

What You Should Know About High School Athletic Eligibility

Academic Requirements

If you are in the 11th grade or 12th grade, you must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale in all courses taken through the end of the previous semester. If you are in the 9th grade or 10th grade, you must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale in all courses taken through the end of the previous semester; OR you must have earned a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale in the courses taken in the previous semester alone, provided you sign an academic performance contract (FHSAA form EL5) with your school and attend summer school as necessary. (Article 9.4, FHSAA Handbook, Bylaws and Policies)

Ninth Grade Eligibility

A student shall be eligible during the first semester of his/her ninth-grade year provided that it is the student's first entry into the ninth grade and he/she was regularly promoted from the eighth grade the immediately preceding year.

Residence

A student will be eligible at the first school in which he/she enrolls, or participates in an athletic practice, at the beginning of each school year. The student will be eligible in his/her first school of choice each year as long as the student remains enrolled in that school (Florida Law 97-53). Additionally, home school students who are registered through Hillsborough County Public Schools and charter school students who are enrolled in a Hillsborough County registered charter school are eligible for athletic participation at their school of residence.

Transfers

Per School Board Policy 2431.01, student-athletes who transfer are allowed to immediately participate in interscholastic athletics for their new school as long as they are enrolled prior to the start of a specific sport's season. Student-athletes that participate in a sport at their previous school during the same school year may not participate in the same sport unless they meet one of the following criteria:

- 1) Dependent children of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders.
- 2) Children who have been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone.
- 3) Children who move due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent.
- 4) Authorized good cause established in this policy.

Age

Students reaching the age of 19 before July 1st will be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for that school year and beyond.

Limit of Eligibility

A student shall be eligible for no more than four (4) consecutive academic years upon first entrance to ninth grade as defined by the pupil progression plan of the school in which the student is enrolled. A student who does not attend school, repeats any grade, is declared ineligible to participate, or otherwise fails to exercise the opportunity to participate for any reason for any length of time during this four-year period shall not be entitled to any additional period of eligibility.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Eligibility Requirements for Extracurricular Participation 2024-2025

Eligibility Period	Grade	Eligibility Requirements
First semester 2024-2025	Students first entering the 9 th grade in 2024-2025	Must be regularly promoted from the 8 th grade to the 9 th grade.
	Students entering 10 th grade	Must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale in all courses taken through the end of the previous semester; OR must have earned a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale in the courses taken in the previous semester alone, provided he or she signed an academic performance contract with his or her school and attended summer school as necessary.
	Students entering 11 th and 12 th grades	Must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale in all courses taken through the end of the previous semester
Second semester 2024-2025	9 th and 10 th grade	Must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale in all courses taken through the end of the previous semester; OR must have earned a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale in the courses taken in the previous semester alone, provided he or she signed an academic performance contract with his or her school and attended summer school as necessary.
	11 th and 12 th grades	Must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale in all courses taken through the end of the previous semester
A student shall be eligible for no more than four (4) consecutive academic years upon first successful completion of the eighth (8th) grade as defined by the pupil progression plan of the school in which the student is enrolled. Four years from the date he or she first successfully completes the eighth grade, he or she shall become ineligible for further interscholastic athletic competition. A student who does not attend school, repeats any grade, is declared ineligible to participate, or otherwise fails to exercise the opportunity to participate for any reason for any length of time during this four-year period shall not be entitled to any additional period of eligibility. Original school records shall be submitted to the Commissioner in the event of conflicting information as to the date of first successful completion of the eighth grade. (Article 9.5 FHSAA Handbook, Bylaws and Policies)		
Note 1: A grading period is defined as one semester. A semester is defined as one half of a school year (approximately 18 school weeks or 90 school days). This definition is applicable to all schools regardless of the type of class scheduling format used (i.e. block, traditional, etc.)		

Academic Performance Contract for Athletic Eligibility is a school generated form.