

## INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Evangeline Parish School Board believes that the competitive athletic program is a part of the overall educational program of the school system. It also believes that the athletic program should be closely coordinated with the general instructional program of the school, and that the aims achieved through athletics should justify its inclusion in the overall educational program.

### ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Interscholastic athletics may be made available for students in the schools of the school district. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop and maintain an athletic program in the school district that emphasizes participation of all students. The conduction of all athletic programs within the school district shall comply fully with regulations of the *Louisiana High School Athletic Association* (LHSAA) and policies of the School Board. The Board shall allow students to participate in as many sports activities and academic activities as he/she is capable of participating in without fear of reprisal.

No athletic practice shall be held off-campus except for those activities which have been granted approval by the principal.

### STUDENTS IN HOME STUDY PROGRAMS

Students participating in a home study program approved by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) may be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities at a high school that is a member of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA). To be eligible to participate, the home study student shall meet each of the following requirements:

1. The student shall be subject to the same residency or attendance zone requirements as other students participating in the athletic activity.
2. The student's parent or legal guardian shall make a written request for the student to participate in interscholastic athletic activities to the principal of the school providing the activity. Such request shall be made not later than the first eleven (11) days of the school year.
3. The principal of the school providing the athletic activity shall approve or disapprove such written request within thirty (30) days after receipt by the principal of all information and documentation requested by the principal from the student or the student's parent or legal guardian, or both. Such information and documentation shall be noted in item 5 below, as well as information and documentation that is required of other students relative

to participation in the athletic activity. The decision by the principal to approve or disapprove the written request for the student to participate shall be **final**.

4. If participation is approved, then at the time of participation in the athletic activity, the student and the student's home study program shall be in full compliance with all guidelines, standards, and requirements established by state law for home study programs.
5. The student shall submit documentation from BESE that the student is in a home study program approved by BESE. The student shall submit a copy of his/her transcript showing units of study completed or in progress, the grades earned for such study, and his/her cumulative grade point average.
6. The student shall be required to meet academic standards required of other students to participate in the athletic activity.
7. The student shall be required to meet all other standards and requirements applicable to a student participating in the athletic activity, including but not limited to tryouts, practice time, codes of conduct and student discipline, physical exams, proof of age, permission forms, waivers, required paperwork, fees, and transportation arrangements but excluding any requirements that the student be enrolled in or attend the school, or both.
8. The student shall be required to meet conditions applicable to students at the school relative to having any required insurance coverage either by participating, if otherwise eligible, in insurance programs offered through the school or school system or by providing for such insurance coverage in another manner.

After a decision is made by the principal to approve a request for the student to participate, then the student shall participate in any tryouts for such activity at the same time and in the same manner as other students who want to participate in the same activity.

Any home study student who provides, or on whose behalf others provide, any false representation, documentation, or verification of the student's qualifications for the purpose of meeting eligibility requirements to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be ruled ineligible to participate in accordance with policies of the LHSAA and shall be subject to the same penalties as other students. Likewise, a school determined to be knowledgeable of any false representation, documentation, or verification of a home study student's qualifications for the purpose of meeting eligibility requirements to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be subject to penalties as established by the

LHSAA for use of an ineligible student athlete.

A student who has been enrolled in a public or nonpublic school during the school year in which the student begins home study or during the previous school year and who was determined ineligible to participate in one or more interscholastic extracurricular activities at such school for reasons related to student conduct or academic performance, or both, shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities for one (1) calendar year from the date the student was determined ineligible.

A student who has been enrolled in a public or nonpublic school during the school year in which the student begins home study shall not be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities during the remainder of that school year nor during the following school year.

### PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

No student shall be permitted to practice or participate in any interscholastic athletic program in any public school of the Evangeline Parish School Board until such student shall have furnished to the principal of the school documentation that he/she has met the following requirements:

1. Evidence of having had a physical examination by a licensed physician who shall have completed documentation as required by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA).
2. Properly complete a *School Entrance and General Health Exam Form/LHSAA Medical History* and pass a medical examination by a licensed physician prior to the first time he/she participates in a sport in a LHSAA school. Physicians may continue to use the original *LHSAA Sports Physical Form* in performing sports physicals. In addition, parents shall be required to complete the *Authorization for Release of Confidential Information*.
3. Once a student passes the initial medical examination and completes an *LHSAA Medical History Form* prior to the sports season in which he/she participates, he/she shall annually pass any medical screening or medical examination required by a licensed physician and shall update his/her *LHSAA Medical History Form* as required.
4. A copy of all completed and signed medical examination and participation/release of information forms (and any others required by the School Board) must be on file at the school for every student before he/she practices or participates in interscholastic athletics during that school year.

5. An agreement signed by the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to hold the School Board and its members, employees, agents, assigns and insurers harmless from and against any liability for any accidents involving the student while participating in such athletic activities and any injuries suffered by the student during, or as a result of, such participation. The agreement shall also authorize team physicians to treat the student in the event of an injury requiring emergency treatment.
6. Students shall sign a form consenting to random drug screening and must obtain the written consent of their parent(s) or guardian(s) for said tests in order to be eligible to participate in any athletic or extracurricular activity. (See policy IDFAA, *Athletic and Extracurricular Activity Drug Screening*)

### RULES VIOLATION

Adherence to the rules of athletic representation and participation shall be strictly enforced by the Board. Any violations of athletic rules shall be immediately reported to the Superintendent by the principal. In the event that a member school, member school principal, or member school coach is penalized or cited by the LHSAA due to a violation, the athletic director, principal, and coach involved shall provide a full report to the Superintendent. If found warranted, the Superintendent in turn shall make a report to the School Board with pertinent recommendations for disciplinary action.

### SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS

The School Board endorses the scholastic eligibility requirements as a condition for participation in high school extracurricular activities as stipulated by the LHSAA. Scholastic requirements shall be as follow:

1. To be eligible for the first semester of the 2010-2011 school year, a student shall have earned at least five (5) units from the 2009-2010 school year which shall be listed on the student's transcript, including any special education subjects and shall have earned at least a 1.5 grade point average when considering all "graded" subjects.
2. To be eligible for the second semester of the 2010-2011 school year, a student shall pass at least six (6) units from the first semester of the 2010-2011 school year, including any special education subjects.
3. To be eligible for the first semester of the 2011-2012 school year, a student shall have earned at least six (6) units from the 2010-2011 school year which shall be listed on the student's transcript, including any special education subject(s) and shall have at least a "C " average as determined by the School Board when considering all "graded" subjects.

Individual schools or the School Board may set higher, but not lower scholastic requirements for interscholastic athletic participation.

#### Middle School Athletic Eligibility

A student is ineligible for interscholastic athletic participation in any middle school if he/she has reached his/her fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) birthday before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year. If he/she becomes fifteen (15) on or after September 1<sup>st</sup>, the student is eligible for the remainder of the school year provided he/she meets all other eligibility rules. This provision is congruent with the policy of LHSAA to ensure senior eligibility for students as they progress through the education program.

#### SAFETY

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall have the responsibility in the school district to identify risks to students participating in athletic activities. Participants in the various sports shall be instructed in proper techniques to practice for maximum safety in the contact phase of a game.

The Evangeline Parish School Board shall require injury prevention techniques be promoted by all coaches to all athletes. All players and parents of players shall be provided information concerning the physical risks to students participating in varsity athletic programs.

#### INSURANCE COVERAGE

Athletes shall have either school student insurance or a signed statement from the parent showing that the student is otherwise covered for any accident or injuries that may occur during any athletic participation. No students shall be allowed to practice or participate in interscholastic athletics until this requirement has been met.

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:169, 17:176, 17:236.3; Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, Bulletin 741, Louisiana Department of Education; Official Handbook, Louisiana High School Athletic Association; Board minutes, 9-5-06.