

### ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A student must maintain a cumulative high school grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 unweighted scale, or its equivalent, in all courses mandated by s.1003.43(1) of the Florida Statutes after each semester to remain eligible for the following semester. If a student's cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 on a 4.0 unweighted scale, or its equivalent, after a semester, they will be ineligible for the next semester.

A student will be eligible during the first semester of their ninth-grade year, provided it is their first time entering the ninth grade and they were regularly promoted from the eighth grade the previous year.

A student who is ineligible during the second semester of their ninth-grade year or the first semester of their tenth-grade year, due to a cumulative GPA below 2.0, may regain eligibility for the following semester if they meet the following conditions: (a) the student must sign an academic performance contract with their school at the beginning of the semester of ineligibility that states, at a minimum, that the student will attend summer school or an equivalent graded program, and (b) the student must earn a GPA of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 unweighted scale, or its equivalent, in all courses taken during the semester of ineligibility.

Once a student reaches the eleventh grade, they must continue to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 unweighted scale, or its equivalent, in all required courses as outlined by s.1003.43(1) of the Florida Statutes after each semester to remain eligible for the next semester.

### SPORTSMANSHIP & ETHICS

Student-athletes, administrators, spectators, coaches and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school, as well as contest officials, shall adhere to the principles of good sportsmanship and the ethics of competition before, during and after all contests in which they participate and/or attend.

### ATTENDANCE

All student-athletes must be in school at least 4 hours in order to be eligible to practice or play in contests of the same day.

### DISQUALIFICATION OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE

Penalties Assessed to the Student-Athlete:

(a) A student-athlete who is disqualified (ejected) from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or a flagrant foul will be ineligible to compete for the remainder of that contest and in any interscholastic athletic contest for the next seven (7) calendar days, at any level of participation in which the disqualification (ejection) occurred. If fewer than two (2) contests are scheduled during this seven-day period at the same level as the disqualification, the student will be ineligible for the next football game or a minimum of the next two (2) contests in all other sports. If the disqualification (ejection) occurs in the last contest of a season, the student will remain ineligible for the same period in the next sport they participate in.

(b) A student-athlete who is disqualified (ejected) from a contest for gross unsportsmanlike conduct or for a second or subsequent act of general unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul will be ineligible to compete in any interscholastic athletic contest for a period of up to six weeks. Gross unsportsmanlike conduct is defined in FHSAA Bylaw 11.11.2.

(c) It is the responsibility of local school authorities to ensure this policy is enforced. If an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This policy applies to all regular-season games and the State Series.

Interpretation: For all sports other than football, a student disqualified (ejected) from any contest will be suspended from participation for a minimum period of one week and a minimum of two contests at the same level from which they were disqualified (ejected).

### ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS PROPOSED POLICY

FCA is implementing a stricter policy for academic eligibility. Previously, students were required to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0. In the 2015 - 2016 school year, a new policy was introduced.

To participate in a seasonal sport, a student must not receive two D's and one F on their progress report, quarterly report, or any academic report pulled throughout the school year. If a student receives this combination of grades, they may be ineligible to play in upcoming games or participate in practices. There are steps of accountability in place to help the students maintain personal responsibility for his/her academic progress and to manage the academic load.

#### STEP 1

The Athletic Director (AD) will check the academic progress of all athletes bi-weekly. If a student is at risk of receiving two D's and one F, a meeting will be held with the student and the AD to discuss the issues. The principal will be notified of the meeting.

#### STEP 2

The AD will continue to monitor student progress and consult with the administration for any additional action that could help the student improve his/her academic performance.

#### STEP 3

If a student struggles academically, the AD and Head Coach will assess their eligibility to practice and play in upcoming games.

Students with two D grades and one F will be suspended from the team until grades improve. The administration will regularly evaluate grades, and ineligible students will be notified on Friday afternoon, preventing participation for one week. Grades will be reviewed again after the suspension, using both progress reports and report cards for eligibility.

### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The student must seek academic support and assistance to demonstrate academic progress. The most obvious ways are listed here:

1. The student will attend HELPS classes on a more regular basis
2. Individual tutoring may be needed to further support academic success

### GUIDELINES

Scan the QR code below to view the FHSAA high school eligibility guidelines.



FHSAA GUIDE