

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS 2008-2009

Seventh and eighth grade students interested in participating in athletics in the 2008-2009 school year should familiarize themselves with the following eligibility requirements and athletic policies. Listed below are the sports seasons and the athletic programs during that season.

<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Cheerleading	Cheerleading	Soccer - boys
Football	Basketball	Track
Soccer - girls		Softball - girls
Volleyball - girls		

2008-2009 Sport Season Dates

- **Fall Sports Season** - The first tryout/practice day is August 25, 2008. The first regular season playing date is the week of September 15-19, 2008.
- **Winter Sports Season** - The first tryout/practice day is November 17, 2008. The first regular season playing date is December 8, 2008.
- **Spring Sports Season** - The first tryout/practice day is February 23, 2009. The first regular season playing date is the week of March 9-13, 2009, **depending on the conference and the sport.**

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for any athletic activity, the athlete:

1. Must **meet all eligibility requirements** prior to the first tryout/practice date.
2. Must have a **completed and signed Middle School Athletic Participation Form** prior to the first tryout/practice date.
3. Must not participate if he/she becomes **15 years of age on or before October 16, 2008.**
4. Must receive a **medical examination once every 365 days** by a licensed medical physician, physician's assistant or family practitioner in the United States.
5. Must **meet promotion requirements to be eligible for fall semester.** Students retained by the school will be ineligible for the fall semester.
6. **4 Semester Rule** - No student may be eligible to participate at the Middle School level for a period lasting longer than 4 **consecutive** semesters beginning with the student's **first entry into 7th grade.** The principal shall have evidence of the date of each player's entry into the 7th grade.
7. Must **earn passing grades (D or better)** in one less course than the required core courses each semester to be eligible for participating during the succeeding semester. Passing grades must be attained in language arts and mathematics. In addition to the core course requirements, at least fifty percent of all remaining courses must be passed.
8. Must not have more than **14 total absences (85% attendance requirement)** in the semester prior to athletic participation. This is a State Board of Education requirement. According to Board Policy 6860, students who participate in interscholastic athletics must meet all requirements of the State Board of Education.
9. Must **purchase regular school accident insurance or provide proof of insurance coverage** by filling out the insurance information waiver on the Middle School Athletic Participation Form.
10. Must **not participate** (practice or play) if **ineligible.**
11. Must **not participate** (practice or play) in any athletic event if **suspended** or is actively serving in the **in-school suspension program for that day or days.**
12. Must be **present in school** the entire day in order to participate in practices or games.
13. Must **live with a parent or legal custodian** within the Wake County Public School System administrative unit. (Must notify the athletic director if not living with a parent or legal custodian.)
14. **A student upon first entering grade seven (7)** is academically eligible for competition on middle school teams. All requirements must be met the first semester (fall) in order for this student to be eligible for athletic participation the second semester (spring).
15. A player **must practice** a total of six (6) days before playing in a game in all sports except football, where a player must practice nine (9) days.
16. **A player injured requiring medical attention** and/or absent due to illness must meet eligibility requirements and must have practiced the required number of days above (# 15). This player may not participate in practice or a contest without a doctor's note. Students absent from athletic practice 5 or more days due to illness or injury shall receive a medical release by a licensed physician before readmittance to practice or play.

17. If **school is not in session or school closes early**, no practice or game will take place. There will be no practice on Saturdays (this includes year round schools), holidays, or vacation days.