# POLICY COMMITTEE

**Committee Members**: Paige Badgett (Chair), Chris Blanton (Vice Chair), Don Phipps, Dana Ayers, Stephanie Phillips, Burt Jenkins **Staff**: Brad Alford

| AGENDA ITEM | RECOMMENDATION | SUPPORTING INFORMATION |
|---|---|---|
| 1. **Zero-Tolerance Policy**<br><br>Policy 1 Attachment | To create a subcommittee of coaches, athletic directors, school board members, and superintendents to study the impact of the zero-tolerance policy relative to profanity. | **** Discussion Only **** |
| 2. **Football Health and Safety**<br><br>(Sports Medicine Advisory Committee)<br><br>Policy 2 Attachment | To require a minimum of 3 calendar days between football contests; clarification on player participation during the week. | **Rationale:** To allow for adequate rest and recovery between contests. This rest and recovery includes the opportunity to adequately hydrate.<br>**Budget Impact:** N/A<br>**Educational Impact:** N/A<br>**Equity Impact:** N/A<br>**Effective Date:** 2025-2026 School Year |
| 3. **Women's Flag Football**<br><br>(Wake County, et al.)<br><br>Policy 3 Attachment | To sanction women's flag football. | **Rationale:** Participation numbers warrant sanctioning.<br>**Budget Impact:** No negative impact. Schools would charge admission to offset expenses.<br>**Educational Impact:** N/A<br>**Equity Impact:** Increase participation opportunities for women.<br>**Effective Date:** 2025-2026 School Year |

| AGENDA ITEM | RECOMMENDATION | SUPPORTING INFORMATION |
|---|---|---|
| **4. Wells Fargo Conference Cup**<br><br>(Nash Central)<br><br>Policy 4 Attachment | To award the highest finishing school per classification in split conferences as a Wells Fargo Conference Cup champion. | **Rationale:** To create win-win situations. Create positive press. Promote smaller schools to work hard and field teams in all sports.<br>**Budget Impact:** For some schools, fielding more teams will increase spending.<br>**Educational Impact:** N/A<br>**Equity Impact:** Fair to both genders.<br>**Effective Date:** Immediately |
| **5. Educational Districts**<br><br>Policy 5 Attachment | To remove all NCHSAA references from Regions 1-8 to North Carolina State Board of Education Districts 1-8.<br>• District 1 – Northeast<br>• District 2 – Southeast<br>• District 3 – North Central<br>• District 4 – Sandhills<br>• District 5 – Piedmont-Triad<br>• District 6 – Southwest<br>• District 7 – Northwest<br>• District 8 – Western | **Rationale:** To align with "membership of the nonprofit board" in SL 2023-133.<br>**Budget Impact:** N/A<br>**Educational Impact:** N/A<br>**Equity Impact:** N/A<br>**Effective Date:** 2025-2026 School Year |
| **6. Request for Waiver** | To review and discuss the staff process for evaluating requests to waive the attendance requirements. | ****Discussion Only**** |
| **7. Ejection Policy** | To review and discuss post-game protocol for disqualified and ejected players. | ****Discussion Only**** |

| AGENDA ITEM | RECOMMENDATION | SUPPORTING INFORMATION |
|---|---|---|
| **8. Graduation Requirements**<br><br>Policy 6 Attachment | To review and discuss NC State Board of Education policy relative to Session Law 2023-134 mandate to develop a sequence of courses to allow students to complete the credits required for high school graduation within three years. | ****Discussion Only**** |
| **9. Participation Numbers that Constitute a Team in Individual Sports**<br><br>Policy 7 Attachment | To review and discuss the following items in the NCHSAA Handbook:<br>• Bylaw VI<br>• 1.1.6<br>• 4.1.8<br>• 2.2.14 | ****Discussion Only**** |
| **10. Master Eligibility Sheet**<br><br>Policy 8 Attachment | To modify the second page of the master eligibility sheet which would only list the names of the certified coaches. | **Rationale:** Schools already enter coaches requirements in DragonFly.<br><br>**Budget Impact:** N/A<br>**Educational Impact:** N/A<br>**Equity Impact:** N/A<br>**Effective Date:** 2025-2026 School Year |

# NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCOOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCICATION

Meeting of the Board of Directors – Agenda Item Submission

**Name:** Dr. Jonathan Tribula

**School/LEA/Conference:** Nash Central High School / Nash County / Big East 2A/3A

I request that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the NCHSAA Board of Directors:

**Recommendation/Proposal:**

I am asking the NCHSAA Board of Directors to revisit the zero-tolerance policy that profanity is an automatic ejection in athletic contests. I would like for the NCHSAA Board of Directors to create a subcommittee of coaches, athletic directors, school board members, and superintendents that studies the impact this policy has on student-athletes. As an organization, the NCHSAA has focused so much attention on equality, cultural awaremess, and sportsmanship. I understand that profanity is a poor display of sportsmanship; however, it also totally dismisses many of our students' cultural upbringing.

Many of our student athletes are raised in an environment where profanity is not seen as negatively by parents/guardians as previous generations. Often, this language has become very normalized in the home and community. As well, most local school board policies and administrative regulations do not even require an out-of-school suspension for profanity in the school building. In fact, most superintendents and school boards have strongly urged school administrators to use other restorative practices on profanity among students besides out-of-school suspension.

The NCHSAA has a "bench bad behavior" initiative on its website. I agree totally with this initiative. However, the reality is that a zero-tolerance policy on profanity does not equate to benching, it means ejection from that contest and future contests.

There must be some parameters when it comes to student-athletes who use profanity. I have no issue with a zero-tolerance policy towards officials and even egregious profanity towards an opposing coach or side line. However, in the middle of a play, scrum, loose-ball, or fumble there must be some discretion and other alternatives used by our officials. Warnings, penalties, technical fouls, loss of points (swimming, wrestling, track), and forced benching with re-entry into the contest can be a much better outcome than just an automatic ejection.

Automatic ejections are so unfairly and inconsistently enforced in each sport within the NCHSAA. As a high school principal for many years, I have seen hundreds of contests where cussing has been warned, penalized, or even forced benching. However, if we have a zero-tolerance policy and it truly is not enforced with fidelity, then we open our parents, fans, coaches and administrators to question the

intentions of officials when one player is made an example while others are not. Either we have a zero-tolerance policy that is unequivocally enforced or we go back to the drawing board to see if there are other restorative practices that teach good sportsmanship while taking into consideration a student-athletes cultural upbringing.

- **Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)**

  The rationale for this agenda item is in the recommendation. A zero-tolerance policy for profanity is inconsistently and unfairly enforced across all sports in the NCHSAA. There is no such policy in college and professional athletics. As well, a zero-tolerance policy shows cultural insensitivity to out student-athletes upbringing.

  There are other processes to teach sportsmanship than an automatic ejection.

- **Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)**

  There will be no impact on a school's or athletic department's budget with this recommendation.

- **Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)**

  There may possibly be a positive impact where there is less loss of school time. Often, student-athletes are also given school discipline consequences from an ejection such as out-of-school suspension.

- **Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)**

  There is no impact on gender. There is a potential positive impact on cultural awareness.

- **Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)**

  For the 2025-2026 athletic season.

Signature:  Date: 10/31/24

NCHSAA SMAC Recommendation – Winter 2024

**Football**

4.5.1(e) Number of Regular Season Contest

No more than 10.

- No more than one may be scheduled per week.
- An individual is limited to only one game per day, per week.
    - Exception: “eight-quarter rule”.
    - Under no circumstance can a player dress in more than two contests in a calendar week, inclusive of a postponed contest, a suspended game, and the eight-quarter rule.
- A minimum of three (3) calendar days between the completion of one contest and the beginning of a new contest is required.
    - Exception: “eight-quarter rule”.
    - See NCHSAA website for examples.

Policy 3

# NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## Meeting of the Board of Directors – Agenda Item Submission

**Name(s) :** Deran Coe, David Hackney, Josh Plisko, and the ADs of the schools/confe

**School/LEA/Conference/Group:** WCPSS, DPS, JCPS, SWAC, CAP6, NAC6, GRNC

We/I request that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the NCHSAA Board of Directors:

Recommendation/Proposal:
State in detail the recommendation/proposal. Include attachments if necessary.

We propse the NCHSAA sanctions women's flag football in the 25-26 school year.

- Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)

  Participation numbers warrant the sanctioning. See attached.

- Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)

  No negative impact. Schools would charge admission to offset expenses

- Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)

  No, no loss of school time or negative education impact.

- Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)

  This proposal would help increase participation opportunities for women.

- Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)

  ~~26-27~~ 25-26 Academic Year

Signature _____ Date 11/1/24

**fax completed form to 919-240-7399 or email to info@nchsaa.org**

## Justification Statement for NCHSAA Sanctioning of Women's High School Flag Football

### Overview

Women's high school flag football has rapidly gained traction across North Carolina, meeting the NCHSAA threshold for sanctioning. Flag football has shown sustained growth with teams fielded in over half of the 4A schools for two consecutive school years: 54 out of 103 4A schools participated in the 2023-24 school year, increasing to 79 out of 104 in the 2024-25 school year. Across all classifications, 116 schools are now actively fielding women's flag football teams.

### Regional Context

North Carolina's advancement in women's flag football aligns with a regional trend across NFHS Section 3, which includes states in the Southeastern United States, some bordering North Carolina. Of these, two bordering states—Georgia and Tennessee—have already sanctioned women's flag football, with Florida making it three of the seven states in our region. Sanctioning flag football would position North Carolina among these progressive states, providing our female athletes with equitable access to the sport and enhanced competitive opportunities.

### Playoffs and Pathways to Collegiate Opportunities

This year, plans are underway for a statewide fall playoff series in women's flag football, highlighting the growing demand for structured competition. The sport's growth is also creating clear postsecondary pathways. Starting in spring 2026, NCAA Division II Conference Carolinas will include women's flag football as an official collegiate sport, joining the 24 NAIA and seven NJCAA schools that currently offer programs and scholarship opportunities. Notably, four North Carolina colleges—Barton, Chowan, Lees-McRae, and Mount Olive—are part of this new Division II initiative, ensuring that North Carolina high school athletes have local scholarship opportunities for this emerging sport.

### Conclusion

The growth of women's flag football in North Carolina high schools is undeniable. Sanctioning by the NCHSAA will support its continued expansion, foster equitable opportunities for female athletes, and provide a pathway to both statewide competition and collegiate athletics.

# NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCOOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCICATION

Meeting of the Board of Directors – Agenda Item Submission

**Name:** Dr. Jonathan Tribula

**School/LEA/Conference:** Nash Central High School / Nash County / Big East 2A/3A

I request that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the NCHSAA Board of Directors:

**Recommendation/Proposal:**

I am asking the NCHSAA Board of Directors to revisit the process for awarding Wells Fargo Conference Champions. There is a major discrepancy in split conferences that brings about a significant disadvantage to smaller schools in these split conference.

During the 23-24 school year, out of the five split 1A/2A conferences in the East, four of those conferences had a higher classification school win the Wells Fargo Cup. In at least two of those conferences, Waccamaw and Super Six, the 2A schools all placed higher than any of the 1A schools in the conference's final rankings.

Out of the West in 1A/2A split conferences, six of the seven split conferences had a 2A school winning the Wells Fargo Cup. Again, at least two of those conferences, Central Carolina and Southern Piedmont, all of the 2A schools placed higher than any of the 1A schools. Therefore, in the 1A/2A conferences across the whole state, 2A schools won the Wells Fargo Conference Championship 83% of the time.

In 2A/3A conference splits, the 3A team won the Wells Fargo Cup 100% of the time in the whole state, three times in the East and once in the West.

The 3A/4A conference splits results were a little less frequent. Out of the five split conferences in the East, a higher classification school won the conference only two times. In the West, the 4A school won the Wells Fargo Cup all three occurrences.

Similar results can be seen in previous years. Without doing my homework completely, I believe it was significantly higher in the 22-23 year where the higher classification school won a split conference's Wells Fargo Cup.

Simply put, schools with a higher enrollment are able to field more athletic teams and chose from more student-athletes within their student body. The decline happens in 3A/4A because those schools have significantly more students, over 1000 ADM per school, and those 3A schools are able to field all teams and compete with the 4A schools on a more even playing field/court.

This is an easy fix by the NCHSAA. Award more than one cup in these split conferences. The NCHSAA does it right by rewarding smaller schools in a split conference with a one seed in the state playoffs if they have above a 50% winning percentage. Do something similar for Wells Fargo Conference Cups. The cost is just the price of a few more trophies. It is clearly a win/win for both the NCHSAA and several more member schools.

I understand there must be some guidelines. One simple guideline is that the lower school must finish in the top 50% of the final standings in their split conference. Therefore, the following stipulations would need to be met:

- 6 or 7 school conference – finish in the top 3 of all schools
- 8 or 9 school conference – finish in the top 4 of all schools

Another solution is just award the top school in each classification. At most, that is giving away 24 more Wells Fargo Cups, a cost that is very minimal to the NCHSAA's overall operating budget.

- **Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)**

  The rationale for this agenda item is to create win/win situations among the NCHSAA and member schools. This will be positive press for all parties involved. This will also promote smaller schools, especially 1A and 2A schools to work hard to field teams in all sports. This extra incentive to be recognized as a Wells Fargo Champion will only incentivize smaller schools to promote high school athletics especially in the sports of lacrosse, wrestling, indoor track, and women's golf.

- **Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)**

  Obviously fielding more teams will have a significant impact on smaller school's athletic budget. However, athletic directors and administrators can help offset these budget costs through fundraising and smarter spending habits. The NCHSAA can also help create initiatives with corporate sponsors to help offset cost by offering grants to member schools who are working diligently to field new programs at their schools.

  In the end, we cannot grow sports when we worry solely about the financial impact. Giving student-athletes the ability to compete in sports will have positive impacts on attendance, behavior, and grades in those schools.

- **Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)**

  There will be no loss of school time or study time with this proposal.

- **Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)**

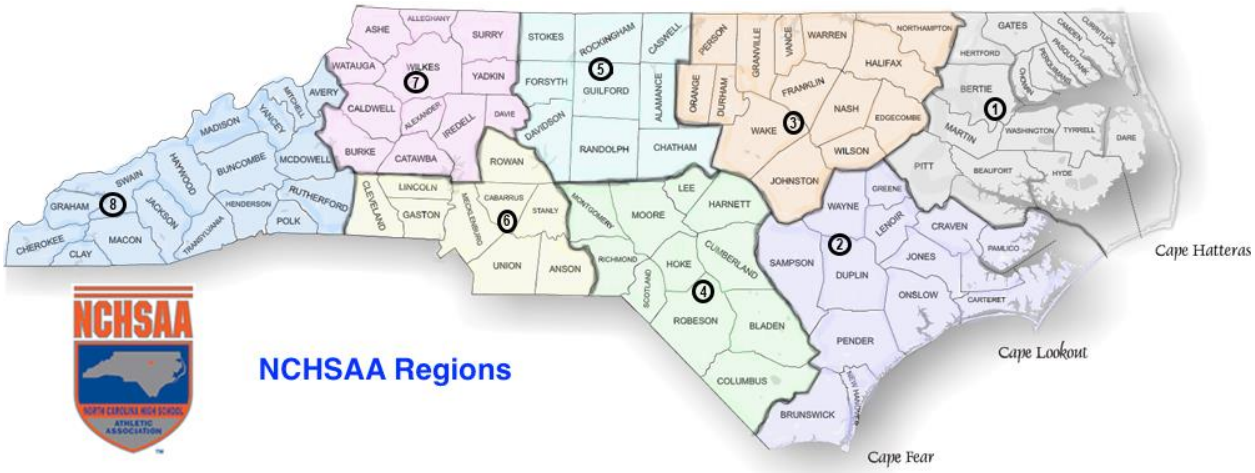
  This could have a huge impact on gender within member schools. Many schools do not field athletic teams, usually at the cost of female sports, especially women's wrestling and golf. Awarding more Wells Fargo Cups can incentivize schools to field these teams and create more opportunities for females to get involved in high school athletics.

- **Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)**

  Immediately, reward school this calendar year at next year's regional meetings.

Signature: 

Date: 10/31/24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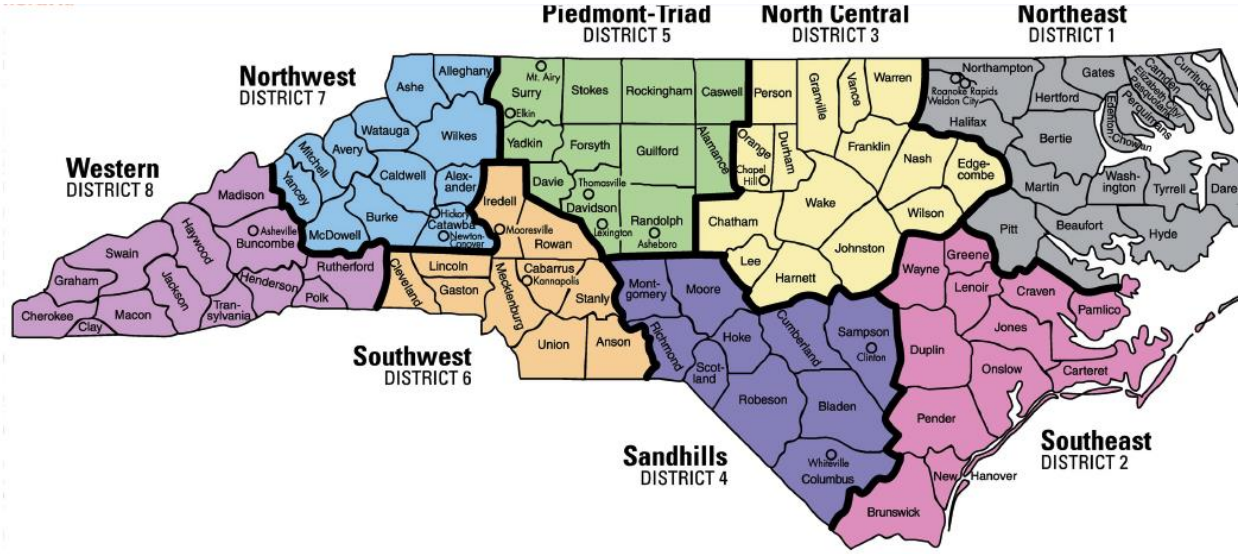
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DISTRICT 4
Southeast
DISTRICT 2

16 NCAC 06D .0510 is adopted under emergency procedures as follows:

**16 NCAC 06D .0510 THREE-YEAR GRADUATION**

(a) For the purposes of this Rule, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Public school unit" or "PSU" is defined in G.S. 115C-5(7a). This Rule shall not apply to a charter school unless the charter school has elected to offer a three-year sequence of courses under G.S. 115C-218.85, or to a regional school unless the regional school has elected to offer a three-year sequence of courses under G.S. 115C-238.66.

(2) "Superintendent" means the superintendent of a local school administrative unit or the staff member with the highest decision-making authority for a public school unit, if there is no superintendent.

(b) A student enrolled in a PSU who requests to graduate from high school 3 years after entering Grade 9 shall do so in accordance with this Rule. This Rule shall apply to a student who enters Grade 11 at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year or thereafter and is at least 16 years of age at the time of graduation.

(c) The student shall complete and sign a 3-year graduation request form provided by the student's PSU. The form must be signed by the student's parent or legal guardian, unless the student is at least 18 years of age or has been emancipated in accordance with Chapter 7B, Article 35 of the General Statutes.

(d) An administrator from the student's high school or the PSU shall meet with the student and, if the student is under 18 years of age and not emancipated, the student's parent or legal guardian, to discuss the implications of graduating after three years. The administrator shall address, at minimum, the following topics:

(1) Plans for transitioning into higher education, employment, or enlistment in the armed forces;

(2) Discontinued access to high school services and programming, including extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics; and

(3) Support structures available to the student in the high school environment, such as nutrition and school counseling services, which will no longer be available upon graduation.

(3) The PSU shall verify that the student has met the minimum graduation requirements established by the State Board of Education, as defined in 16 NCAC 06D .0503, and submit the request to the superintendent for approval.

The superintendent shall approve the request upon verification of the student's eligibility and compliance with the procedures set forth above, no later than 45 school days after receipt of a request. If the request is approved during the semester after classes have started, the student may elect to graduate immediately or graduate at the end of the semester. However, if the student does not submit the request until after classes have started, the student shall be required to complete the current semester.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 115C-12(9d); 115C-218.85; 115C-238.66;*
*Emergency Adoption Eff. Nov. 20, 2023.*

| Participants that Constitute a Team | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sport** | **Alabama** | **Florida** | **Georgia** | **Louisiana** | **Mississippi** | **South Carolina** | **Tennessee** |
| Indoor Track | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Swimming & Diving | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | |
| Individual Wrestling | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Dual Team Wrestling | 8 | | 8 | | | 7 | |
| Track & Field | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | |

| **Association** | **Indoor Track** | **Swimming & Diving** | **Individual Wrestling** | **Dual Team Wrestling** | **Track & Field** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alabama | | | | Minimum of 8 weight classes | |
| Florida | | | | | |
| Georgia | | | | Minimum of 7 weight classes | |
| Louisiana | | | | | |
| Mississippi | | | | | |
| South Carolina | | | | Minimum of 7 weight classes | |
| Tennessee | | | | | |

Policy 8

# NCHSAA MASTER ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY SHEET

School:
Sport:
Men/Women:
Date of 1st Contest:

Address:
City:
Zip:

| Name of Contestants Alphabetically - Last Name, First Name, M.I. | Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) | Yr. of First Entry in 9th Grade | Date of Enrollment for Current School Year (MM/DD/YYYY) | Meets Medical Requirements<br>Date of Exam & (X) Gfeller-Waller Form | | Passed at Least 70% of the Courses During the Preceding Semester | | | On Track to Advance to the Next Grade Level or Graduate Within the Next Calendar Year **(X)** | Meets all NCSBOE Residence & Enrollment Requirements **(X)** | Meets all NCSBOE Residence and/or Transfer Requirements **(X)** | Meets all PSU Eligibility Standards (GPA, Promotion, etc.) **(X)** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Med. Exam (MM/DD/YYYY) | GW Form* | Courses Taken | Courses Passed | Eligible? | | | | |
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***Gfeller-Waller Form (GW) must be signed by student and parent; (X) indicates both have signed**

**I hereby certify that each person listed has complied in all respects with the requirements for eligibility adopted by the NCHSAA and that documents sustaining each student's eligibility are on file in the school.**

Signed: ______________________________________________ (Head Coach) Date: _______________________

Signed: ______________________________________________ (Athletic Director) Date: _______________________

Signed: ______________________________________________ (Principal) Date: _______________________

# NCHSAA MASTER ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY SHEET (CONT.)

DATA ON STUDENT-ATHLETES WHOSE PARENTS DO NOT LIVE IN ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FORM

In the section below titled "Reason for Eligibility", insert the appropriate number for the code from Section 1.2.2(e) in the NCHSAA Handbook, thus describing the student's status.

| Name of Student-Athlete | Address of Parents | Code Number for Eligibility |
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| OFFICIAL TEAM PERSONNEL (Managers, Trainers, etc.) | HEAD AND ASSISTANT COACHES [Must List All Coaches] | | | | | | TEAM COMPLIANCE WITH GFELLER-WALLER REQUIREMENTS | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Name | Name | AED/CPR or SCA Exp. Date | NCHSAA Eligibility Video | GW Form | NFHS FOC | NFHS CIS | ITEM | COMPLETION DATE |
| | | | | | | | EAP DEVELOPED | |
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Head Coach of This Sport: _____

Date Semester Begins: _____

Date Semester Ends: _____