

# ELIGIBILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

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# **RATIONALE FOR ELIGIBILITY RULES**

## **SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY**

A strong activities program can and should compliment a school's academic program. Participation in the various activity programs is predicated upon successful work in the academic classroom. Scholastics eligibility is based upon the fundamental principal that each student must earn passing marks in the academic curriculum in order to be eligible to participate in the activities curriculum that are sponsored at the secondary level. The scholastics rule, more than any other eligibility rule, is the rule that enables member schools to maintain the appropriate balance between the academic and activities programs offered at the secondary level. This rule also helps keep sports in their proper educational perspective.

## **AGE ELIGIBILITY**

- An age limitation requirement provides: commonality between students and schools in interscholastic competition; inhibits the possibility of red-shirting; allows the participation of younger, and less experienced players; enhances the opportunity for more students to participate; and helps to further diminish the inherent risk of injury associated with participation in interscholastic athletics. Age is to be determined by the student's birth **date** (month, date, and year), not the hour and minute of birth.

A line must be drawn at some point to determine the cut-off date for age eligibility. Use of a specific cut-off date gives notice to all parties involved in interscholastic athletics and maintains equality of eligibility amongst schools.

## **ENROLLMENT/ATTENDANCE**

- A student enrollment requirement: promotes loyalty and school spirit which lends itself to cohesion of the student body.
- An attendance requirement helps ensure students will adhere to a school's attendance plan which, in turn, prompts students to maintain the academic standard required for participation, and promotes graduation in a common time frame.

## **EIGHT CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS/TWELVE CONSECUTIVE TRIMESTERS**

- A maximum participation requirement promotes graduation in a common time frame by discouraging students from delaying or interrupting their high school education; disallows students to enroll for one semester/trimester each school year to increase athletic ability and skill; and discourages transfer from one school to another for athletic purposes.
- A maximum participation requirement promotes harmony and fair competition amongst member schools by maintaining equality of eligibility. Each student is afforded the same number of semesters/trimesters of athletic eligibility, which increases the number of students who will get an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- A maximum participation requirement is conducive to the prevention of red-shirting; exploitation by coaches seeking to obtain transfers or to delay a student's normal progress in school; and assists in preventing misuse by students or parents of an athletic program for possible college scholarships or additional honors.

## **TRANSFER/RESIDENCY**

- A transfer/residency requirement assists in the prevention of students changing schools in conjunction with the change of athletic season for athletic purposes; impairs recruitment, and reduces the opportunity for undue influence to be exerted by persons seeking to benefit from a student-athletes prowess.
- A transfer/residency requirement promotes stability and harmony amongst member schools by maintaining the amateur standing of high school athletics; by not letting individuals other than enrolled students participate and upholding the principle that a student should attend the high school in the district where the student's guardian(s) reside.
- A transfer/residency requirement also prohibits foreign students, other than students who are participants in an established foreign exchange program accepted for listing by the Council on Standard for International Educational Travel (CSIET), from displacing other students from athletic opportunities.

## **UNDUE INFLUENCE**

Undue influence and recruiting rules are an integral part of the Association's ability to create, administer and maintain the valuable and unique form of competition it offers. This unique form of competition is a carefully constructed system that promotes competitive balance and serves the mission and purpose of educationally based sports and activities. Association sports and activities are intended to foster a sense of community as well as to teach teamwork and discipline. Other sporting organizations exist which promote free player movement, unrestrained recruiting and setting of lineups. Such organizations are primarily designed to promote athletic development of the individual and provide a showcase for the athletic talents of those individuals. These

organizations do not share the primary purposes of the Association and therefore cannot provide the unique type of competition created and maintained by the Association. Efforts randomly to impose adjustments or favoritism on these rules damage the Association and, in turn, damage all the students who either participate in an Association sport/activity or who support them. The Association is committed to maintaining its unique form of competition.

### **NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION**

- A non-school participation requirement protects students from exploitation by those who seek to capitalize on their skill and/or reputation; non-school athletic programs that do not have insurance protection; pressure of outside organizations to compete on non-school teams; any unfair advantage a student who participated in non-school athletics may have over a student who did not participate, and protects students from having too many distractions from academics and other responsibilities. A non-school participation requirement also provides some control over the trend towards year-round competitive sports seasons.
- A non-school participation requirement alleviates any conflict which may arise due to time conflicts of practices, games, play-offs, differing coaching philosophies of the school coaching staff as well as the non-school coaching staff and team loyalty.

### **MEDICAL EXAMINATION**

A medical examination requirement provides for the protection of all participants by insuring all participants have had the benefit of a physical exam, which could possibly detect a latent health problem in an early stage, preclude from participation a student who has a potentially serious health problem, and inhibits the possibility of a student with an infectious health condition from spreading it to other players. A medical examination requirement is also necessary for liability reasons.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO ELIGIBILITY**

### **ANNUAL ELIGIBILITY REPORTS**

Member schools are expected to submit the following reports to the SDHSAA office:

1. Submit the Annual Athletic Eligibility Report Form by May 1 of each school year. **\$50 FINE IF NOT SUBMITTED BY DUE DATE.**
2. Submit the Annual Fine Arts Eligibility Report Form by May 1 of each school year. **\$50 FINE IF NOT SUBMITTED BY DUE DATE.**

The two Annual Reports must include an unduplicated count of each and every participating student involved with athletic activities and/or fine arts activities respectfully.

### **SDHSAA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

#### **CHAPTER II, PART II, SECTION 6, page 21 of the Bylaws:**

**SECTION 6. ANNUAL ELIGIBILITY REPORT.** Prior to the start of any sport or fine arts activity, the high school principal or his/her designee shall verify to the coaching staff in each sport respectively and to the director of each fine arts activity respectively, that the students participating in those activities meet all the eligibility requirements set forth in Chapter I, page 14, Part IV, and Chapter II, Part I, page 16 of the Bylaws.

In the event an ineligible student is allowed to participate in an interscholastic contest, forfeiture will be automatic. Additionally, the Board of Directors shall determine other penalties as deemed appropriate.

On or before May 1, each high school principal or his/her designee shall submit to the Executive Director the Annual Athletic Eligibility Report Form listing the names and other pertinent data of all students who participated in interscholastic athletics for the school year just completed.

On or before May 1, each high school principal or his/her designee shall submit to the Executive Director the Annual Fine Arts Eligibility Report Form listing the names and other pertinent data of all students who participated in interscholastic fine arts activities for the school year just completed.

In the event a student becomes ineligible at any time during the school year, it shall be the duty of the high school principal or his/her designee to so inform the athletic coach or fine arts director at which time the student will be immediately withdrawn from all interscholastic competition.

### **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

1. The SDHSAA Athletic Open Enrollment Form is not required for out-of district students entering high school as a freshman. All freshmen are automatically eligible for interscholastic athletics regardless where their parents might live.
2. The SDHSAA Athletic Open Enrollment Form is not required if parents move out the district as long as the student remains at his/her former school.
3. The privilege of transferring athletic eligibility as an SDHSAA athletic open enrollment student is granted only one time during a student's high school career. Any subsequent transfers without a corresponding move by the parents will render the student ineligible for one year.

4. There are no deadline dates that parents and member schools must meet relative to submitting the SDHSAA Athletic Open Enrollment Form to the SDHSAA.
5. The SDHSAA Athletic Open Enrollment Bylaw can be located in Chapter II, Part I, Section 1, Sub-Section (n), pages 17-18 of the SDHSAA Constitution and Bylaws.

#### **COMPUTERIZED VERSION/PRINTOUTS**

Member schools have the option of reporting the data required by completing the SDHSAA forms as collated into this section of the Handbook or they may attach a computerized printout provided all of the data is included as set forth on the SDHSAA forms. If the computerized printout is submitted, each member school should attach it to the appropriate athletic form and fine arts form with all dates, signatures, etc. completed as required.

#### **CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE**

Catastrophic insurance premiums for each member school, for the ensuing school year, will be based upon the number of students reported on the "Annual Athletic Eligibility Report Form".

#### **DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY PRIOR TO COMPETITION**

It shall be the duty of the high school principal or his/her designee to verify to the coaching staff of each athletic sport as well as the instructors of each fine arts activity that each student meets all of the eligibility requirements of the SDHSAA. This must be done prior to any student participating in any interscholastic contest. The elimination of Master Eligibility Lists did not negate the need to monitor eligibility status of each and every participating student.

#### **STUDENTS RESIDING IN A SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT DOES NOT OPERATE A HIGH SCHOOL**

Students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) who reside in a South Dakota school district that does not operate a high school would be eligible to participate at the first SDHSAA member high school in which they enroll. If said student was enrolled at the beginning of the school year, or at the beginning of the second semester, said student would be eligible immediately. Should said student enroll at any other time, the student would become eligible on the eleventh scheduled day of school in a school which operates a five (5) day school week or on the ninth scheduled day of school in a school which operates a four (4) day school week. Following enrollment at an SDHSAA member school, all transfer rules would be applicable. This would apply to the initial transfer only.

#### **LOSS OF ELIGIBILITY DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR**

In the event a student should lose his/her eligibility during the course of a school year, it shall be the duty of the high school principal or his/her designee to immediately notify the student, the coaching staff and/or fine arts instructor of the ineligibility and thus avoid penalties.

#### **PENALTIES FOR INELIGIBLE COMPETING IN CONTESTS**

1. In the event an ineligible student is allowed to participate in an interscholastic contest, forfeiture will be automatic. Any ineligible athlete, who suits up for a game, whether said athlete plays or does not play in the contest, is considered to be a violation of Part II, Section 9, page 20 of the Bylaws.
2. Additionally, the Board of Directors shall determine other penalties as deemed appropriate.

## **SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE ELIGIBILITY**

#### **SDCL 13-36-8 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE NONPUBLIC ELEMENTARY OR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Any seventh or eighth grade student who attends a nonpublic elementary or middle school that is not affiliated with a nonpublic high school may participate in interscholastic activities at a nonpublic high school, at the discretion of the nonpublic school, if the student meets the same scholastic standards required by the South Dakota High School Activities Association for high school participation. **Adopted 2005 Legislative Session.**

#### **SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE CONTESTANTS**

Chapter I, Part IV, Section 3, page 15, of the SDHSAA Bylaws provides that member schools may use seventh and eighth grade students on high school teams, provided they meet scholastic standards fully equivalent to those required by the Association for high school contests.

Seventh and eighth grade students who reside in a school district that does not operate a high school would be eligible to participate at the first SDHSAA member school in which they enroll. If said student was enrolled at the beginning of the school year, or at the beginning of the second semester, said student would be eligible immediately. Should said student enroll at any other time, the student would become eligible on the eleventh scheduled day of school in a school which operates a five (5) day school week or on the ninth scheduled day of school in a school which operates a four (4) day school week. Following enrollment at an SDHSAA member school, all transfer rules would be applicable. This would apply to the initial transfer only.

This language coincides with SDCL 13-36-8 which was adopted by the SD Legislature during the 2005 Legislative Session.

## **NO SIXTH GRADE CONTESTANTS**

Member schools should be advised that the interpretation of Chapter I, Part IV, Section 3, page 15 of the SDHSAA Bylaws prohibits any student from participating in high school athletic contests who might be in grade six or below. This pertains to both boys and girls athletics, and there is no exception to the rule.

## **ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS IN AN APPROVED CSIET INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

A student who is enrolled in an approved CSIET International Exchange Program and holds either a J-1 or F-1 visa is eligible for one year of athletic eligibility from the date of enrollment provided the following criteria are met:

1. The student satisfies all SDHSAA eligibility requirements as per Chapter I, Part IV, Section 1, page 14, of the SDHSAA Bylaws.
2. The student must be a member of an approved CSIET international exchange program and possess a current J-1 or F-1 visa and be eligible under SDHSAA regulations.
3. The student shall not have graduated from high school or received a high school diploma in his/her foreign country.
4. The student has not previously attended a high school in the United States.
5. Neither the school the student attends, nor any person associated with the school, has had any input in the selection of the student.
6. The student has not been terminated from the CSIET program.
7. Pass a physical examination as set forth by SDHSAA Bylaws, Chapter II, Part I, Section 3, page 18.

The APPROVED LIST for the current school year, as determined by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel, can be found on the CSIET Web-site ([www.csiet.org](http://www.csiet.org)). If there are further questions, contact the SDHSAA office.

For students who are “directly placed” through an exchange program, students who are placed through an exchange program not affiliated with CSIET, or students who will not be in attendance for at least one complete semester from start to finish, eligibility will be limited to sub-varsity competition.

**NOTE:** The international exchange program must assign students to host families by a method that ensures that no student, school or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes. The international exchange student may not be selected or placed on any basis related to his/her athletic interests or abilities. Direct placement refers to a pre-existing relationship with a family, school and/or community which affect the student’s placement.

Eligibility for an international exchange student with either a J-1 or F-1 visa will be granted for a maximum of two consecutive semesters, regardless of subsequent change in visa, residency, or guardianship, after which the student is eligible for interscholastic sub-varsity competition at any SHDSAA member school. The two consecutive semester’s period begins with the student’s initial enrollment in any high school in the United States. An international student must meet all other eligibility requirements. An international student that does not meet the criteria as listed above, eligibility will be limited to sub-varsity competition.

## **U.S. GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS REGARDING INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE**

Further information regarding international youth exchange programs may be found on the CSIET website, [www.CSIET.org](http://www.CSIET.org). On the CSIET home page, click on Advisory List, on the Advisory List page, click on Visa Information. In this section, you will find information on various visa categories and programs, responsibilities of sponsors and students, and other valuable information relative to international youth exchange programs and opportunities.

## **MODEL SCHOOL POLICY ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE**

### **Introduction**

The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET), in partnership with the secondary-school community, has developed the following document to assist American schools in the process of administering successful international student exchange programs. CSIET, a national non-profit foundation, is dedicated to promoting quality international youth exchanges that enrich local high school communities. The CSIET Model School Policy was developed with valuable input from individual high school administrators, exchange program managers, and national advocates for youth exchange. These suggested guiding principles will provide a foundation for local school policies and encourage every U.S. school to engage in international youth exchange programs.

Current events clearly show how much more interconnected all of us are to the whole world. This gives schools ever more impressive reasons for accepting international exchange students enthusiastically and using them as resources to broaden student and community perspectives on the world.

Youth exchanges provide foreign exchange students with an American experience, giving them a more balanced understanding of our country. They encourage new perspectives for the school's own students that open their minds to the world. More importantly, these 'connections' help teenagers on both sides of exchange grow and gain maturity.

The concept of exchange programs began more than half a century ago with the Fulbright-Hays Act. High-level officials have supported international student exchange every year since. These cross-cultural experiences offer unique opportunities for American schools to help their students and communities:

- Learn first-hand about other cultures and customs
- Create life-long friendships across cultures
- Gain new perspectives on our country and the world
- Begin to understand how tightly connected the peoples and countries of the world are to each other, something our world seriously needs
- Open young minds to the importance of understanding other languages and other cultures, particularly with respect to career and personal opportunities

At the same time, schools have a right to expect that international exchange students and student exchange programs to adhere to guidelines that will minimize problems and make success more likely. In all international exchange programming, the human dynamic may sometimes complicate matters for administrators. However, the critical element is the ongoing relationship between the exchange program and the school - as well as the responsiveness of the exchange program. Once this relationship is formed and articulated, problems can usually be managed effectively and ultimately resolved.

International exchange students offer an exciting resource. Many schools have created special events and programs to encourage all students to get to know these guests from other cultures and expand their own horizons and interests. Such efforts also help exchange students feel comfortable in an all-new life by taking full advantage of their opportunities.

International youth exchange programs internationalize American high schools - one exchange at a time. Thank you for your support of these seminal programs. You are helping to mold our next generation of world leaders.

This Model School Policy on International Student Exchange has been endorsed by: National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP); National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and American Association of School Administrators (AASA).

### **NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

American high schools should strive to accept international exchange students each year. The number of international exchange students that a high school will accept and the timing/deadlines for the process vary. These guidelines suggest a middle ground that recognizes the needs of schools and exchange programs, taking into account the increasing difficulty of securing early student applications and host family commitments. Ideally, schools should work toward a goal of 1% of the total student population being comprised of exchange students. Acknowledging that school conditions vary locally, it is important to set a personal goal that best fits each school community.

### **TIMING OF PLACEMENT PROCESS**

- The school asks that organizations contact the school each year to indicate an interest in placing exchange students. Exchange organizations should provide schools with advance notice of their intent to place.
- The school is to be notified as soon as Student and Host Family match-ups are confirmed.
- Recognizing the timing of school staffing and resourcing, exchange organizations should submit Student and Host Family applications as early as possible or up to two weeks prior to the school's start date. However, acknowledging the difficulty of securing Host Family commitments, the school will try to accept applications until school starts. (Note: The U.S. State Department federal J-visa regulations permit the placement of exchange students up to August 31 of each year.)

### **SELECTING STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS**

- The school reserves the right to work with exchange organizations that have proved their commitment and responsiveness.
- The school will also be open to new organizations that demonstrate a serious commitment to the school and community.

### **SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

All schools should reserve right of final approval on all student placements. Additionally, schools should require that each individual student exchange program must:

- Be listed in the most current CSIET Advisory List (for the current list visit [www.csiet.org](http://www.csiet.org)).

- Maintain a network of qualified and trained local representative living in or near the community, with responsibility for each student - and provide orientation and ongoing support for both the host family and student.
- Provide continuing hands-on monitoring and responsiveness - from local representative to national headquarters - including student selection and preparation, selection and screening of host families, ongoing contact with host family and student, and communication with the school and responsiveness to school needs.
- Receive school enrollment authorization for placements each year prior to contacting potential host families - and follow school policy on timing and requirements.
- Screen and prepare exchange students while monitoring their progress during the school year, responding to issues or problems as they develop.
- Arrange host family placements before exchange students leave their home country. Exchange students are expected to be in their host family and school placements by the first day of classes.
- Personally interview and screen all potential host families, matching student and family interests and personalities.
- Not knowingly place exchange students based on their athletic abilities.
- In the event that tutoring/ESL help is needed, the organization will make arrangements and ensure that the student accepts financial responsibility for it.
- Provide the school with a complete student application which includes the following:
  - personal letter from the student
  - detailed information on student and natural family
  - proof that the student has sufficient language ability to function in an American classroom
  - original transcript of student's high school grades, with English translation (and this must meet school requirements)
  - necessary medical history, including proof of immunization as required by the school district, any medical/physical restrictions and a recent physical exam with proof of required immunizations

#### **Key Features of the J-1 High School Visa:**

- 1) Regulated by the U.S. State Department as cultural/educational exchanges under the Fulbright-Hays Act.
- 2) Designated non-profit organizations which have to comply with certain orientation and selection criteria are the sponsors and responsible parties.
- 3) Students are generally not required to pay tuition to schools.
- 4) Students must be between the ages of 15 and 18 ½ at the start of the program or not have graduated from high school.
- 5) The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program is a non-immigrant visa category designed to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through bona fide educational and cultural exchange.

#### **SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS ON J-1 VISA SPONSORSHIPS**

- Each international exchange student must be qualified to participate in regular classes and maintain a typical schedule - this means an acceptable level of proficiency in the English language, a commitment to treat coursework as important, and the social skills to enjoy participation in social and extra-curricular activities.
- International exchange students must be aware that participating in interscholastic athletic teams means they must comply with district and state athletic eligibility regulations, and that many teams require try-outs.
- The school appreciates the difficulty of a student's plunge into a different language/culture/institution, but international exchange students are expected to attain passing grades by the end of their first semester.
- International exchange students; enrollment eligibility will be for one-year only - international exchange students and host families are expected to know and must follow all school policies and rules.
- International exchange students must have medical and accident insurance that meets or exceeds U.S. Department of State guidelines.
- Since there is wide variation of graduation policies in the United States, international exchange students will understand that they are not guaranteed the ability to graduate or be granted diplomas.

The F-1 academic student program is a non-immigrant visa category intended for use by nonresident aliens whose primary purpose for visiting the United States is to study full-time at an approved institution.

F-1 non-immigrant students must maintain a full course load while in the United States. They must follow a specific transfer procedure if they change schools. They are eligible for certain types of employment, provided the

Designated School Official or DHS grants permission before the employment begins. The F-1 foreign student's obligations under U.S. immigration regulations are to:

- Provide evidence that the unsubsidized cost of tuition for any academic study in the United States is paid in order to obtain their visa,
- Have sufficient financial resources for the anticipated stay in the United States,
- Have a residence abroad to return to upon completion of the program in the United States, and
- Always maintain lawful immigration status while in the United States by keeping a valid passport, not working without authorization, and leaving the United States upon expiration of the visit or securing an extension of permission to stay if needed.

### **SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Students on U.S. State Department-sponsored programs (J-1 visa) generally pay no tuition, but they are expected to pay all normal expenses, including standard course and extra-curricular activity fees. The school has no obligation to provide any special services, tutoring, supplies or equipment.
- Students on U.S. Department of Homeland Security sponsored programs (F-1 visa) are required to reimburse public secondary school for all the full unsubsidized per capita cost of education for the intended period of study. There is no provision in the law that would permit a public school to waive the tuition fee or make any contribution toward the full cost of that fee. Students with an F-1 visa are limited to a maximum of twelve (12) months in a public secondary school. These restrictions do not apply to private schools.
- International exchange students have all rights and privileges accorded to community students - EXCEPT the right to a diploma.
- The school will make every effort to integrate international exchange students into the school's social fabric. In turn, schools shall encourage international exchange students to participate enthusiastically in school activities, to make friends, to make a personal contribution to the school - and to help spread the word about their country and themselves, informally and by making presentations in classes and to community groups and talking to media when asked.

## **PARTICIPATION OF ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION STUDENTS**

At the discretion of the local, member school, alternative instruction students under SDCL 13-27-3 may be granted permission by an accredited member school to participate in interscholastic contests by annually fulfilling the following conditions:

1. Demonstrate compliance with CHAPTER I, PART IV – STUDENT ELIGIBILITY and CHAPTER II, PART I – FURTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETIC CONTESTS (as applicable) by submitting the SDHSAA Eligibility Checklist for Alternative Instruction Students.
2. Providing documentation of the SDCL 13-27-3 APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE REQUEST and nationally standardized achievement tests in grades tested under the state testing program.
3. Complying with all member school eligibility requirements with the exception of attendance requirements. Scholastic/academic eligibility shall be verified per local school administrative policy following the same procedure used to accept credits towards graduation when an alternative instruction student requests a transfer to the local school district.
4. Any student, who was unable to maintain academic eligibility in an accredited school, shall be ineligible to participate as an alternative instruction student for a period of one year. After one year, the student may regain eligibility per local school administrative policy.
5. Satisfying the responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance, including related class or practice requirements, as expected of other student participants as a condition for both the initial acceptance and continued membership in the activity including but not limited to:
  - (a) All local school training rules and/or codes of conduct will be applicable.
  - (b) In order to be eligible to audition for and/or participate in Region Music Contests, All-State Chorus, All-State Orchestra or All-State Band, the student must be currently enrolled and attending the local school's parallel musical organization (if one exists) i.e. vocal music, instrumental music, orchestra. (This is the same rule that applies to students attending a member school.)
  - (c) A student who is a member of a high school team may not participate in games, practice, tryouts, etc. in that particular sport during the same season on an independent or non-high school team or as a member of any "all-star" team, or completely unattached on an individual basis. (This is the same rule that applies to students attending a member school.)



- (d) All references to calendar shall refer to the calendar of the member school where the alternative instruction student is participating.
6. **Alternative School Student's Local District:** The local district of an alternatively educated student (i.e. home schooled) shall be the district in which the parent or guardian filed the Certificate of Excuse (13-27-7). This certificate, once filed in the district of residence (13-28-9), shall establish their district of residency for athletic eligibility pursuant to the local school district policy.
  7. The student may transfer their eligibility through SDHSAA athletic open enrollment one time to another member school. **In order for SDHSAA athletic open enrollment students to be eligible immediately for participation in interscholastic athletics of the SDHSAA, the student must both:**
    - (1) be enrolled on the first day of the school year at the school they are open enrolling to, and,
    - (2) have not competed in any SDHSAA sanctioned athletic contest at the school they are open enrolling from during that school year's athletic season.

Member schools must have the necessary athletic open enrollment papers filed with the SDHSAA office prior to allowing athletic open enrollment students the opportunity to play. Until such athletic open enrollment paperwork is filed, the student is ineligible.

8. For students who do not meet these criteria:
  - a. SDHSAA athletic open enrollment students enrolled in a SDHSAA member school which operates a five (5) day week shall become eligible on the forty-sixth (46th) scheduled day of school provided all other SDHSAA regulations are met. Member schools must have the necessary athletic open enrollment papers filed with the SDHSAA office prior to allowing athletic open enrollment students the opportunity to play. Until such athletic open enrollment paperwork is filed, the student is ineligible.
  - b. SDHSAA athletic open enrollment students enrolled in an SDHSAA member school which operates a four (4) day week shall become eligible on the thirty-seventh (37th) scheduled day of school provided all other SDHSAA regulations are met. Revised 2005 Member schools must have the necessary athletic open enrollment papers filed with the SDHSAA office prior to allowing athletic open enrollment students the opportunity to play. Until such athletic open enrollment paperwork is filed, the student is ineligible.
9. Any accredited school student who leaves an accredited program during the course of the school year for any reason and enters an alternative instruction program is ineligible for participation in interscholastic activities for one year beginning on the date in which the student enters the alternative program. SDCL 13-36-7

# SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

## ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST FOR ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION STUDENTS (Completed on an Annual Basis)

Member School \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

The alternative instruction student must comply with all the items on this checklist in order to participate in SDHSAA sanctioned events. Please check (X) each requirement that has been fulfilled. The aforementioned student:

- \_\_\_\_\_ meets age/grade requirements (grade 7 or higher, but has not reached his/her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday)
- \_\_\_\_\_ has not attended more than 4 first semesters and 4 second semesters or 12 trimesters of school in grades 9-12. These semesters/trimesters must be consecutive
- \_\_\_\_\_ has completed 20 hours of high school work per week for the preceding semester, unless entering high school for the first time. Twenty hours is equivalent to four full time academic subjects
- \_\_\_\_\_ will attend a minimum of 20 hours of high school work per week, at the alternate instruction site, during each semester/trimester of the current school year
- \_\_\_\_\_ seventh and eighth grade students may compete on high school teams provided they meet scholastic standards fully equivalent to those required for students in grades 9-12
- \_\_\_\_\_ has not graduated from a regular four-year high school or institution of equivalent rank
- \_\_\_\_\_ was attending classes by the 16<sup>th</sup> school day of the current semester/trimester
- \_\_\_\_\_ has not been absent from classes for more than 10 consecutive school days (illness of the student or a death in the immediate family excepted)
- \_\_\_\_\_ resides with either a parent or a legal guardian (or court placement documents)

### **Additional Athletic Eligibility Rules**

- \_\_\_\_\_ has current forms for parent permit and SDHSAA athletic physical examination
- \_\_\_\_\_ has never participated in an athletic contest under an assumed name
- \_\_\_\_\_ has never participated in athletics in any institution of higher rank than a standard secondary school
- \_\_\_\_\_ has never violated his/her amateur standing
- \_\_\_\_\_ is not participating as an individual or as a member of another team during the same sport season while a member of a high school team (i.e. playing on a Y-basketball team during the high school basketball season)

### **Additional Fine Arts Eligibility Rules**

- \_\_\_\_\_ is currently enrolled and attending the local school's parallel musical organization prior to auditioning and/or participating in Region Music Contests, All-State Chorus, All-State Orchestra or All-State Band. If a student tries out for and makes an All-State event, or registers for the Region Music Contest, after which the student quits the high school music organization, the student is not eligible to perform in the All-State event or Region Music Contest for he/she is no longer actively involved in the local school's music group.

## ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION COMPLIANCE

Student:

- \_\_\_\_\_ has provided school officials with acceptable documentation of compliance with all rules governing alternative instruction programs
- \_\_\_\_\_ has met all member school eligibility requirements as per SDHSAA Bylaws, Chapter I, Part IV, Section 1, page 14 relating to age, enrollment, eight semester rule and the scholastic/academic eligibility rules
- \_\_\_\_\_ has not been declared academically ineligible in any accredited school during the past year. If a student has been declared academically ineligible, he/she is ineligible to participate in SDHSAA events as an alternative instruction student for a period of one year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ has not been enrolled in an accredited school during the past calendar year
- \_\_\_\_\_ has not transferred eligibility through SDHSAA athletic open enrollment from another member school. If so, list member school previously competing with and date of transfer.  
Previous school: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of transfer: \_\_\_\_\_

This is allowed one time during the four years of eligibility. **In order for SDHSAA athletic open enrollment students to be eligible immediately for participation in interscholastic athletics of the SDHSAA, the student must both:**

- (1) be enrolled on the first day of the school year at the school they are open enrolling to, and,
- (2) have not competed in any SDHSAA sanctioned athletic contest at the school they are open enrolling from during that school year's athletic season.

Member schools must have the necessary athletic open enrollment papers filed with the SDHSAA office prior to allowing athletic open enrollment students the opportunity to play. Until such athletic open enrollment paperwork is filed, the student is ineligible.

For students who do not meet these criteria:

- a. SDHSAA athletic open enrollment students enrolled in a SDHSAA member school which operates a five (5) day week shall become eligible on the forty-sixth (46th) scheduled day of school provided all other SDHSAA regulations are met. Member schools must have the necessary athletic open enrollment papers filed with the SDHSAA office prior to allowing athletic open enrollment students the opportunity to play. Until such athletic open enrollment paperwork is filed, the student is ineligible.
- b. SDHSAA athletic open enrollment students enrolled in an SDHSAA member school which operates a four (4) day week shall become eligible on the thirty-seventh (37th) scheduled day of school provided all other SDHSAA regulations are met. Revised 2005 Member schools must have the necessary athletic open enrollment papers filed with the SDHSAA office prior to allowing athletic open enrollment students

This is applicable to the initial transfer only. Any subsequent transfer results in ineligibility for one year from the date of transfer.

**We verify that we are in compliance with Chapter 1, Part IV, Section 1, page 14 of the SDHSAA Constitution and Bylaws relating to age, enrollment, eight semester rule and the scholastic/academic eligibility rules and SDCL 13-27-3 rules and regulations. Furthermore, we acknowledge and accept that fulfillment of the same responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance, including related class or practice requirements, as other students, participating in the interscholastic activity is a condition of participation.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of student)

**I verify that to the best of my knowledge \_\_\_\_\_ has complied in all respects with the conditions of SDCL 13-27-3 and Chapter 1, Part IV, Section 1, page 14 of the SDHSAA Constitution and Bylaws relating to age, enrollment, eight semester rule and the scholastic/academic eligibility rules and that he/she has received permission from our school to participate in interscholastic activities at this high school and will be added to the SDHSAA annual eligibility report.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(High School Principal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Athletic/Activities Director)