

Eligibility Checklist – Nonpublic School and Homeschool Participation

Nonpublic or home school students who meet the requirements of 20-5-109 can participate in MHSА member school extra-curricular activities.

20-5-109. Nonpublic school requirements for compulsory enrollment exemption. To qualify its students for exemption from compulsory enrollment under **20-5-102**, a nonpublic or home school:

(1) shall maintain records on pupil attendance and disease immunization and make the records available to the county superintendent of schools on request;

(2) shall provide at least the minimum aggregate hours of pupil instruction in accordance with **20-1-301** and **20-1-302**;

(3) must be housed in a building that complies with applicable local health and safety regulations;

(4) shall provide an organized course of study that includes instruction in the subjects required of public schools as a basic instructional program pursuant to **20-7-111**; and

(5) in the case of home schools, shall notify the county superintendent of schools of the county in which the home school is located in each school fiscal year of the student's attendance at the school.

The same standards (MHSА and Local School Policies) must be met as those required of full-time students enrolled in the school (exception- enrollment in the school).

The same MHSА rules apply including age, semesters, academics (see below) and attendance area residence. Only enrollment is waived.

✓ **Attendance Area** - Student **must** live in your school's attendance area – the nonpublic and/or home school student's entire family **must live in the attendance area** of the school they are participate at. **Nonpublic or homeschool students cannot transfer.**

✓ **Academic Eligibility – Nonpublic school** – the students' academic eligibility must be attested by the head administrator of the nonpublic school. **Homeschool** – academic eligibility must be attested in writing by the educator providing the student instruction with verification by the MHSА school principal.

- Grading Period – one semester (one half of a school year – approximately 18 school weeks or 90 school days).
- A participant must have received a passing grade and received credit in at least twenty hours of prepared class or work or its equivalent in the last previous semester in which he/she is enrolled.
- Participants who are academically ineligible cannot participate in any Association contest (varsity or sub varsity) for a period of one semester. They can practice if the school allows but they cannot suit up or participate in any games at any level of competition.

To meet the same standards as required in the law, a home school and/or nonpublic school student must demonstrate they have passed four half credit classes in the previous semester (90 school day period). This is meeting the same standard. Otherwise, students who are failing could transfer to home school and have their educator state they are passing in that semester to become eligible academically without verification of number of classes and passing work, etc. Also, the nonpublic school administrator or home school educator must demonstrate the student is on course to graduate complying with the MHSА semester and age rules.

✓ **Age Rule**

A student who turns 19 after midnight August 31st is age eligible. Any 19 year old (who turns 19 on or before midnight August 31st) can file a waiver of the age rule if the following is proved by the student – 1)

student does not create a safety risk, 2) student does not skew the overall competitiveness of the activity, 3) participation will not exclude others, and 4) the student meets all necessary criteria to participate in MHSA activities.

✓ **Semester Rule**

Students are eligible for eight consecutive semesters and the semesters start to accrue after entering the ninth grade.

The principal will verify when the student began high school coursework which will begin his/her semester accrual. (Eight consecutive semesters once they start ninth grade coursework and semester accrue whether they are attending school or not).

✓ **Dual Participation** – No student may establish eligibility concurrently at two member schools. Dual enrollment is not recognized for the purpose of eligibility in MHSA activities.

A homeschool or nonpublic school student who participates at a MHSA member school is not eligible to concurrently participate in the same sport/activity that he/she participates in at the member school in any other league (nonpublic or home school). This provision protects member schools and nonpublic and home school leagues regarding dual participation.

✓ **Graduate Students**

Any student who meets any of the following criteria shall be ineligible to participate in any Association Activity:

- a. The student is a graduate of a regular four-year high school.
- b. The student is a graduate of a secondary school which has the same requirements for graduation as a regular four-year high school.
- c. The student has earned enough credits to entitle him/her to be graduated from the high school and has completed eight semesters of high school.
- d. The student has received a high school equivalency diploma (GED or **HiSET**)

Interpretations

1. A student who graduates the first semester is ineligible the second semester.
2. A student who has earned enough credits to graduate the first semester but remains enrolled and graduates on the regular date remains eligible to participate.
3. Senior students who are currently eligible in their eighth semester (4th spring) will continue to be eligible for all interscholastic activities even though graduation exercises precede the completion of interscholastic activities for that specific year. If a student has earned a GED or **HiSET** he/she is considered a high school graduate and is not eligible to compete in any MHSA sanctioned activity.

✓ **Physical Exams**

Physical exams are required for students participating in MHSA sanctioned sports. The exam is valid for one school year and the MHSA form must be used. This examination must be certified by a licensed medical professional acting within the scope and limitations of his/her practice. Physicals performed before May 1st are not valid for the next school year.

✓ **Initial Required Number of Practices Rule**

The initial required amount of practices (ten (10) for football, basketball, tennis, soccer, cross country, track and field, softball, wrestling, and swimming and two (2) for golf for each individual must be completed as a comprehensive, regularly scheduled team practice with the full coaching staff present.