This policy is in effect from the first day of pre-season camp to the end of school or end of the official season, whichever is later.

I. GENERAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
   A. Student must meet all MSHSAA standards of scholarship, citizenship eligibility, school attendance, etc. ALL COURT PENALTIES, FINES, PUNISHMENTS AND CONDITIONS OF PROBATION MUST BE SATISFIED BEFORE ELIGIBILITY IS GRANTED.
      2. Student must be a good citizen and demonstrate Christian behavior.
      3. Each coach will deal with cheating and classroom conduct.
      4. Student must be responsible for proper use and the return of all equipment and uniforms entrusted to him/her.
      5. Student must create, promote and maintain the elements of good sportsmanship.
      6. Positive social media presence towards the school, team and coaching staff!
   B. The coach and/or Assistant Principal determine penalties for violation of any of the preceding.

II. CHEMICAL ABUSE INCLUDING TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL USE OR POSSESION. <u>This includes being in the presence of alcohol or other drugs.</u>

A. Any violation of the above will result in disciplinary actions enforced by the assistant principal which may include a 30% loss of originally scheduled games.

The purpose of the Code of Ethical Behavior is to allow the student the privilege and honor of being part of a team dedicated to serving our Savior Jesus Christ, to give the student an opportunity to become a better competitor, and to instill in each student the sense of responsibility for their conduct.

We believe in glorifying God with our performance in and outside of competition.

I John 1:5-7
This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

****I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE.**

xxxxxxxx This is an example please don't sign

_____ _____

DATE STUDENT SIGNATURE

MSHSAA RULINGS - These rulings by MSHSAA should help guide parents.

Amateur and Award Requirements

Amateur Status: A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived there from.

An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:
Competing for or accepting money or other monetary compensation (it is permissible for a student to accept necessary meals, lodging, and transportation in connection with playing a contest).

Receiving any award or prize of monetary value which exceeds the amount that has been approved.

Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money, gifts of monetary value, or merchandise.

Signing a professional playing contract in that sport.

Accepting a nominal, standard fee or salary for teaching or coaching sport skills or techniques or officiating shall not jeopardize amateur standards.

Athletes shall not represent the school (appearing in school uniform, school-named clothing, at school facilities, or with mascot/school colors) to endorse or promote a product/service, commercial venture, political venture, etc. without prior written consent by a school administrator.

If gifts, benefits, awards or opportunities are provided to all enrolled students at the school rather than to members of a particular sports team only, then amateur status has not been compromised and the awards limits are not applicable.

Awards: A student may accept an award for participation in an athletic contest, or for athletic honors or recognition of athletic achievements in the interscholastic program. Awards presented to students shall meet the following criteria.

A student may receive the following symbolic awards: unattached school letters or emblems, medals, ribbons, trophies, certificates, etc.

A student shall not have accepted or competed for the following types of awards: services, cash or gift certificates.

A student may receive an award of merchandise items (one or more) which together do not exceed a total value of $250.00. The total value of all items shall be calculated using the manufacturer's suggested retail price for each item.

A student may receive an award of commemorative jewelry of a value greater than the merchandise award limit in recognition of achievements in the school athletic program only if purchased and awarded by the school.

A banquet sponsored by other than the school shall not constitute a violation if arranged with approval of the school administrator.

An award presented to a student in recognition of achievements in the school athletic program by a non-school organization or individual shall be approved in advance by the school administration. Editor's Note: No award presented shall contain artwork or sponsorship contrary to the standards of the interscholastic program.

This standard shall not prevent a student from signing an agreement which binds him or her to play only for a particular team or an athletic letter-of-intent with a university or college.

A student who wins only an Olympic medal and receives specified funds only from the National Governing Body for the sport for the Olympic placement in competition, may continue or return to interscholastic sports without jeopardizing his/her secondary school eligibility.
Awards in the form of high school scholarships or concessions on tuition because of athletic ability shall cause the student to become ineligible for future competition in all interscholastic sports.

A certificate of compliance with this provision along with a report of the system(s) of financial assistance available to students in each school shall be filed with the MSHSAA office no later than Monday of Standardized Calendar Week Seven by all schools with students receiving scholarships or tuition concessions and approved by the Board of Directors annually.

Residence & Transfer Requirements
Residence and Transfer Definitions: For the purpose of determining residency and the appropriate transfer exception, the following definitions are provided:

Parent – The term parent shall mean the student's: 1) natural parent; 2) adoptive parent; 3) foster parent, designated by Court order; or 4) legal guardian designated by court order.

Residence – Residence shall be defined as the place where the student and his/her parents have established their permanent home. This means that the family regularly eats and sleeps in a specific place of lodging. It is a place where the student and his/her parents are habitually present and to which when departing, they intend to return. The permanent home of a student with parents who are divorced or separated shall be the dwelling where a student has resided with one of his/her parents for a majority of the overnight periods during the 365 consecutive days immediately prior to enrollment.

Change of Residence – A change of residence under this rule shall consist of the moving of all household properties to the new address and the parents and student actually living there; a second family residence shall not meet the requirements of this standard.

District – All member schools, both public and non-public, shall establish defined geographical attendance districts for athletic eligibility purposes. The boundary for a non-public school attendance district shall be established by the school's governing board and shall include an area not to exceed a twenty-five mile radius measured from the school principal's office. A current map showing the non-public school's attendance district boundary shall be on file in the MSHSAA office. Any subsequent change in the non-public school's attendance boundary must be reported to the MSHSAA office no later than February 1 preceding the school year the change is to become effective since any change will be used in determining the eligibility of transfer students. The boundary for a Charter School attendance district is set by state law, but may be reduced at the school's discretion for athletic eligibility purposes only. If thus reduced, a current map showing the Charter School's attendance boundary shall be on file in the MSHSAA office and changes must be reported no later than February 1 preceding the school year the change is to become effective. The Missouri School for the Blind and the Missouri School of the Deaf shall be exempt from establishing a defined geographic attendance district for athletic eligibility purposes.

Restricted Eligibility – A transfer student who is granted restricted eligibility may participate in designated sports only at the sub-varsity level of competition until the student has been in continuous attendance at the new school for 365 days from the date of enrollment.

Residence Requirements: A junior high or high school student may be eligible at the public or non-public school located in the district in which the student's parents reside. In the case of a public multiple school district, a student may be eligible at the school designated for the student to attend by the board of education.

Residence Exceptions: A student may also meet eligibility Residence Standards under the following provisions:

A student who is enrolled full-time in a special learning center may be eligible to represent the public school serving the district or attendance area of the parents' residency in any sport not sponsored by the school he/she attends. A special learning center is defined as a member school that offers only specialized courses or curricula, or serves a very specialized student population. Member schools must apply to the Board of Directors by May 1 to be recognized as a Special Learning Center the following year. The Board may remove a school from this category if the school no longer meets the definition. The following categories of schools are special learning centers:

Magnet Schools
Schools serving only students with Individualized Education Plans (I.E.P.'s)
Vocational/Technical Schools

The residence standards shall be waived 365 days from the date a student enrolls in a member school provided enrollment in that member school has been continuous.

Transfer of Enrollment Requirements: Students who transfer schools or do not meet the requirements of residency upon enrollment at the school as outlined above are ineligible for 365 days unless their cases meet the standards under the EXCEPTIONS THAT FOLLOW:

Exception 1 – Corresponding Full-Family Change of Residence: If there is a corresponding change of residence of parents/family, from the attendance district of the school where a student has been enrolled to the new district, the student may be eligible as soon as the transfer of eligibility is approved by the MSHSAA office. For the purpose of this provision, if the districts served by the two schools overlap, the term "new district" shall mean a district in which the original residence was not located. The purpose of this section shall be to avoid any loss of eligibility when parents transfer residence to a new district for other than athletic reasons. Note: If a student from a broken home moves from the residence of one parent to that of the other parent and transfers schools, eligibility may not be

considered under this exception.

This change of residence must be simultaneous with the transfer of enrollment except when for educational reasons and awaiting occupancy of a new residence, a request is made to the MSHSAA office to permit the student to enroll at a new school at the beginning of a new year or semester and to become eligible as of the date the actual move takes place, such request shall be granted.

If parents move to a new district, the student, to retain eligibility without establishing a 365 days period of attendance, must transfer his/her enrollment simultaneously with the transfer of residence of parents, or no later than the beginning of the next school year.

If a student has lived with an individual other than a parent for 365 or more consecutive days, and then a change of residence as takes place that necessitates a transfer of eligibility, this exception may be used to request eligibility.

In the case of a student whose parents are divorced or legally separated, this exception may only be used if the student has resided with the relocating parent only for a consecutive majority of the overnight periods during the 365 consecutive days immediately prior to enrollment.

Exception 2 – Transfer at Promotion: Provided the transfer does not involve undue influence and is not for athletic reasons, a student may be eligible immediately at the school of his/her choice upon first entering when:

The student is promoted from the 6th grade to the 7th grade.
The student is promoted from the 8th grade to the 9th grade, provided the student is eligible in all other respects.
The student completes the highest grade in an elementary school that is not a part of a system supporting a high school (K-8), provided the student is eligible in all other respects.

Exception 3 – Transfer from a Non-Member School: A student is eligible upon his/her first transfer from a Missouri non-member or an Affiliate Registered School, as long as the student has been enrolled there for at least two consecutive semesters, to a MSHSAA member school where he/she meets the Residence Standards contained provided the transfer does not involve undue influence and is not for athletic reasons. Students transferring to a member school from an out-of-state school or an international school may not utilize this transfer exception.

Exception 4 – Transfer From an Unaccredited Public School: A student may be eligible upon his or her first transfer from an unaccredited public school to an accredited public school where the student's tuition is required by state law to be paid by the home district provided the transfer does not involve undue influence and is not for athletic reasons. Likewise, a student may be eligible upon his/her first transfer back to his/her home school if the school regains accreditation provided:

the student transfers within 365 days of accreditation being regained and
the transfer does not involve undue influence and is not for athletic reasons.

Exception 5 – Special Transfers:
Any transfer within any school system ordered by the board of education or governing body of a non-public school system, that is not for athletic reasons, shall be considered as meeting the residence requirements. An assignment by the Commissioner of Education in accord with provisions contained in RSMo 167.121 shall meet this requirement. Editor's Note: This item is not referring to a situation in which a family makes a request to the school board for reassignment which is granted, but rather a transfer that is mandated by the district due to special services, etc.

In case of reorganization, consolidation, or annexation of school districts, a student may be considered eligible at the designated school of the enlarged district immediately.

If a school is discontinued or closed to any group of students for reasons other than number two above, its students may be eligible immediately in the school of their choice provided the standards of residence are met.

A student who has established residence with one parent only, for 365 days or more, following the divorce of his/her parents may transfer schools one time without loss of eligibility to move to the residence of the other parent unless both parent residences are within the defined geographical attendance district of the receiving school, and provided the transfer does not involve undue influence and is not for athletic reasons. A copy of the custody agreement shall be submitted for review of the school's transfer request. The following situations shall not be reviewed under this exception:

Transfers of enrollment due to subsequent changes of residency between the divorced parents after the first exchange, unless no prior exchange has been made since the student was promoted into the 7th grade.

Transfers of enrollment where joint physical custody has been legally provided to both parents and the student lives part time with each parent.

Situations where the residency of the receiving parent was established in the receiving school district less than 365 days prior to the transfer of schools. The student may be eligible as soon as the transfer of eligibility is approved by the MSHSAA officer.

Exception 6 – Boarding Schools: A student who transfers for the first time to a boarding school, provided the school is not a specialized athletic/academy boarding school, and lives in the dormitory of the school may be eligible as soon as certified. Likewise, a student who has been attending a boarding school, provided it is not a specialized athletic/academy boarding school, and living in its dormitory under this provision may be eligible upon the student's first transfer to a school at which he/she meets the residence standards provided the transfer does not involve undue influence and is not for athletic reasons. For purposes of this statement, a boarding school is defined as a school which provides a residential community setting from students in which a full range of boarding services are provided (dormitory counselors, 24 hour a day supervision, a

social program, 3 meals a day, etc).

Exception 7 – Hardship: The Board of Directors may grant eligibility to a transfer student who does not meet the Transfer Standards when sufficient evidence is provided to show that it was necessary for the student to transfer because of unforeseen, unavoidable, or unusual circumstances provided the transfer was not for athletic reasons and there was no undue influence.

A military officer who is deemed by the Department of Defense as "mission essential" and who is further required to live within the boundaries of the military base, may upon arrival enroll his/her child(ren) in a school district that is contiguous to the school of residency and such child(ren) shall be considered eligible under this exception. Once the child attends a school, he/she would then be eligible only at that school.

A student who is granted eligibility under this provision shall be eligible upon notification by the Executive Director.

Exception 8 – Waiver – Even though a student transfers schools under circumstances which do not meet the terms of the Transfer of Enrollment Standards, he/she still may be granted eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics as hereinafter restricted if the student qualifies under the following terms and conditions:

A student whose name has been included on a school eligibility roster at any level (varsity, junior varsity, freshmen, junior high, etc.) for a given sport during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of such transfer can be eligible only for sub-varsity competition in that sport(s) for 365 days from the date of transfer. A student may have unrestricted eligibility in all other sports in which his/her name has not appeared on a school eligibility roster (at any level).

A student who has attended a school system that does not sponsor interscholastic athletics but who has participated in organized non-school competition during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of such transfer can be eligible only for sub-varsity competition in that sport(s) for 365 days from the date of transfer. A student may have unrestricted eligibility in all other sports in which he/she did not participate.

Eligibility can be granted as described in number one above provided the athletic eligibility is approved by the principals of both the sending and receiving schools and the Board of Directors and further provided there is no athletic purpose involved in the transfer. The student shall be ineligible for all sports for 365 days from the date of transfer in the event that either or both principals or the Board of Directors decline to approve athletic eligibility. Editor's Note: A student transferring under the Waiver in grades 7-8 shall have restricted eligibility from the highest team in the junior high/middle school i.e. "A" Team restricted to "B" team.

Exception 9 – Foreign Exchange Student:
A foreign exchange student is an international student who attends high school in the U.S. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics in the MSHSAA member school, such student must be under the auspices of and be placed with a Missouri host family by an international student exchange program that has been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and be recognized by the U.S. Department of State. The foreign exchange program must assign students to host families by a method that ensures that no student, or his/her parents, school or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes. The foreign exchange student may not be selected or placed on any basis related to his/her athletic interests or abilities.

A foreign exchange student is considered to be placed with a host family when written notice of placement is provided by the exchange organization to the student and his/her parents, and to the host family.

Neither the school the student attends nor any person associated with the school shall have input into the selection of the student.

If a member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, serves as the host family, the foreign exchange student shall not be eligible to participate at any level in the sport(s) (by gender) for which the coach coaches.

A senior foreign exchange student, in his/her 7th or 8th semesters, attending a member school may be considered eligible with no restrictions to participate in interscholastic athletics during his/her 7th and 8th semesters only, provided the following conditions are met.

The foreign exchange student must comply with all other eligibility requirements.

The student has not previously attended any other American high school.

The foreign exchange student is eligible at the public or non-public school(s) located in the district in which the foreign exchange student's host family resides.

Non- Senior Foreign Exchange Students: Any foreign exchange student in his/her first through sixth semester of school attendance will be considered eligible.

Eligible at Time of Transfer: A transfer student must be eligible in all respects at the school from which he or she is transferring to be eligible at the school to which he or she is transferring. If a student transfers schools with the status of ineligible for disciplinary reasons, the student shall retain such status at the new school for the same period as decreed by the former school. In all other cases, if the student is eligible in all respects under the receiving school's standards or MSHSAA standards, whichever is more restrictive, the student shall be considered eligible at the new school. A student transferring and meeting the Academic Standard at the receiving school, which has a less restrictive standard than the sending school, shall be considered to be academically eligible at the new school provided the minimum standards are met. Interscholastic competition against another school before participating students are certified as eligible shall be considered a violation.

Transfer of Eligibility Request Required: A transfer request shall be expedited for any transfer student (one who was not enrolled in the school district or system the previous year) before a student may be considered eligible without establishing a 365 days period of attendance from the date of enrollment. The student shall not be permitted to compete until the principal receives the information from the school from which he or she transferred, verifying that the student meets the standards of eligibility to compete.

Fifth Day of Enrollment: No transfer student can become eligible until the fifth day of enrollment. Exception: If an interscholastic contest is played either before the formal opening of school or before the fifth day of the fall semester, a transfer student who is eligible in all other respects may be eligible to participate under this provision provided the student is properly enrolled in the school.

Transfer After Start of District & State Tournament Series: A student who participates in a MSHSAA district or state tournament contest shall not be eligible during the state tournament series in the same sport in the same season at a second school, even if the student completes an otherwise legal transfer to the second school.

College/University – Conducted Events

College/University – Conducted Events for Individual Students During the School Year: Students may participate in athletic recruiting or instruction events that are directly sponsored by a college or university, conducted by that college or university's coaching staff for the sport concerned, and held on its campus, under the following provisions.

Compliance with Governing Body: These events shall adhere to the rules and regulations for such offerings as outlined by the governing body of which the college or university is a member (NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, etc.).

College/University – Conducted Recruiting Events: Events in which one or more students participate in physical activity including individual or group drills and/or limited scrimmages (not complete games) for the purpose of revealing, demonstrating or displaying the student's athletic abilities in a specific sport to the coaching staff of the organizing college/university for recruiting purposes. During the academic year, no school time may be missed to travel to or participate in the event, without the prior approval of a school administrator.

College/University – Conducted Individual Instruction Events: Instructional clinic or group lesson events which involve individual instruction in a specific sport that is provided by college or university coaching staff and include activities designed to improve overall skills and general knowledge in the respective sport. The primary emphasis shall be on teaching individual player skills, and there is not complete game competition other than limited scrimmage situations. During the academic year, no school time may be missed to travel to or participate in the event, without the prior approval of a school administrator. The student does not have to be accompanied by an approved school coach during the respective interscholastic sport season; for events conducted outside of the specific interscholastic sport season, no school coach may attend the event.

College/University Conducted Team Competition Events throughout the Year: Team Camp – Type Events: Events that are mainly competitive in nature but focused on teams and not individuals (i.e. "team camp") are covered by Organized Non-School Competition, Organized Non-School Competition.

Sport Participation and Contact – While Participating in an Interscholastic Sport Season During the School Year

Restrictions While Participating Interscholastically: During the sport season in which a student represents his/her school by competing in an interscholastic athletic contest, the following guidelines and restrictions shall apply. A student who joins a school sports team for the first time must have abided by these restrictions beginning with the first day of the current season of the sport concerned.

Definition of the School Year: The school year is defined as the period beginning with the first allowable practice date for the fall (Monday of Standardized Calendar Week Number Five) and ending the last day of school or the Thursday preceding Memorial Day, Whichever is earlier. However, if a school team is still competing in district or state tournament series contests, the "in season" restrictions would continue to apply to those varsity athletes.

Definition of School Sports Season: A school sports season shall be defined as the period beginning with the date of the school's first practice with any part of a sports team held on or after the first allowable practice date for the MSHSAA sport season and ending with the school's last contest, including district and state tournament contests, in that sport.

Winter and Spring Sport No-Contact Period: The seven days prior to the first allowable practice date for the season shall be a seasonal no-contact period in which no "contact" takes place between school coaches/directors of MSHSAA sponsored winter or spring activities, respectively, and students enrolled in the member school, or who will be enrolled in the member school during the upcoming school year.

Organized Non-School Competition: Athletic competition shall be considered "**organized**" if any of the following conditions exist: Competition is scheduled and publicized in advance, official score is kept, individual or team standings are maintained, official timer or game officials are used, admission is charged, teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined, team members are dressed in team uniforms or a team is privately or commercially-sponsored. Further, competition which is either directly or indirectly sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, organization, or any other agency shall be considered organized.

Same Season/Same Sport: A student shall neither practice nor compete as a member of a non-school team or as an individual participant in organized non-school competition in that same sport, except as provided for specifically below.

Fall Non-School Competition Exception: For fall sports, non-school competition may continue until the Tuesday following Labor Day, with prior approval by a school administrator. In order to remain eligible under this exception to the non-school competition rule, the

student must join the team at the start of the season attend all scheduled school practices and contests, unless attending a non-school competition with prior approval by a school administrator. Absences not related to non-school competition will be handled locally.

Cross-Country, Golf, Tennis, Track and Field, and Wrestling: During the school sport season, a student may, after fulfilling all requirements, practices and competitions of the school team, compete as an individual participant in two (2) organized non-school competitions under the conditions listed below.

Priority shall be given to all school team practices and competition. Should a non-school competition be in direct conflict with the school scheduled practice/competition the school practice/competition shall take priority. Prior approval by the school administrator may grant an exception to a student to participate in the non-school competition if in direct conflict with the school program.

No school time shall be missed to compete, practice or travel to the site of such non-school competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the school administrator.

The student shall not miss any MSHSAA sponsored postseason event that involves either the student or his/her school team to participate in such non-school competition.

In order to remain eligible under this exception to the non-school competition rule, the student must join the team at the start of the season and attend all scheduled school practices and contests, unless attending a non-school competition with prior approval by a school administrator. Absences not related to non-school competition will be handled locally.

After Labor Day, no school coach of the applicable sport in season may provide any coaching or instruction to any student while that student is participating in a non-school competition during the school sport season. Editor's Note: Outside of the school sport season, coaching contact restrictions apply.

Non-School Team Tryout: With prior approval by a school administrator, a student may participate in a one- day, one-time non-school team tryout provided the tryouts are held on a day the students do not practice or play for the school team and provided the tryout is exclusively an experience in which a student is tested and screened for ability and placement on a roster and does not include any instruction, coaching, practice, workout, etc. Students may not participate in any game competition or scrimmages for the non-school team until after the high school team has completed its season by playing its last contest. Any non-school team tryout is limited to one day.

Same Season/Different Sport: A student may practice or compete as a member of a non-school team or as an individual participant in organized non-school competition in a different sport than the school sport in season under the following conditions:

No school time is missed to compete, practice for, or travel to the site of such non-school competition unless the absence is approved **in advance by the school administrator**.

The student shall not practice for or compete in the non-school competition on the same date the school team practices or competes, **without approval of the school administrator**.

School Coaches: If held during the school year but outside the designated school season for the sport:

A high school coach of any sport may not provide any coaching or instruction to any student who currently attends or will attend the member high school (grades 9-12) the following year.

A junior high school coach of any sport may not provide any coaching or instruction to any student who currently attends or will attend the member junior high school (grades 7-8; and grade 9 when included in a separate junior high school membership) the following year.

No coach may play on a non-school team on which members of his/her school team will be participating nor may he/she be directly involved in the actual administration of such games, including officiating.

Evaluation Events Conducted by Private Organizers: Participation in Evaluation Events not directly sponsored by a college or university and not conducted by that college or university's coaching staff for the sport, in which one or more students participate in physical activity including individual or group drills and/or limited scrimmages (not complete games) for the purpose of revealing, demonstrating or displaying the student's athletic abilities in a specific sport to the coaching staff of one or more colleges/universities for recruiting purposes, may be permitted as described below.

Same Season/Same Sport: An athlete shall not participate in an evaluation event, as described above, during the school sports season for the sport concerned under any circumstances.

Same Season/Different Sport: The student may participate in an evaluation event, as described above, during a season in which he/she is competing in a different school sport, provided no school time is missed to travel to or participate in the sport-specific instruction, without the prior approval of a school administrator.

Sport-Specific Instruction by Private Organizers or Schools

Definition of Sport – Specific Instruction: Instructional clinic or group lesson events which involve individual instruction in a specific sport that include activities designed to improve overall skills and general knowledge in the respective sport. The primary emphasis shall be on teaching individual player skills, and there is no complete game competition other than limited scrimmage situations.

General Requirements:

Private, one-on-one instruction provided by a person not affiliated with the school a student attends or will attend the following year may be received at any time. Such instruction shall not interfere with the practice schedule of the school team nor serve as a substitute for the school team's practice sessions.

No school coach or other school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend specialized sports instruction as a condition for team membership.

Any instruction fee, charge or tuition shall be paid by the student's parents. School transportation may be provided at no cost to the students, at the discretion of the school.

Same Season/Same Sport: During the school year and within the school sport season for the sport concerned, a student may attend school organized or privately organized specialized sports instruction under the following conditions, in addition to those outlined above.

A student may attend only one sport-specific instructional event conducted by Private Organizers which meets all of the above requirements.

Prior approval from the school administrator or a school coach for the school sport in season is required.

The primary emphasis shall be on teaching individual player skills and there is no competition other than limited scrimmage situations.

During the academic year, no school time may be missed to travel to or participate in the sport-specific instruction, without the prior approval of a school administrator.

If school or school-district sponsored, only students enrolled in the sponsoring school or school district, respectively, may attend.
Same Season/Different Sport: During the school year and within a season a student is participating in an interscholastic sport, the student may attend privately organized specialized sports instruction for a different sport under the following conditions.

No member school or member of the coaching staff of the school the student is attending or will be attending the following year is involved in any way in the organization, sponsorship, or administration of the sport-specific instruction.

Prior approval from the school administrator and a school coach for the school sport in season is required.

During the academic year, no school time may be missed to travel to or participate in the sport-specific instruction, without the prior approval of a school administrator.

Sport Participation and Contact – When Not Participating in an Interscholastic Sport Season During the School Year.

Restrictions When NOT Participating Interscholastically: During any sport season within the school year that a student is not a member of a school sport team, the following guidelines and restrictions regarding other sport participation and contact with school personnel apply.

Organized Non-School Competition: An athlete may participate in non-school sponsored competition in a sport in which MSHSAA member schools complete interscholastically during this period provided:

Non-School: Athletic competition shall be considered "non-school" only if the competition is sponsored by a non-school entity (civic organization, service organization, parks and recreation department, etc.). Member schools, school booster clubs, and other school clubs and organizations are prohibited from sponsoring any sports competition in sports in which their school participates interscholastically and which includes students from any member school as participants. If member school facilities are used, arrangements for use of the facilities must be made by the sponsoring organization in accord with lease or rental policies adopted by the Board of Education to apply to general use of school facilities by non-school groups. Further, if member school facilities are used, it is strongly recommended that medical and liability insurance coverage be provided by the sponsoring organization.

Missing School: If held during the school year, no school time is missed to complete, practice for, or travel to the site of the non-school competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the school administrator.

School Coaches: If held during the school year but outside the designated school season for the sport:

A high school coach of any sport may not provide any coaching or instruction to any student who currently attends or will attend the member high school (grades 9-12) the following year.

No coach may play on a non-school team on which members of his/her school team will be participating nor may he/she be directly involved in the actual administration of such games, including officiating.

Not Representing the School: The student shall not represent the school and shall not use school uniforms or equipment.

Voluntary: Participation in non-school competition must be voluntary on the part of the student and not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team.

Transportation: Students must provide their own transportation to participate in non-school competition; schools shall not provide or arrange for transportation for students to participate in non-school competition.

Evaluation Events Conducted by Private Organizers: A student may participate in an evaluation event during a period when the student is not participating in an interscholastic sport season, provided no school time is missed to travel to or participate in the event unless the absence is approved in advance by the school administrator.

Sport-Specific Instruction by Private Organizers: During a period the student is not a member of a school sport, he/she may participate in non-school sponsored specialized sports instruction under the following conditions:

Private, one-on-one instruction provided by a person not affiliated with the school a student attends or will attend the following year may be received at any time.

During the academic year, no school time may be missed to travel to or participate in the sport-specific instruction, without the prior approval of a school administrator.

No member school or member of the coaching staff of the school the student is attending or will be attending the following year is involved in any way in the organization, sponsorship, or administration of the sport-specific instruction.

No school coach or other school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend specialized sports instruction as a condition for team membership.

Any instruction fee, charge or tuition shall be paid by the student or the student's parents. School transportation may be provided at no cost to the students, at the discretion of the school.

No school-owned uniforms or player equipment shall be used in any instructional event. Member schools may not rent, sell, lease, or loan their uniforms or player equipment for use in non-school sponsored instructional events.

Out-of-Season Sports Conditioning: During a period the student is not a member of a school sport team, he/she may participate in an out-of-season sports conditioning program administered by a member school, under the following conditions:

Allowable Participants – High School Programs: Only students who meet one of the following categories may participate in a high school's out-of-season sports conditioning program:

Students who are fully enrolled in the school administering the program.

Eighth grade students who live within the residence boundaries of the high school which is administering the program and who are enrolled and attending the junior high school managed and funded by that high school's district or system and which feeds directly to that high school.

Eighth graders enrolled in a junior high school that is participating in a cooperative sponsorship may participate in the out-of-season sports conditioning program at any high school to which any junior high in the coop directly feeds, with the permission of the principal of the high school to which his/her junior high directly feeds.

Winter and Spring Sport No-Contact Period: The seven days prior to the first allowable practice date for the season shall be a seasonal no-contact period in which no "contact takes place between school coaches/directors of MSHSAA sponsored winter or spring activities, respectively, and students enrolled in the member school, or who will be enrolled in the member school during the upcoming school year.

Penalty: The penalty for violation shall be ineligibility for a period not to exceed 365 days in the sport in which the violation occurred.

Athletic Definitions

All-Star Contests: An "all-star" contest is defined as any contest involving players from two or more junior highs or high schools who are selected on the basis of their individual athletic accomplishments or reputations gained while competing in interscholastic competition. Such competitive events are defined as "non-school competition" and participation is restricted.