

TAHOE TRUCKEE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT EXTRACURRICULAR AND INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION POLICY

The Tahoe Truckee Unified School District recognizes the vital contributions that athletics and extracurricular activities make to the academic, social, emotional, and personal development of our students, and the district strongly encourages all students to participate in the diverse athletic and extracurricular programs offered within the school district. Through their involvement in teams, clubs, and peer groups, students learn essential life skills, assume personal responsibility, strengthen character traits, acquire leadership abilities, and build lifelong relationships. Students who elect to play sports, participate in student governance, or join a school group, club, or team make a voluntary commitment to these pursuits and earn the privilege of representing their school and community. Student participation in athletics and extracurricular activities is viewed as an integral component of the learning process, and for this reason our eligibility policy is intended to be motivational in design rather than disciplinary. Yet while interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities complement and enhance the academic program, school attendance must remain focused, first and foremost, on learning the knowledge, skills, and habits of work that every graduate needs to succeed in adult life. The district's eligibility policy for interscholastic athletics and extracurricular programs is designed to ensure that academic learning and achievement remain the top priority for every student.

A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1. To outline procedures regarding governing eligibility requirements for students participating in the interscholastic athletics program
2. To outline the procedures for eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities

B. LEGAL AND POLICY BASIS

1. Education Code section 35160.2, 35160.5, 35161, 35179, 49030, 49031, 49032; Government Code section 244
2. In matters related to co-curricular and extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics, the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District acts in accordance with the relevant provisions of the California Education Code. In general, policies and procedures of the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District related to interscholastic athletics are consistent with those policies developed by California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) State and Nevada Interscholastic Athletic Association (NIAA) Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations.

C. GENERAL

1. Definitions

- a. **Interscholastic Athletics:** A program involving competition in a variety of sports activities between teams from different schools under rules and regulations of the NIAA, State CIF, and Tahoe Truckee Unified School District. Each high school may include interscholastic athletics as part of the school curriculum.

- b. **Participate:** To play in an athletic contest for any amount of time, students must be enrolled in a TTUSD school for 15 days or more. (CIF 207; NRS 2070)
 - c. **Season of sport:** The season of sport for an individual is that period of time when the student is first on a team roster as an athlete, regardless of playing time in an interscholastic contest. To compete in an interscholastic contest or scrimmage, a student must be on a roster as a team member.
2. **Athletics Competition for Ninth Grade Students:** Ninth grade students may try out for and participate in athletic competition of a freshman team for board-approved freshman sports and for varsity or junior varsity teams at their school of enrollment only.
3. **Basic State CIF/NIAA Rules:** To compete in interscholastic athletics, a student must:
- a. Be less than 19 years of age. A student may not compete if his/her nineteenth birthday is on or before June 15, in the following school year. (CIF 201, NIAA 2019.278)
 - b. Receive an annual physical examination conducted by a licensed physician or nurse practitioner that certifies on a school-board-approved form that the student is physically fit to participate in athletics in the current school year. (CIF 308, NRS 385B.336)
 - c. **Be an amateur.** (See CIF Article 4 for definition; NRS 385B.374)
 - d. **Be an undergraduate.**
 - i. Students are entitled to participate in athletic competition for no more than eight semesters of school attendance following their initial enrollment in the ninth grade of any school. (CIF 202; NRS 385B)

Note: A semester of school attendance occurs when the student has been enrolled and/or attended for fifteen (15) days or more, or has participated in one or more interscholastic athletic contests.

- ii. If students do not transfer to high schools immediately, that is, for the semester following their graduation from middle/junior high school, they must be in attendance at a senior high school for one semester before becoming eligible to compete. This semester is charged against the eight semesters allowed for competition.

- iii. Students that successfully pass the state proficiency examination and withdraw from high school have one opportunity to re enroll in high school and are immediately eligible for athletic competition, provided requirements outlined in CIF Constitution and Bylaws 225 (a)–(d) are met.
- e. **Agree not to use androgenic/anabolic steroids and dietary supplements banned by the United States Anti-doping Agency and the substance synerparine** unless the student has a written prescription from a licensed health care practitioner to use the banned substance or synerparine to treat a medical condition. The student and his or her parent/guardian must sign a notification form agreeing to these restrictions. (CIF 524)
- f. **Physical Examination.** A physical examination is required of all students that participate in interscholastic athletics competition every two (2) years. (A physical exam in May/June is valid through May/June of the following year.) The exams must be conducted by licensed physicians or nurse practitioners that must certify on a school-board-approved form that the students are physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics. Students are required to have a physical to begin the 9th grade athletic year, and the 11th grade athletic year.
- g. **Transportation.** In all athletic contests played away from the school, the athlete will ride to and from these contests in school-arranged transportation. However, an athlete may leave a contest with his or her own parent or guardian as long as the parent/guardian verbally communicates with the coach and then provides written verification by way of a sign-out sheet. Athletes may also ride home with a parent or guardian other than his/her own parent or guardian only if the athlete's coach receives a verbal confirmation as well as a written verification from the requesting athlete's parent or guardian. Failure to follow this procedure may result in an athlete's suspension from the team. Any exceptions to this procedure must be approved by a site administrator or the Athletic Director at least one day prior to the contest.

4. District Citizenship Requirements

- a. Participation in athletics is an opportunity offered to eligible students, not a right. Any student participating in interscholastic athletics must have earned an academic grade point average of 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or better in all subjects during the academic quarter immediately preceding his/her participation.

- b. Eligibility lost through unsatisfactory citizenship may not be regained through attendance in alternative programs or summer school.
- c. Requirements for citizenship are applicable to all incoming ninth grade students.
- d. **TTUSD, NIAA and CIF requirements for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Possession Use and Abuse Penalties Policy.** Participation in high school athletics is a privilege, not a right and underage drinking and use of controlled substances is against the law. This policy takes effect once the student begins participation as an athlete in high school. This policy remains in effect regardless of whether the student is currently participating on a high school athletic team.
 - i. 1st Violation: A six (6) competitive week suspension from participation in interscholastic competition beginning with the first scheduled competition after the suspension occurs. Four (4) competitive weeks of the suspension of eligibility may be waived if a student successfully completes all components of the appropriate substance abuse intervention program.
 - ii. 2nd Violation: The student shall be suspended from interscholastic competition for a minimum of ninety (90) school days which shall include a minimum of six (6) competitive weeks of competition.
 - iii. 3rd Violation: The student shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the student's high school career.
- e. **Dropping/Quitting a Sport.** The proper way to withdraw from a sport is to make personal contact with the coach and to notify him/her of the athlete's decision to discontinue participation. If an athlete quits a sport, he/she will not receive a participation award or a PE waiver. An athlete who quits a sport will not be allowed to participate in another sport during that season unless extenuating circumstances warrant the Athletic Director waiving this specific participation criteria. Students will be allowed to try out for another sport in a subsequent season without penalty.

5. District Scholastic Requirements:

- a. Any secondary school student who participates in interscholastic athletics must meet the following scholastic requirements:
 - i. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of ½ time instruction blocks; earn a scholastic grade point average of 2.0 or better in all

subjects during the academic quarter in his/her high school of enrollment immediately preceding his/her participation. This rule also applies to the last quarter of the preceding school year for incoming ninth grade students to a four-year high school.

- ii. TTUSD outlines requirements that must be met by students that, for graduation or athletic eligibility purposes, seek to suppress "D" or "F" grades or to replace grades, including requirements regarding earning credit for online high school coursework.
- b. If an athlete begins to fail because of insufficient academic performance, disruptive behavior, or excessive absences, the Athletic Director will be notified in writing. The Athletic Director and/or the coach will meet with the student and may warn or place the student on probation at the discretion of the Athletic Director. If the student is put on athletic probation, a letter will be sent to the parents notifying them. If the situation persists, the Athletic Director has the authority to suspend the athlete from competition.

6. District Residence Requirements

a. General

- i. In order to be eligible to participate in Tahoe Truckee Unified School District Athletic Programs, evidence of residence and enrollment must be provided: Students attending the following Schools and programs are eligible to participate in TTUSD Athletic and extra curricular activities:
 - Donner Trail Elementary
 - Glenshire Elementary
 - Truckee Elementary
 - Kings Beach Elementary
 - Tahoe Lake Elementary
 - Sierra Expeditionary School
 - Alder Creek Middle School
 - North Tahoe School
 - North Tahoe High School
 - Truckee High School
 - Sierra High School
 - Cold Stream Alternative School

7. **Transfer Student.** A ninth through twelfth grade student who participates in an interscholastic athletic contest or is enrolled and/or attends a school for 15 school days or more shall be considered to have been enrolled in that school and shall

be classified as a transfer student if the student subsequently enrolls in another school.

8. **Transfers before the first day of school in tenth grade.** CIF Bylaw 207/NRS 385B allows students to transfer one time without a valid change of residence and retain varsity eligibility. This transfer must occur no later than the first day of the student's third consecutive semester, typically the first semester of grade 10. The student may be eligible to compete in sports at all levels at the new school of choice if he/she meets all district and CIF scholastic and citizenship standards and all other rules and regulations.
9. **Transfer without a valid change of residence.** A ninth grade student who transfers for the second time or a tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade student who transfers without a valid change of residence is recommended for limited eligibility, i.e. the student is eligible for all athletic competition except varsity-level competition in sports in which the student has competed in any level of interscholastic competition during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of the transfer.
10. **Students that transfer because of a change in residence** of their parents or legal guardians are recommended for immediate athletic eligibility in their new schools, provided they were eligible at the sending school at the time of transfer.
11. **Students in special education classes**
 - a. Students that are transferred full-time from one school to another in accordance with approved district procedures to participate in special education classes shall be granted all student privileges, including athletic eligibility, at the receiving school if they were eligible at the sending school at the time of transfer and if eligibility is approved by the school principals.
 - b. Upon district recommendation and parent approval to discontinue a student in a special education class as described above, and upon return of the student to his/her school of residence, the student shall continue to be granted all student privileges, including athletic eligibility.
 - c. Should a student, with parent approval, voluntarily elect to discontinue participation in special education classes as described above and return to his/her school of residence, the student shall be recommended for immediate residential athletic eligibility provided he/she has not participated in any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of such transfer. If the student has participated at any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of transfer, he/she is ineligible for varsity-level competition in the sport(s) in which the student participated

for twelve (12) calendar months from the first date of attendance at the new school.

- d. **Administrative placement and school-initiated administrative placement.** Students transferred by administrative decision may be recommended for athletic eligibility.
 - i. A student who must transfer from one school to another for disciplinary reasons is ineligible for interscholastic athletics competition for one year following the date of transfer.
 - ii. Students transferred by administrative decision, including school-initiated placement, that did not transfer for disciplinary reasons and have not participated in any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of such transfer may be recommended for immediate eligibility.
- e. **Public/private school transfers.** The residential eligibility of students transferring from private to public school or public to private school is addressed in CIF Bylaw 207/NRS 385B.332. Students enrolled in a school that have not participated in any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of such transfer have immediate residential athletic eligibility. If a student has participated at any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of transfer, he/she is ineligible for varsity-level competition in the sport(s) in which the student participated for twelve (12) calendar months from the first date of attendance at the new school.
- f. **Charter School Students:** Charter school students who attend a Charter School through a school district other than TTUSD, that have not participated in any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of their transfer to the charter school have immediate residential athletic eligibility.
 - i. If a student has participated at any level of athletic competition during the twelve (12) calendar months preceding the date of transfer, he/she is ineligible for athletic competition in the sport(s) in which the student participated for twelve (12) calendar months from the first date of attendance at the charter school.
- g. **Knowledge of and Participation of an Ineligible Player**
 - i. If any teacher, official, coach, or administrator has information indicating that there is an ineligible player on a squad of any

league high school, he/she is under obligation to report the matter in writing to the principal of the school concerned

- ii. No school shall allow an ineligible player to play at any time, nor allow a student who is not officially enrolled in the school to participate in a scrimmage, practice game, meet, or match. (CIF 205.3)

TTUSD Board Policy 6145.2, AR 6145.2
CA Ed. Code 35160.5