

ARTICLE 5
Eligibility of Players

5.1 ACADEMICS

5.1.1 Each school must maintain and enforce an academic eligibility policy with a minimum of all passing academic grades.

5.1.2 Players must take no less than 51% of their schooling through the school's curriculum.

5.1.2.1 Students must be enrolled in three core curriculum classes at their school in order to be considered eligible for that school.

5.1.2.2 In a student's last year of high school, they are only required to take as many classes as necessary to complete their graduation requirements in order to be considered eligible.

5.1.3 Once a student has met the Arizona State Department of Education requirements for graduation, they lose eligibility to continue to compete in the CAA, even if they still meet age requirements.

5.2 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE/TEAM

5.2.1 Age Limits – If a student becomes 19 years of age after September 1, he/she is eligible to compete for the remainder of that school year. If he/she becomes 19 years of age on or before September 1, he/she is not eligible for any part of that school year.

5.2.1.1 High School Grade limits

5.2.1.1.1 Division 1 Varsity Athletes grades 7-12.

5.2.1.1.2 Division 2-3 Varsity Athletes grades 8 - 12.

5.2.1.1.3 Junior Varsity athletes can be in grades 7-11.

5.2.1.1.3.1 Seniors may appeal to compete at JV level. (w/appeal)

5.2.1.1.3.2 Junior Varsity athletes can play 6 quarters p/day (Basketball)

5.2.1.1.3.3 Junior Varsity athletes can play 5 sets per day (Volleyball)

5.2.1.1.3.4 Refer to Article 4.5 for number of contests.

5.2.1.1.3.5 Exception: Varsity football players must be in 9- 12 grade.

5.2.1.1.3.5.1 8-man Division 1 Varsity Football players can be grades 8-12.

5.2.1.1.3.6 Exception: Varsity Wrestlers must be 8 -12 grade.

5.2.1.1.3.7 Varsity Track and Field athletes must be 9-12 grade

5.2.1.1.3.8 Varsity Cross Country athletes must be 9-12 grade

5.2.1.1.3.9 Varsity Swimming athletes must be 9-12 grade

5.2.1.2 Student-athletes in 6th grade or below may not compete on varsity-level teams

5.2.2 Junior High Age Limits – If a student becomes 15 years of age after September 1, he/she is eligible to compete for the remainder of that school year. If he/she becomes 15 years of age on or before September 1, he/she is not eligible for any part of that school year.

5.2.2.1 Junior High athletes can be in grades 5 - 8.

5.2.2.1.1 Students can not be 15 before September 1.

5.2.2.1.2 Exception: Tackle football players must be in 6- 8 grades.

5.2.2.1.3 Once a student has been promoted or graduated from 8th grade, the student may not compete in CAA Junior High athletics.

5.2.2.1.3.1 Even if they meet age requirements

5.2.2.1.3.2 Parent reclassification

5.2.2.2 Student athletes who transfer schools are eligible up to the roster deadline of each season.

5.2.2.3 Transfers after the seasonal roster date are ineligible for the rest of that season only.

5.2.2.4 Refer to Article 4

5.2.2.5 Elementary athletes can be in grades 4 - 6th grades.

5.2.2.5.1 6th grade rostered students may join the Junior High postseason roster if necessary.

5.2.3 Junior High Participation at the Varsity Level – A member school that utilizes Junior High student-athletes in varsity-level competition within a sport shall be subject to competitive balance review by the CAA.

5.2.3.1 If a school consistently utilizes Junior High student-athletes at the varsity level, the CAA may assign that program to the next higher division for that sport.

5.2.3.2 This adjustment is intended to maintain competitive equity and does not restrict student participation opportunities.

5.2.3.3 The CAA Executive Board shall have final authority in determining division placement based on roster composition, competitive results, and program structure.

5.3 MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION RULE – After a student first enrolls in the ninth grade, he/she has a maximum of eight semesters of opportunity with a maximum of four seasons of opportunity in each sport or activity. **Semesters 1-8 must be consecutive.**

5.3.1 Enrollment for at least fifteen school days during any semester, or participation in any interscholastic contest, constitutes a semester of opportunity and a season of opportunity.

5.3.2 A student's ineligibility during any semester or season does not affect the application of the Maximum Participation rule. It does not extend the number of semesters of opportunity or seasons of opportunity.

5.3.3 During a school year, a student shall be eligible to participate in only one season of competition per sport.

5.3.4 Any period during which a student is not enrolled or is out of school due to suspension, expulsion, or removal for disciplinary reasons shall be included for purposes of the Maximum Participation Rule.

5.4 TRANSFER RULE – After enrolling and attending one or more classes, a student changing enrollment from one school (sending school) to another school (receiving school) shall be considered a transferring student. For information and record-keeping purposes, the receiving and sending schools shall reasonably cooperate.

5.4.1 IN STATE TRANSFERS – a student shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels if transferred to a different school after August 1st of the current school year, OR until after the first half of the minimum regular season contests, stated in those sports in which the student participated during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the transfer.

5.4.1.1 Students who did not participate in a sport for (12 months) are eligible immediately.

5.4.1.2 Participation is defined as a student participating in the sport during a regular season game as specified by the CAA standardized calendar.

5.4.1.3 Intent to enroll - to allow them to participate in practices and workouts, but the transfer does not occur until the student has attended a class at the school

5.4.2 For individual sports, the student will be ineligible for the first 3 regular-season competitions for that school on the CAA calendar.

5.4.3 If a transfer occurs during the season, the student is ineligible for that sport from the date of first attendance at the receiving school in that sport

5.4.3.1. If a student-athlete did not play the previous school year or did not attempt to participate in the sport this current school year, the student will be eligible.

5.5 Transfer Rule Exceptions – Without Change of Domicile – A student who transfers from one high school (the “sending school”) to another high school (the “receiving school”), where there has been no change in domicile of parents or legal guardian, shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities at the receiving school when one of the following eligibility requirements has been fulfilled:

5.5.1 In the event the district does not offer the sport or nonathletic activity in any of its schools, the student may transfer to a public high school of another district closest to the domicile of the parents.

5.5.2 Boarding School – The transfer rule (15.10) shall not apply to a student who transfers to and is a full time resident of a CAA member school which is a bona fide boarding school. The transfer rule shall apply to any subsequent transfers by that student from that boarding school. A school is a bona fide boarding school only if it meets both of the following criteria:

5.5.3 The school shall be currently accredited by an appropriate and proper accrediting agency for secondary boarding schools, which accrediting agency shall be approved by the Executive Board or its designee; and

5.5.4 A majority of the school’s students must reside full time on the actual school campus. Off campus housing does not meet this requirement.

5.5.5 Public School Closures / Drop of CAA Membership – Upon closure or drop of CAA membership by the governing board, students may transfer at the beginning of the following semester to another school in the district as approved by the governing board, to the public high school of another district closest to the domicile of the parents, or to a private, parochial or BIA school and be automatically granted athletic eligibility.

5.5.6 Private, Parochial or BIA School Closure / Drop of CAA Membership - Upon closure or drop of CAA membership of a private, parochial or BIA school, students may transfer at the beginning of the following semester to any other private, parochial or BIA school encompassing the closed private, parochial or BIA school attendance zone, or may transfer to the public school serving the student's domicile and be automatically granted athletic eligibility.

5.5.7 Student Sports Participation / Current or Previous Year (Form 101) - The sending school administration shall provide to the receiving school, via Form 101, the verification of activities in which a transferring student has participated. The receiving and sending school(s) shall reasonably cooperate and complete Form 101. Upon receipt by the receiving school of a completed Form 101, assuming all other eligibility requirements are met, the student becomes eligible for all interscholastic activities except for those activities in which the student has competed during the current or previous school year.

5.5.8 The Student Sports Participation / Current or Previous Year (Form 101) may only be used between schools in Arizona, between schools in Arizona and schools from other states in the United States, and between schools in Arizona and accredited United States accommodation schools in foreign countries.

5.5.9 Hardship Appeal (Form 202) - A student aggrieved by a decision of his/her school administration relating to transfer may appeal to the executive board.

5.5.10 If transfer occurs before August 1.

5.5.11 If a student transfers from a CAA member school to a non-CAA member school, and later transfers back to the original CAA member school, this return transfer shall not be classified as a transfer for eligibility purposes.

5.6 Disciplinary Removal - A student suspended, expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary reasons, including revocation or non-renewal of open enrollment, from one high school shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition in any other high school until all conditions for re-admittance have been fulfilled at the high school where the suspension, expulsion, open enrollment revocation or removal for disciplinary reasons occurred.

5.7 Definitions

5.7.1 Sending School – A school from which a student transfers.

5.7.2 Receiving School – A school to which a student transfers.

5.7.3 Charter, Private, Parochial School Attendance Zone – no boundaries.

5.8 STUDENT-ATHLETE CLEARANCE

5.8.1 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE

5.8.1.1 A student shall not be allowed to practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until there is on file with the principal or his/her designee a record of a preparticipation physical examination (PPE) performed by a doctor of medicine (M.D.), an osteopathic physician (D.O.), a naturopathic physician (N.D., N.M.D.), a certified registered nurse practitioner (N.P.) licensed to practice, a certified physician's assistant (PA-C) registered by the Joint Board Of Medical Examiners and the Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery, or a certified chiropractic sports physician (CCSP). The physical examination for the following school year shall be given on or after April 1. The physical examination on file shall be signed by one of the aforementioned medical providers and shall state that, in the opinion of the examining provider, the provider did not find any medical reason to disqualify the student from practice or competition in athletic contests. The principal or his/her designee, if deemed advisable, may require a student to be reexamined.

5.8.1.2 The physical examination will be valid for one calendar year, from the date of examination.

5.8.1.3 Member schools shall utilize the physical examination forms provided by the CAA. There shall be four parts:

5.8.1.3.1 Part One – Four: Annual Preparticipation Physical Evaluation – To be completed and signed by the parent or guardian and student athlete. This form must also be signed by the examining medical provider.

5.8.1.3.2 Part Five – Annual Preparticipation Physical Examination – To be completed and signed by the examining medical provider.

5.8.1.3.2 Part Six – Annual Preparticipation Consent to Treat Form – to be completed and signed by the parent or guardian and student athlete.

5.8.2 CONCUSSION EDUCATION – All student-athletes shall complete the Brainbook online concussion education course. Student athletes participating in sports as of the 2011-12 school year shall complete the course. All student-athletes shall complete the course prior to participation in practice or competition.

NOTE: The Brainbook online concussion education course must be completed by a student-athlete only once during junior high eligibility and only once during high school eligibility.

5.8.2.1 CONCUSSION POLICY

5.8.2.1.1 Education

5.8.2.1.1.1 All CAA Participating schools must have a concussion policy on file: The policy must address the following:

- Concussion Education
- Removal from Play
- Return to Play

5.8.2.1.1.2 Parents and athletes must sign a form acknowledging education regarding concussion.

5.8.2.1.1.3 Mechanics and Criteria for Removal from Play

5.8.2.1.1.4 An athlete, coach, licensed athletic trainer, team physician, official or parent can remove an athlete from play.

5.8.2.1.1.5 Only an appropriate health care professional can refute the diagnosis of a concussion.

5.8.2.1.1.6 Return to Play Criteria

- No athlete should return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a concussion.
- Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional that day.
- Any athlete with a concussion should be medically cleared by an appropriate

health-care professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.

- After medical clearance, return to play shall follow a stepwise protocol with provisions for delayed return to play based as directed by an appropriate health-care professional.
- Return to play should only occur after an athlete has returned to full school attendance without academic accommodations.

5.8.2.1.1.7 Appropriate Health-Care Professionals for Return to Play An appropriate health-care professional is defined as the following:

- Licensed Athletic Trainer
- Physician (MD/DO)
- Licensed Nurse Practitioner
- Physician's Assistant

5.8.2.1.1.8 Return to Academics

- Cognitive rest should be recommended for symptomatic athletes. This may include limiting activities such as reading, texting and computer usage.
- In some instances, this may also involve school absences and/or the use of academic adjustments or accommodations as prescribed by the appropriate healthcare professional and school academic team (school nurse, school counselor, administration, etc.).
- Returning an athlete to the classroom following a concussion should follow a return to learn progression.

5.8.2.1.1.9 At the beginning of a game, the coach must certify to the official that the equipment is in compliance with safety regulations and properly fitted.

5.8.2.1.1.9.1 If a helmet comes off or becomes dislodged during play, must remain out for one play or call a timeout to have the equipment reassessed.

5.9 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ELIGIBILITY – Prefatory Statement: In an effort to preserve and promote interscholastic competitive opportunities within CAA Communities for students and International students further the goals of competitive fairness and equity, and recognizing that CAA member schools support its members related to students from foreign countries, the following bylaw addresses:

5.9.1 Foreign Exchange Students: A foreign exchange student is a student that is in the U.S. under a J-1 Visa, and who is placed in a school by an educational exchange program approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). A foreign exchange student is eligible at a school. A foreign exchange student must meet all other eligibility requirements and is eligible for a maximum of one school year.

5.9.2 International Students: An international student is a student who is in the U.S. under any Visa or document other than a J-1 Visa and who is attending an CAA member school. Except as stated below with regard to domicile, an international student must meet all eligibility requirements of any regularly enrolled student.

5.9.2.1 Domicile changes for international students only when they first arrive in the United States and that address is the address at which is used to determine eligibility.

5.10 Homeschool or Online Student Athletes

Students who homeschool or attend an online school who request to compete for a current CAA member school must update student enrollment count to the association by resubmitting the student enrollment verification form. The student must submit the following items to the receiving school's Athletic Director:

- * Letter from parent
- * Letter stating homeschool curriculum
- * Birth Certificate
- * Current schedule of classes
- * Verify passing current classes
- * Affidavit from the state department of education (Homeschool only)
- * or Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) approval document

5.10.1 Students must participate in a school within their boundaries. (For private and charter schools, this is the county of residence.)

5.10.1.1 Students participating in the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program shall not be classified as homeschool students. Accordingly, ESA students must adhere to all bylaws applicable to non-homeschooled students.

5.10.2 Home school students will be eligible to participate at the CAA member school in the same manner as any student attending the member school.

5.10.3 Home school students will count as a part of each Member school's enrollment numbers when submitting for classification.

5.10.4 Once a student participates at a member school during a school year, that is the student's school for the calendar year. Transfer rules would apply per Article 5 after freshman year.

5.10.5 - A Traditional District online school student shall not be eligible to participate in the CAA unless the school is formally recognized as a member school of the CAA.

5.11 SCHOOL DOES NOT OFFER A SPORT

Students who attend a CAA member school or an Associate Member school that do not offer a particular sport may send students to other CAA member schools to compete on the members' teams.

5.11.1 The receiving school will file a general appeal for approval by the Executive Board before allowing any student-athlete participation.

5.11.2 The sending school must submit the following items to the receiving school's Athletic Director:

5.11.2.1 Letter from parent

5.11.2.2 Copy of Birth Certificate

5.11.2.3 Letter from the sending school to verify that the school does not offer that sport.

5.11.2.4 Current copy of transcripts which will indicate cohort year, birthdate, and other important information to help ensure student-athlete is eligible. (HS Only)

5.11.3 If an appeal is approved, JH players can only play for the CAA school's JH team

5.11.3.1 Ineligible for Varsity sports

5.11.4 If the combining of schools is approved, the team will be placed into a division based on the enrollment numbers for both schools.

5.12 RECRUITMENT

5.12.1 Contact Defined: Recruitment is defined as the act of influencing a student to transfer from one CAA member school to another in order for the student to participate in interscholastic athletics.

5.12.1.1 In-Season Contact No school administrator, athletic coach, or employee of a CAA member school shall engage in recruitment—either directly with a student or indirectly through parents, legal guardians, common school employees, or directors of summer athletic programs—to influence the student's choice of school.

5.12.1.2 Out-of-Season Contact: Out-of-season begins the first business day after the last game is played in that sport. A school administrator, athletic coach, or employee of a CAA member school shall engage in recruitment, either by direct contact with a student or indirectly through parents, legal guardians, common school employees, or directors of summer athletic programs, to influence the student's choice of school.

5.12.1.3 School Communication Protocol: The receiving school must initiate communication with the sending school.

5.12.1.4 Junior High/Middle School Contact: A high school coach may not initiate contact with a student at a junior high/middle school or with the student's parents about attending the high school.

Exception: It is not a violation for a coach to have normal community contact with a

student who attends a junior high/middle school within the same school system.

5.12.2 Student Eligibility: If the recruitment rule is violated, the student will be deemed ineligible at a CAA member school until reinstated by the CAA Executive Board.

5.4.2.2 School Consequences: If school personnel condone or actively engage in recruitment, or if a school utilizes a recruited student, the school shall be subject to disciplinary action by the CAA Executive Board.

5.12.3 Equal Contact Procedures: Contact procedures used in soliciting students to enroll in any public, private, or parochial school shall be the same for all students.

5.12.4 Attendance at Athletic Events: Any high school may allow all students from any junior high or middle school to attend its athletic events without charge.

5.13 SPORTSMANSHIP

5.13.1 Please refer to Article 12 regarding Sportsmanship

5.13.2 Schools failing to comply with the guidelines defined in Article 5 will be held accountable per the guidelines established in Article 10.

5.14 DOMICILE

Domicile – Except as otherwise stated in Article 5, a domicile is a place where a person has his/her true, fixed and permanent home, and to which, whenever absent, he or she has the intention of returning. A student shall have only one domicile for the purposes of these eligibility rules.

5.15 STUDENT INSURANCE

5.15.1 It is recommended that each student athlete have on file with the principal or his/her designee proof of insurance coverage or a waiver prior to practice.

5.16 PARENTAL OR LEGAL GUARDIAN CONSENT RULE – Parental or legal guardian consent is required before a student can be eligible to practice or compete in interscholastic competition. All students shall have on file with the principal or his/her designee appropriate permission in which the parent or legal guardian authorized participation.

5.16.1 It is recommended that such authorization state: I/We give our permission for _____ to participate in organized interscholastic athletics, realizing that such activity involves the potential for injury, which is inherent in all sports. I/We acknowledge that even with the best coaching, use of the most advanced protective equipment and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility. On rare occasions, the injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis, quadriplegia or even death.

I/We acknowledge that I/we have read and understand this warning.

Parent/Guardian _____

Player _____