



Stockton Unified School District
Since 1852

COACHES HANDBOOK

SECTION IV

ELIGIBILITY

ADMINISTRATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

FOR ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

1. Each school principal is responsible for certifying the eligibility of all students' athletes.

Discussion:

Although the principal of some schools delegates this responsibility, it is the principal whom the District holds accountable for participation of ineligible students. Since forfeiture of contests is the penalty for ineligible participation, it is critically important to have a comprehensive approach to the certification of the eligibility of each student athlete.

2. Develop a protocol, which ensures that no coach permits a student who has not been certified as eligible to begin practice.

Discussion:

This could take the form of requiring the coach to submit a pre-season list of students who have expressed an interest in participating in that sport. The administrator or designee then verifies the eligibility of the students on that list and signs off on each. Subsequently, as students not on the certified list express an interest, the coach knows that they may not begin to practice until the administrator's signature releases that student to the coach as eligible.

3. Be certain to certify the eligibility of athletes before they begin practice.

Discussion:

There is no upside to putting this off until prior to the first contest, because you may be busier at that time. Liability issues are enormous if your certification has not been done, and you have students who have not satisfied the physical examination requirement, or a student is over age, etc.

4. The certification of eligibility of each student athlete must include minimally those areas noted under Academic and Residential Eligibility.

Discussion:

Failure to follow all eligibility rules will result in chaos throughout your athletic programs.

A review of this information before the start of each season will be beneficial.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

I. GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

In order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, at the time the activity begins, a student must have an overall GPA of 2.0 or better from the previous semester. Under the GPA rule:

- For the fall semester eligibility, grades from the previous two semesters will be used. Summer school grades will be included with the spring semester grades limited by policy to ten (10) transferable credits from each accredited institution.
- For the spring semester eligibility, grades from the previous two semesters will be used. Summer school grades cannot be included in fall GPA.
- A student who does not meet the GPA requirement can apply for probation under the terms specified below.

A. FRESHMAN ELIGIBILITY

- All incoming freshman are eligible for the fall semester.
- After the first semester, eligibility is based on the previous semester's grades.
- Each freshman will be allowed to use one semester of probation, which can only be used for one of the semesters of his/her freshman year if he/she does not meet the GPA requirement. This shall be referred to as "*freshman probation.*"
- In addition to this initial freshman probation, each freshman will be allowed to use one semester of "*post-freshman probation,*" as described below, as long as the "*freshman probation*" and the "*post-freshman probation*" are not used in consecutive grading periods.

B. POST-FRESHMAN PROBATION

Students who did not earn an overall GPA of 2.0 or better for the previous semester have the option to choose a **one time, one semester** probationary period, in addition to freshman probation, for his/her **entire** high school career at SUSD.

- If a student chooses probation and then fails to maintain a GPA of 2.00 or better in any future semester, that student will not be eligible for the extracurricular activity, as **probation is a one time, one semester opportunity.**
- The freshman probation and the post-freshman probation cannot be used in consecutive grading periods.

II. LOCAL REQUIREMENT

In order to meet the local requirements of Stockton Unified School District, students must meet either the 50 credits rule (Franklin, Stagg and Edison)/30 credits rule (Chavez and Edison) or the in-line to graduate rule. Entering seniors must have 165 credits minimum (150 credits for Chavez and Edison) to meet the in-line to graduate rule. The "either or" rule is not in effect for entering seniors since they must meet both criteria.

A. 50/30 CREDITS RULE

In order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, at the time the activity begins, a student must have completed (with a passing grade) at least 50/30 credits in the previous school year or the immediate previous two semesters. Under the 50/30 credits rule:

- The student must count the previous two semesters, and may include summer school at the end of the spring semester.

Probation cannot be used to circumvent the 50/30 Credits Rule. A decision based on this rule cannot be appealed.

B. IN-LINE TO GRADUATE RULE

In order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, a student must be in-line to graduate as determined in the beginning of the fall semester of that year. In-line to graduate means that the student must meet the credit requirements in the table below at the beginning of the respective school year.

Grade	In-Line to Graduate Requirement		50 Credit Rule
Freshman	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sophomore	50 Minimum Credits Entering Sophomore Year	OR	50 Credits Prior Two Semesters (30 Credits for Chavez & Edison)
Junior	110 Minimum Credits Entering Junior Year	OR	50 Credits Prior Two Semesters (30 Credits for Chavez & Edison)
Senior	165 Minimum Credits Entering Senior Year (150 Credits for Chavez & Edison)	AND	Additionally 50 Credits Prior Two Semesters (30 Credits for Chavez & Edison)

In-line to graduate is determined in the beginning of the fall and applies to the fall and spring semesters of that school year. Probation cannot be used to circumvent the in-line to graduate rule. A decision based on the rule cannot be appealed.

III. RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY

Residential eligibility refers to allowing athletes to be part of a team only for the school where they have a right to participate based on California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) policies and bylaws. Allowing an athlete who does not qualify under these rules to be a part of a team will result in forfeiture of games, tournament victories (or placements), the right to compete in post-season play, or, in the worst case, the right to compete at all. Knowingly falsifying information to allow an athlete to participate, who otherwise would not qualify, could result in a suspension of the student for up to 24 months. Attached to this section are the requirements for residential eligibility as given by the CIF. It is imperative that all coaches, athletic directors, and site administrators, read, understand, and follow these requirements.

IV. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

All members of a sports team must be validated on the Extracurricular/Co-Curricular and Residential Eligibility form (contact the Athletic Director to obtain this form (see attached sample at the end of this Section). The Athletic Director and Assistant Principal in charge of athletics must sign off on each athlete. In addition, the team must be verified by the Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, and Coach. Timelines for verification are listed on the top of the form.

ALL STUDENTS MUST MEET ALL CIF AND SJAA REQUIREMENTS

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY APPEALS PROCESS

- V.** CIF rules cannot be appealed through the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services.
- VI.** The completed credit rule may be appealed for extenuating circumstances. In order to appeal the 50 credits rule, the parent/guardian must fill out an Athletic Academic Eligibility Appeals Form (see sample at the end of this Section). This form must be returned to the Athletic Director, who will route it to the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. Once received, a panel will convene. The panel will include the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services (or his designee) and the Athletic Directors of at least two SUSD high schools where the athlete is not enrolled. The panel will meet to review the appeal, and issue a decision based on any extenuating circumstances. A key issue will address whether the student is showing progress toward graduation.

ELIGIBILITY CHART

- Students must have passed:
 - 20 credits in the previous semester.
 - 50 credits combined in the previous two semesters.
 - 9th-11th Grade Students
 - AND/OR must be on track to graduate
 - 12th Grade Students
 - AND/OR must be on track to graduate

Traditional		
Grade	1st Semester	2nd Semester
9	0	25
10	50	75
11	90	120
12	150	180

- Students must have a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) from the previous semester as well as fulfilled the credit requirement.
 - There is a freshman only probationary period of 1 semester for freshman who do not have a 2.0 GPA. The probationary period is automatically used if the student plays a Fall Sport. If the student does not use freshman probation, it does NOT roll over to grades 10-12. It is a use it or lose it probation.
 - There is a second probation period for students in grades 10-12 who do not earn a 2.0 GPA. This probation period can only be used one time during the 10-12 grades. Students must meet the credit requirement to be eligible to use probation.

**STOCKTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY
APPEALS FORM**

Student Name _____ Date of Birth _____

School of Record _____ Date _____

Reason for Appeal:

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Reviewed by Athletic Director* _____ Date _____
*School of Record

Principal _____ Date _____

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services _____ Date _____

Approved: _____ Denied: _____ Date _____

**PLEASE GO TO THE SUSD WEBSITE'S FILLABLE FORMS
TO COMPLETE THIS FORM**

**STOCKTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXTRACURRICULAR/CO-CURRICULAR AND
RESIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY FORM**

SAMPLE

Athletic Director _____
 Fall Activities - September
 Winter Activities - last day of November
 Spring Activities - last day of February

Extracurricular/Co-Curricular and Residential Eligibility Form

Athletic Team _____
 Varsity() Frosh/Soph () Soph () Frosh ()

Student's Name/Last/First/Middle	Student's ID Number	Grade	Actual Physical Residence	Residential Eligibility							Academic Eligibility		Comments		
				School Entered 9th	School Attended Last	Valid Change of Address - 206	Non-Valid - Paperwork Submitted-207	Non-Valid - Hardship-208	CIF 207/5 10	Senior 165 Credits	Previous Year	Previous Semester		Previous Semester	GPA

Verified by: _____ Date: _____
 Principal Asst Principal

Verified by: _____ Date: _____
 Asst Principal

Received by: _____ Date: _____
 Athletic Director

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR TO OBTAIN THIS FORM