



Athletic
Participation &
Policies

Section Content:

- ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION POLICY
- ATHLETIC FEE
- SIGNING EVENTS POLICY
- EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION POLICY
- SPORTSMANSHIP

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION POLICY

ACA is a member of the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) and abides by its rules and regulations. Its "transfer rule" is rather complicated and the school's athletic director should be contacted so that the particulars of individual cases may be discussed and explained in detail.

Requirements:

- (a) Students entering the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least six new Carnegie units with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those six units.
 - (1) Four core curriculum courses must be included in those units passed and averaged. (English, mathematics, science and social studies are core curriculum courses. Any combination of these courses is accepted.)
 - (2) Students that accumulate more than four units of core courses per year may earn less than the required four core courses during the next school year and be eligible as long as they remain on track for graduation with their class.
- (b) Students entering the 8th and 9th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least five new subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects and must have been promoted to the next grade.
- (c) Students entering the 7th grade for the first time are eligible.

Note: A new unit is one that has not been previously passed. A semester is half of a school year as defined by the local school system.

Guidelines:

1. Eligibility will be determined before the start of each new school year or at the beginning of the second semester. Students that are academically eligible at the beginning of the school year remain eligible for the remainder of that school year so far as grades are concerned. Students that regain eligibility at the beginning of the second semester remain eligible for the remainder of the second semester so far as grades are concerned.
2. Students declared ineligible at the beginning of a school year may regain their eligibility at the end of the first semester by meeting the academic requirements listed above during their last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable. The regained eligibility of students may be determined any time after the end of the first semester, but all course requirements used to determine the eligibility must be completed no later than the fifth day of the second semester.
3. Only one unit (or subject) of physical education per year may be counted.
4. A maximum of two units (or subjects) earned in an approved summer school may be counted. If a unit (or subject) is repeated in summer school, the higher numerical grade for that unit (or subject) may be used to compute the composite grade average.
5. An accredited correspondence course may be accepted by a school system but must be completed before September 1st.
6. For eligibility purposes, special recitation, extra work, make-up work, tests, review, etc. may not be given for the purpose of making students eligible.
7. To be eligible, all students (including repeaters and hold-backs) must be enrolled in a specified number of new units at the school they represent.
 - (a) Ninth, tenth and the eleventh graders must be carrying at least six new units.
 - (b) Seniors that are on track for graduation with more than the required number of units earned must be carrying at least four new units for the school year.
 - (c) Seventh and eighth graders must be carrying at least five new subjects.
8. The eligibility of students that have attended other schools during the preceding year must be established by a transcript from those schools before these students are permitted to participate at the new school.

A doctor's certificate, which states the sickness of a student was of such nature and length that it was impossible for the student to receive credit for the required work, must be presented to the Executive Director of the AHSAA for an official ruling, which may be appealed by the school to the District Board. When a student drops out of school and stays out for one or more semesters, and then re-enters school, his/her eligibility status will be the same as it was at the close of the school year last attended. A student may count credits earned only in the summer school immediately preceding the current school year.

Tryouts are typically held prior to the start of each season for all teams and/or positions. Team/Activity "cuts" and playing times are strictly at the discretion and judgment of our coaches/sponsors. All athletes (as well as cheerleaders) MUST have a copy of their birth certificates and physical exam forms on file in the principal's office in order to be eligible to participate in athletics. NOTE: In order to participate in any athletic event or performance on a school day, a student must be in attendance at school that day by the start of fifth period. Any

exception to this rule must be approved by the principal. No student visitors are permitted on sidelines or benches without prior administration approval.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has established a website for athletes who are interested in eventually playing their sports at the college level. This site can be accessed at www.ncaa.org and contains information regarding rules and eligibility, news and publications, education programs, grants and research as well as sports and championships.

In addition, **any student whose account is in arrears will be barred from participating in any athletic event until the account is made current.** In such cases, payment must be made via cash, cashier's check, or money order.

ATHLETIC FEE

An athletic fee of \$100 is assessed to EACH FAMILY that has a child or children participating in athletics. The fee is paid at the beginning of the school year during student processing for those families who already have their child(ren) on a roster. Families of athletes who are added to a roster after school starts must pay the fee before participation is allowed.

Points to remember:

1. Fee balances the responsibility for all families and helps keep our athletic program fiscally stable.
2. Booster clubs still need and assign volunteers throughout the year.
3. Fee does not replace the need for other financial support, such as sponsorships, memberships, or other fund-raisers.

SIGNING EVENTS POLICY:

In order for athletes to hold "signing event" ceremonies at ACA, the following guidelines MUST be met:

1. The athlete must represent the school by AHSAA standards in the sport he/she is signing a scholarship.
2. The athlete must receive financial help for playing the sport signed to play.
3. The athletic scholarship must come from a recognized athletic organization (NCAA, NAIA, state junior college, etc.).
4. Division III will not be recognized since its schools do not offer athletic scholarships.
5. Walk-ons, financial scholarships, leadership scholarships, commuter scholarships, etc. will not be recognized since they do not involve formal letters of intent from schools.
6. Only seniors, the sports' teammates and family members will be excused from class to come to ceremonies.
7. All signings must take place during chapel/snack time slots and not on days when small groups meet.
8. Refreshments will be the responsibility of the signing athletes' parents/guardians.
9. Besides ACA logo banners, no signs may be hung other than tablecloths or banners brought by college personnel.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION POLICY

Extra-curricular activities are defined as those activities which are totally outside the realm of the classroom and for which students receive no academic credit. This includes drama, club activities, and any other activity of this nature. While the same participation policy applies to these students as applies to athletic participation, some organizations require a much higher minimum standard for membership.

Co-curricular activities are defined as those activities, which include a classroom component, as well as activities outside the classroom for which students receive a grade. These include chorus, band, yearbook, and any other class of a similar nature. Any student, who would be ineligible for participation under the same **academic** guidelines as the athletic participation policy, may take these classes **BUT** will **NOT** be allowed to miss other classes for **any** reason including practice, trips, games, contests and performances. Other graded activities will be allowed as long as no classes are missed. **In addition, any student participating in band, chorus, theatre, etc. whose account is more than one month in arrears will be barred from public performances until the account is made current. In such cases, payment must be made via cash or a cashier's check.**

SPORTSMANSHIP

Students and parents are encouraged to support our athletic teams as families. Sports events provide opportunities for family sharing and enjoyment as well as times to teach values and sportsmanship. As a Christian school, it is important that our fans demonstrate courtesy and respect for our rivals and referees. Under no circumstances are our fans to have any personal confrontations with officials regarding our sporting events.

Please note that the AHSAA prohibits laser lights at any sporting event as well as artificial noisemakers at all basketball games. Additionally no cowbells, drums, air horns or other artificial noisemakers may be used in the gym. Students are reminded to stand and remove hats during any prayer or the playing/singing of our national anthem at all ballgames.

The AHSAA requires that all students competing in a varsity sport complete the STAR Sportsmanship program on-line. This is a free video lesson on sportsmanship. Any student participating on a varsity team must complete (only once in their careers) the high school version of this program. This website may be logged on to at www.starsportsmanship.com. Go to student check-in and enter your name. Our school code is STAR02058. Once the athlete has completed ALL chapters, a certificate of completion should be printed and turned in to the Athletic Director. Questions regarding this requirement should be directed to ACA's Athletic Director at 277-1985 (Ext. 216).