

# POLICY COMMITTEE

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

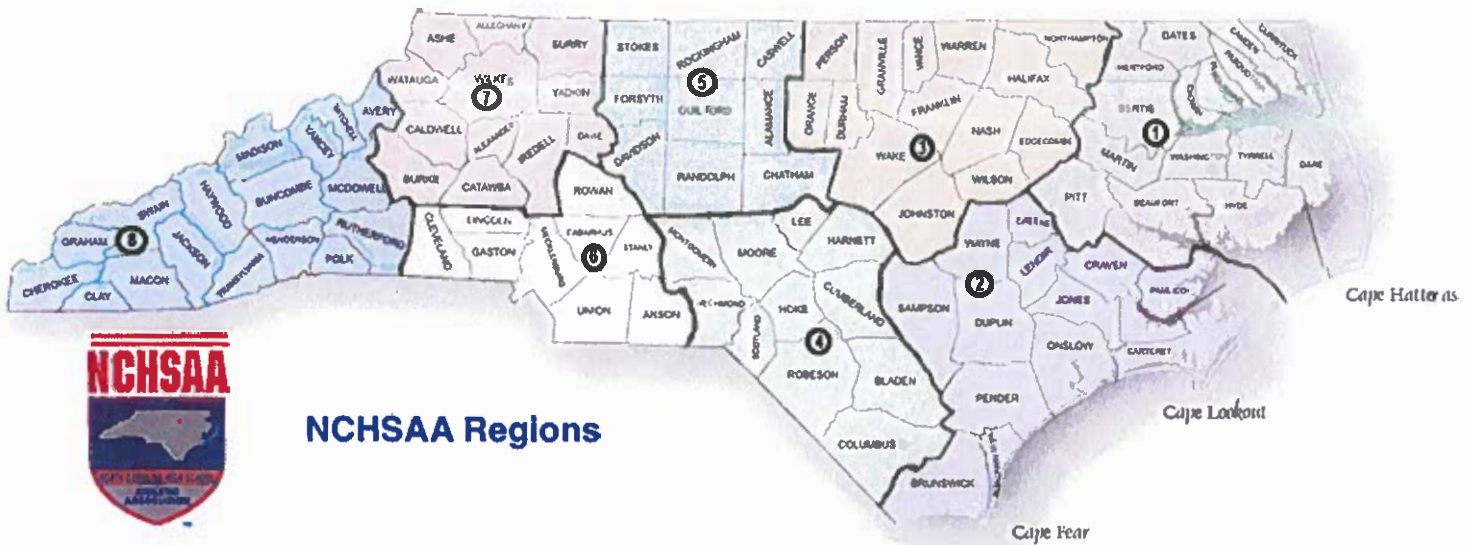
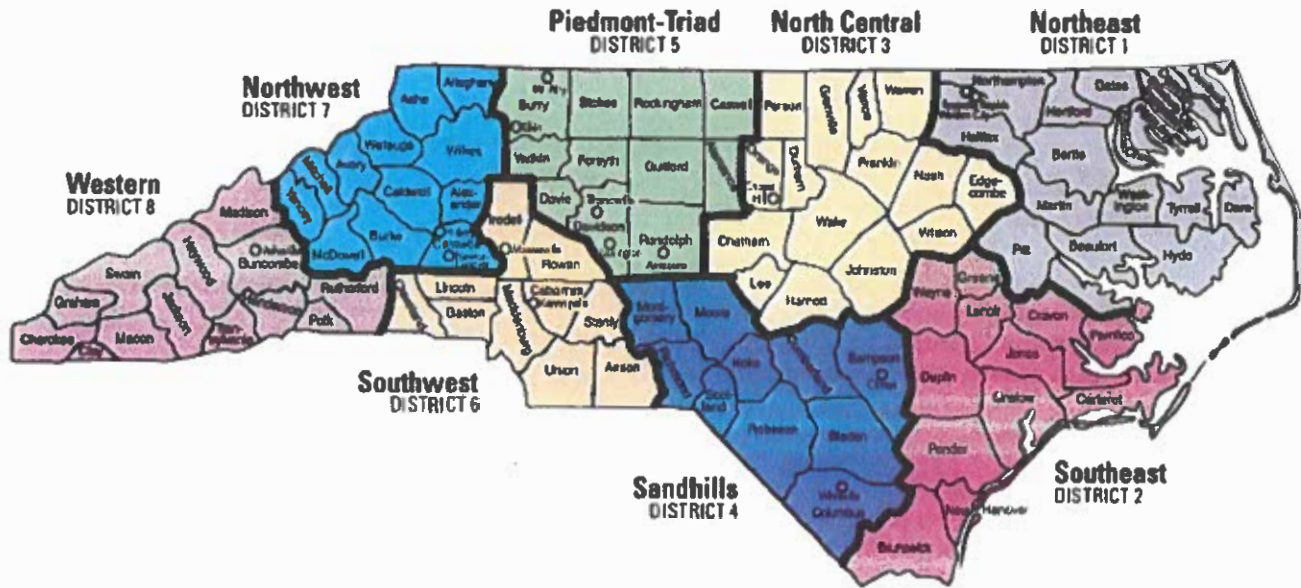
AGENDA ITEM	ACTION OR DISCUSSION POINTS	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
<b>1. Educational Districts vs Traditional NCHSAA Regions for Board Members - Tabled from Winter Meeting</b>  <i>Attachment P1</i>	To review and align all NCHSAA regional references Regions 1-8 with the North Carolina State Board of Education Districts 1-8 for NCHSAA Board of Directors. District 1 – Northeast District 2 – Southeast District 3 – North Central District 4 – Sandhills District 5 – Piedmont-Triad District 6 – Southwest District 7 – Northwest District 8 – Western	<b>Rationale:</b> To align with “membership of the nonprofit board” in SL 2023-133.  <b>Budget Impact:</b> None <b>Educational Impact:</b> None <b>Equity Impact:</b> None <b>Effective Date:</b> 2025-2026 School Year
<b>2. What numbers constitute a team? – Tabled from Winter Meeting</b>  <i>Attachment P2</i>	To determine what number of participants constitutes a team for each of the following sports: Swimming & Diving; Golf; Wrestling Track & Field (Indoor & Outdoor); Cross Country; Tennis.  Rule References: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.1.6 (p. 20)</li> <li>• 4.1.8 (p. 73)</li> <li>• 2.2.14 (p. 38)</li> </ul>	<b>*** DISCUSSION ONLY***</b>

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION OR DISCUSSION POINTS	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
<p><b>3. Women's Flag Football - Tabled from Winter Meeting and new submission from Wake Co. et al, resubmission</b></p> <p><i>Attachment P3</i></p>	<p>To sanction a women's flag football state championship in the fall of 2026.</p>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Using data from Carolina Panthers, the numbers indicate an upward trend in the sport. With an additional year, the total is projected to pass the threshold for sanctioning.</p> <p><b>Budget Impact:</b> Preliminary information supports that gate receipts typically cover expenses</p> <p><b>Educational Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Equity Impact:</b> Increased participation opportunity for the underrepresented female population</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 2026-2027 School Year</p>
<p><b>4. Eligibility Request from Special Olympics NC</b></p> <p><i>Attachment P4</i></p>	<p>The request is to change the 19-year-old participation rule to allow participation in Unified Sports.</p> <p>NCHSAA SMAC reiterated the requirement for medical eligibility remain.</p>	<p><b>*** DISCUSSION ONLY***</b></p>
<p><b>5. Academic Eligibility: GPA Requirements vs Semester from Hopewell High School</b></p> <p><i>Attachment P5</i></p>	<p>To review and recommend to evaluate a student-athlete's GPA from quarter-to-quarter when determining eligibility.</p>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Student-athletes would have the opportunity to update their GPA every quarter. (See details in attachment)</p> <p><b>Budget Impact:</b> None in negative way; If anything, it will have a positive impact in finances as more students will be able to participate in athletics; would bring more fans, selling more concessions/merchandise, collecting participation fees, etc.</p> <p><b>Educational Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Equity Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> Immediately</p>

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION OR DISCUSSION POINTS	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
<p>6. <b>Eligibility checks for winter sports athletes from ADs of WSFCS and Central Piedmont Conference</b></p> <p><i>Attachment P6</i></p>	<p>To conduct a one-time check of eligibility for winter sports' athletes</p>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Would bring athletes of winter sports in line with standards for fall and spring athletes. (Currently only athletes in a sports season who get checked twice)</p> <p><b>Budget Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Educational Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Equity Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 2025-2026 School Year</p>
<p>7. <b>Grade-Level Eligibility from Durham School of the Arts</b></p> <p><i>Attachment P7</i></p>	<p>To allow student-athletes in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to participate in high school athletics.</p>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Allowing exceptional athletes to compete with higher grade peers.</p> <p><b>Budget Impact:</b> Minimal, as these athletes are already on campus; Additional expenses would be supported through registration fees or fundraising efforts. Increased participation may lead to increased community support and sponsorship opportunities</p> <p><b>Educational Impact:</b> No interference with academic responsibilities; practice and games to be scheduled outside of school hours, ensuring 8<sup>th</sup> graders maintain their study time.</p> <p><b>Equity Impact:</b> Both genders of 8<sup>th</sup> graders included</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 2025-2026 School Year</p>

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION OR DISCUSSION POINTS</b>	<b>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</b>
<b>8. NIL and Amateur Rule Language Comparison</b>  <i>Attachment P8</i>	<p>To review and discuss the terminology in the handbook as it pertains to students receiving items by virtue of being on a “free list” or “loan list”.</p> <p>Reference Amateur Rule in NCHSAA Handbook 1.2.11.</p>	<p><b>*** DISCUSSION ONLY***</b></p>
<b>9. Skill Development Duration from Union County Public Schools</b>  <i>Attachment P9</i>	<p>To extend skill development sessions during the school year from 1.5 hours to 2 hours</p>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Many schools struggle to incorporate weightlifting and skill development. See Attachment for more details</p> <p><b>Budget Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Educational Impact:</b> Minimal impact if any</p> <p><b>Equity Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 2025-2026 School Year</p>
<b>10. Athletic Trainers and Mandated Locations from NCHSAA SMAC</b>	<p>To review and discuss mandatory locations for ATs and potential to allow for discretion of sports covered by LHCPs.</p>	<p><b>*** DISCUSSION ONLY***</b></p>
<b>11. Criteria for addition of Parochial Schools to the Membership</b>	<p>The NCHSAA office staff needs guidance as to criteria for addition of parochial schools.</p> <p>Definition: Parochial schools are defined as a school supported and controlled by a church or diocese, regardless of the denomination.</p>	<p><b>*** DISCUSSION ONLY***</b></p>

# NC State Board of Education Educational Districts



**NCHSAA Regions**

Team determination suggestions (based on each sports' subcommittee feedback):

- **Swimming and Diving:** A Team is at least 6 participating athletes.
- **Golf:** Girls: 3 scoring, Boys: 4 Scoring
- **Wrestling:** A team is 8 participating athletes for a boys' team and 7 participating athletes for the girls' team
- **Track and Field (Indoor and Outdoor):** At least 2 participating athletes for men and at least 2 participating athletes for women
- **Cross-Country:** At least 5 participating athletes for men and at least 5 participating athletes for women
- **Tennis:** A team is 4 or more participating athletes

# NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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

Spring Meeting Deadline: April 1  
Winter Meeting Deadline: November 1

**Name(s) :**

**School/LEA/Conference/Group:**

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.

- Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)
- Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)
- Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)
- Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)
- Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)

Signature  \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Women's High School Flag Football is experiencing explosive growth in North Carolina. The sport is providing new opportunities and increased participation access for high school girls. Currently, 119 schools in North Carolina compete in Women's Flag Football. The growth has been rapid, in 2022 with 19 schools, participation jumped to 69 schools during the 2023-24 school year. In 2024-25, the number increased by 72.5% to the current 119 competing schools. The total is projected to surpass 140 schools by December 2025.

Nationally, 14 states have sanctioned Women's High School Flag Football, with Louisiana expected to officially sanction the sport in April 2025, bringing the total to 15 states. In the Southeast, our Section 3 neighbors in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee have each sanctioned the sport, with Louisiana set to join them.

Women's Flag Football, which will make its Olympic debut in 2028, was recently designated as an emerging sport by the NCAA. This elevated status lays the groundwork for expanding college opportunities for high school girls through the sport. Currently, NAIA and NCAA Division II schools compete in Women's Flag, with the CIAA and Conference Carolinas set to begin play in 2025 and 2026, respectively. As more colleges establish programs and recruit to fill their teams, high school girls in sanctioned states will have a head start in seizing these new educational and athletic opportunities.

While we are aware of the very low response rate to the NCHSAA survey, the list of schools included with this submission has been verified thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Carolina Panthers. Please reach out to me with any questions prior to the board meeting to help assist you with approving the sanctioning of women's flag football.



## Womens Flag Participation in North Carolina

School	District	2023-2024?	2024-2025?	2024-2025 Season
Northside	Beaufort	No	Yes	Fall
Southside	Beaufort	No	Yes	Fall
Washington	Beaufort	No	Yes	Fall
Central Cabarrus	Cabarrus	Yes	Yes	Fall
Concord	Cabarrus	Yes	Yes	Fall
Cox Mill	Cabarrus	Yes	Yes	Fall
Hickory Ridge	Cabarrus	Yes	Yes	Fall
Jay M. Robinson	Cabarrus	Yes	Yes	Fall
Mt. Pleasant	Cabarrus	Yes	Yes	Fall
Northwest Cabarrus	Cabarrus	Yes	Yes	Fall
West Cabarrus	Cabarrus	Yes	Yes	Fall
Ardrey Kell	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Ballantyne Ridge	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	No	Yes	Spring
Berry Academy	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Butler	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Chambers	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
East Mecklenburg	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Garinger	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Harding	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Hopewell	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Hough	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Independence	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Mallard Creek	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Myers Park	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
North Mecklenburg	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Olympic	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Palisades	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Providence	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Rocky River	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
South Mecklenburg	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
West Charlotte	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
West Mecklenburg	Charlotte-Mecklenburg	Yes	Yes	Spring
Havelock	Craven	No	Yes	Fall
New Bern	Craven	No	Yes	Fall
West Craven	Craven	No	Yes	Fall
Durham School of Arts	Durham	Yes	Yes	Fall
Hillside	Durham	Yes	Yes	Fall
Jordan	Durham	Yes	Yes	Fall
Northern Durham	Durham	Yes	Yes	Fall
Riverside	Durham	Yes	Yes	Fall
Southern Durham	Durham	Yes	Yes	Fall
Louisburg	Franklin	Yes	Yes	Spring
Bunn	Franklin County	No	Yes	Spring
Franklinton	Franklin County	No	Yes	Spring
Ben L. Smith	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
Dudley	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall

Eastern Guilford	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
Grimsley	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
High Point Central	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
Northeast Guilford	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
Northern Guilford	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
Northwest Guilford	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
Page	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
Ragsale	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
Southeast Guilford	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
Southern Guilford	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
Southwest Guilford	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
T.W. Andrews	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
Western Guilford	Guilford	No	Yes	Fall
Clayton	Johnston	No	Yes	Fall
Cleveland	Johnston	No	Yes	Fall
Corinth Holders	Johnston	No	Yes	Fall
Smithfield-Selma	Johnston	No	Yes	Fall
South Johnston	Johnston	No	Yes	Fall
West Johnston	Johnston	No	Yes	Fall
A.L. Brown	Kannapolis	Yes	Yes	Fall
Mooreville	Mooreville	Yes	Yes	Fall
Ashley	New Hanover	Yes	Yes	Fall
Hoggard	New Hanover	Yes	Yes	Fall
Laney	New Hanover	Yes	Yes	Fall
New Hanover	New Hanover	Yes	Yes	Fall
Ayden-Grifton	Pitt	No	Yes	Fall
D.H. Conley	Pitt	No	Yes	Fall
Farmville Central	Pitt	No	Yes	Fall
J.H. Rose	Pitt	No	Yes	Fall
North Pitt	Pitt	No	Yes	Fall
South Central	Pitt	No	Yes	Fall
Cardinal Gibbons	Private	Yes	Yes	Fall
Charlotte Catholic	Private	Yes	Yes	Spring
Central Academy	Union	Yes	Yes	Fall
Cuthbertson	Union	Yes	Yes	Fall
Forest Hills	Union	Yes	Yes	Fall
Marvin Ridge	Union	Yes	Yes	Fall
Monroe	Union	Yes	Yes	Fall
Parkwood	Union	No	Yes	Fall
Piedmont	Union	No	Yes	Fall
Porter Ridge	Union	No	Yes	Fall
Sun Valley	Union	No	Yes	Fall
Weddington	Union	Yes	Yes	Fall
Vance County	Vance	Yes	Yes	Spring
Apex	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Apex Friendship	Wake County	No	Yes	Fall
Athens Drive	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Broughton	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Cary	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall

East Wake	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Enloe	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Fuquay-Varina	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Garner	Wake County	No	Yes	Fall
Green Hope	Wake County	No	Yes	Fall
Green Level	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Heritage	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Holly Springs	Wake County	No	Yes	Fall
Knightdale	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Leesville Road	Wake County	No	Yes	Fall
Middle Creek	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Millbrook	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Panther Creek	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Rolesville	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Sanderson	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
South Garner	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Southeast Raleigh	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Wake Forest	Wake County	No	Yes	Fall
Wakefield	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Willow Spring	Wake County	Yes	Yes	Fall
Warren County	Warren County	No	Yes	Spring
Carver	Winston-Salem/Forsyth	No	Yes	Fall
Mount Tabor	Winston-Salem/Forsyth	No	Yes	Fall
West Forsyth	Winston-Salem/Forsyth	No	Yes	Fall

# NCHSAA Flag Football Survey Results

	1A (121)	2A (106)	3A (111)	4A (104)	Total 442
	61	53	56	52	111
2022-23	0	0	3	18	21
2023-24	0	4	11	45	60
2024-25	1	10	25	61	97

## Carolina Panthers Participation Data

	1A (121)	2A (106)	3A (111)	4A (104)	Total 442
	61	53	56	52	111
2023-24	0	3	11	55	69
2024-25	4	11	26	78	119

# Special Olympics NC Unified Interscholastic Sports Eligibility Rule Proposal



## **Request**

Special Olympics North Carolina (SONC) respectfully requests the following modification to the North Carolina State Board of Education Policy ID ATHL-005 dated 6/6/2024 titled "Student Participation Rules for Interscholastic Athletics." The proposed modification refers to a review of Section G.2.E "A student shall not participate on a high school team if the student becomes 19 years of age on or before August 31 of that school year."

## **Special Olympics Definition of Unified Sports**

Special Olympics Unified Sports® is an inclusive sports program that combines an approximately equal number of Special Olympics athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and Unified partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) on teams for training and competition.

## **Rule Proposal**

Students enrolled in a public or charter high school that have been diagnosed with an intellectual disability may compete in Unified Interscholastic sports offered by the school for the entirety of their enrollment in school regardless of their age at the start of the sport season granted they are properly enrolled in the school according to state law. This is to include students with diagnosed intellectual disabilities over the age of 19 that are not currently enrolled in Special Education classrooms but have a diagnosed intellectual disability and students enrolled in Special Education classrooms.

## **Background on Proposal**

Many individuals with a diagnosed intellectual disability attend school for the maximum years allowed under state law. These students are often not placed on a traditional graduation pathway and do not receive grades based on academic achievement as long as they are enrolled in Special Education or Exceptional Children programs. By this nature the current eligibility rules regarding student-athletes do not directly address these students.

The above proposed modification to the current student athletic eligibility rules will allow students with intellectual disabilities to compete in Unified Interscholastic sports for the entirety of their school years allowing them to experience the joy, inclusion and recognition that sports provide as part of the scholastic experience.

This proposal does not pertain to students who are on an individual education plan (IEP) and do not have a diagnosed intellectual disability. The student must have a diagnosed intellectual disability.

## **State Board of Education Eligibility Policy:**

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=10399&revid=JrV6iqaCSU4YIVrr2z6geA%3d%3d&ptid=muNUIKiR2jsXcslsh28JpBkiw%3d%3d&secid=pbtSlshMIhL0a2Hzs2JBV9yHA%3d%3d&isPndg=&PG=6>

Dear NCHSAA Board Members,

I wanted to know if I could add an item to the NCHSAA agenda to be voted on? The item I would like to add is regarding student-athlete GPA requirements for eligibility. As it stands right now, the student-athlete eligibility requirement is "semester-to-semester" and will take the student-athletes GPA from the previous school year as the students most recent GPA, which I feel is unfair to Fall/Winter season student-athletes for several reasons: #1. Spring athletes have the opportunity to boost their Semester 1 grade before the season, violating equity amongst all other seasons. #2 I do not think that we should penalize students in the current school year due to actions of a previous year (For example, as an educator, when an educator brings up an issue from the previous school year to my administrator, the administrators response, regardless of what school, always responds with "I cannot speak to last year but this year....". So then why do we hold a students performance from the previous school year against them the current school year?) #3. Even if a student-athlete takes Summer school and boost/remediates that GPA, it still does not count #4. If a students current school year GPA for Semester 1 is above the minimum GPA requirement, they will still not be eligible based upon last school year's performance. You could make the argument that "student-athletes should know that they are going to be playing sports so they should maintain their GPA", but what about students who did not take an interest to playing sports until this current school year and are unfamiliar with minimum requirements?

I would like to propose changing the by-law be evaluating a students GPA requirement eligibility from Quarter-to-Quarter so that student-athletes have the opportunity update their GPA every quarter, so that way they are able to participate.

Yours in athletics,

Justin James Thompson

631-790-8341

# NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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

Spring Meeting Deadline: April 1  
Winter Meeting Deadline: November 1

**Name(s) :**

**School/LEA/Conference/Group:**

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.

- Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)
- Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)
- Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)
- Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)
- Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)

Signature Allen Plaster Date

P7

**Name:** Ronald McDaniel

**School / LEA / Conference / Group:** Durham School of the Arts – Durham Public Schools

**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:**

I propose that 8<sup>th</sup>-grade middle school students be permitted to participate in high school athletics. Given that these students are already on campus and engaged with the athletic teams, this initiative will allow them to compete at a higher level and gain valuable experience.

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

Encouragement of excellence. Allowing exceptional athletes to compete with higher-grade peers fosters an environment where talent is recognized and nurtured, much like advanced academic programs for intellectually gifted students. Development of skills: Competing at higher levels can enhance an athlete's skill and confidence, providing them with the necessary experience and exposure to excel in their sport. Motivation and Engagement: Just as advanced courses keep academically gifted students engaged, allowing skilled athletes to participate in high school sports can keep them motivated and invested in their overall school experience. Holistic Development: Participation in high-level athletics contributes to a student's overall development, including teamwork, leadership, and discipline, which are valuable skills for their future endeavors. Equity in Opportunities: Just as it is essential to provide advanced learners with opportunities to succeed academically, it is equally important to ensure that talented athletes have the chance to compete and grow in their sport, regardless of their grade level. By allowing advanced athletes to participate in higher-level sports, schools can create an environment that values and supports excellence in all forms, ultimately benefiting both the individual athletes and the school community as a whole.

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

The financial impact of this proposal is expected to be minimal. As the students are already part of the school, transportation costs will be reduced. Any additional expenditures for uniforms or equipment can be supported through registration fees or



fundraising efforts. Increased participation may also lead to more community support and sponsorship opportunities for the athletic department.

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

Participation in high school athletics will not interfere with academic responsibilities. Practices and games will be scheduled outside of school hours, ensuring that 8<sup>th</sup> graders maintain their study time. Engaging in sports can improve time management skills, helping students balance their academic and athletic commitments.

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

This proposal is equitable for all students, addressing both male and female athletes. By allowing 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate, we promote inclusivity and equal opportunities in sports, ensuring that all students can benefit from athletic participation.

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

If approved, I recommend that this proposal take effect at the beginning of the next athletic season. This timeline will allow adequate preparation and communication with students, parents, coaches, and staff to ensure a successful implementation. In conclusion, allowing 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are already on campus to participate in high school athletics offers significant benefits in terms of social skill development, community building, and equitable access to sports, all while maintaining academic integrity.

**16 NCAC 06E .0211 NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS**

(a) As used in this Section, the phrase "name, image, or likeness" or "NIL" shall refer to the use of a student's name, image, or likeness for commercial purposes and in exchange for compensation to the student or an immediate family member of the student. Compensation is defined as anything of value to the student or an immediate family member of the student, including cash, in-kind gifts, discounts, and other tangible benefits.

(b) A student participating in interscholastic athletics may enter an agreement to use the student's name, image, or likeness (hereinafter "NIL agreement") subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) The NIL agreement shall not condition the receipt, type, or extent of any compensation on the extent or quality of the student's athletic performance.
- (2) If the student is under 18 years of age, the student's parent or legal guardian shall be a party to the NIL agreement.
- (3) The NIL agreement shall hold the following parties harmless from any liability related to, or arising from the NIL agreement:
  - (A) The governing body of the PSU in which the student is enrolled, as well as its officers and employees.
  - (B) Any administering organization with which the PSU is affiliated, as well as its officers and employees.
  - (C) The State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction, as well as their officers and employees.
- (4) The NIL agreement shall otherwise comply with state and federal law.

(c) Prior to a student's entry into an NIL agreement or an amendment to an existing NIL agreement:

- (1) The student shall provide a copy of the NIL agreement or amendment to the principal and athletic director of the student's school, the local superintendent, the chairperson of the PSU governing body, and the head coach of any sport in which the student participates during the terms of the NIL agreement.
- (2) The student shall complete the NIL education course offered by the NFHS. If the student is under 18 years of age, the student's parent or legal guardian shall also complete the course. Those persons required to complete the course shall provide the relevant administering organization with a certificate of completion from the NFHS.

(d) A student participating in interscholastic athletics may enter into an NIL agreement to use the student's name, image, or likeness in any of the following ways:

- (1) Public appearances or commercials.
- (2) Autograph signings.
- (3) Athletic camps and clinics.
- (4) Sale of non-fungible tokens ("NFTs").
- (5) Product or service endorsements.
- (6) Promotional activities, including in-person events and social media advertisements.
- (7) Any other commercial activities that are intended to promote a product or service offered by, increase the profits of, or otherwise generate financial benefits for a party to the NIL agreement from the use of the student's name, image, or likeness.

(e) No student engaged in an NIL agreement-related activity shall do any of the following:

- (1) Make any reference to a school, PSU, conference, or administering organization.
- (2) Receive compensation for the use of intellectual property of any school, PSU, conference, administering organization, or the NFHS. Intellectual property includes the name, uniform, mascot, mark, or logo of the entity that owns the intellectual property.
- (3) Appear in the uniform of the student's school or the school's sports team, or otherwise display the intellectual property of any school, PSU, conference, administering organization, or the NFHS.

(f) No student shall endorse or promote the goods or services of any third-party entity with which the student has entered an NIL agreement during interscholastic athletic competition or other school-based activities or events. This restriction applies to the wearing of apparel displaying the mark, logo, brand, or other identifying insignia of the third-party entity, unless it is part of the standard uniform for the school or sport.

(g) No student participating in interscholastic athletics shall enter into an NIL agreement or otherwise use the student's name, image, or likeness to promote any of the following:

- (1) An adult establishment, as defined in G.S. 14-202.10(2), or adult entertainment services.
- (2) Alcohol or alcoholic products.
- (3) Tobacco, vaping or other electronic smoking devices, or other nicotine products.

- (4) Cannabis or cannabis products.
- (5) Controlled substances, as defined in G.S. 90-87(5).
- (6) Opioids or prescription pharmaceuticals.
- (7) Weapons, firearms, or ammunition.
- (8) Casinos or gambling, including sports betting.
- (9) Activities that would disrupt the operations of a school or PSU.

(h) The school athletic director shall submit a current copy of any NIL agreement involving a student at the school to any administering organizations of which the student's school is a member within 30 days of the disclosure of the NIL agreement by the student or disclosure of any amendment to an existing NIL agreement. The administering organization shall maintain accurate records of all NIL agreements received and provide a summary report of all NIL agreements to the State Board of Education no later than June 30 of each year.

(i) No athletic director, coach, other employee of a PSU, representative of an athletic booster club, or representative of an NIL collective shall use the promise of an NIL agreement to recruit a student to attend a specific participating school or participate in a specific sport. No athletic director, coach, other employee of a PSU, representative of an athletic booster club, or representative of an NIL collective shall act as a student's agent or marketing representative or otherwise facilitate an NIL agreement between a student and a third party. If the relevant administering organization finds a violation of this Paragraph by a preponderance of the evidence, the administering organization shall impose penalties consistent with its regulations and with Rule .0209 of this Section.

(j) This rule shall apply to any NIL agreement that a student or the student's parent or legal guardian execute during the time the student is enrolled in a PSU, even if the benefits of said agreement do not accrue to the student or an immediate family member of the student until after the student has graduated.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 115C-12(12); 115C-12(23); 115C-47(4); 115C-407.50; 115C-407.55; 115C-407.60; 115C-407.65; 116-235(b);  
Temporary Adoption Eff. January 2, 2025.

# NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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

Spring Meeting Deadline: April 1  
Winter Meeting Deadline: November 1

**Name(s) :**

**School/LEA/Conference/Group:**

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.

- Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)
- Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)
- Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)
- Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)
- Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)

Signature Nelson Garner Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Attachment P9**

400 North Church Street  
Monroe, NC 28112

704-296-9898

704-289-9182

ucps.k12.nc.us

## Athletics

March 31, 2025

To the NCHSAA Board of Directors,

On behalf of Union County Public Schools, I would like to submit the following proposal for consideration during the upcoming Spring Board of Directors meeting.

***Proposed Change to Rule 2.2.14 (C):***

***Currently, Rule 2.2.14 (C) limits a student-athlete to 1.5 hours of Skills Development Sessions on any given day, inclusive of all weekends, holidays, workdays, etc. We propose the following modification:***

***Change the limit from 1.5 hours to 2.0 hours for Skills Development Sessions, ensuring that these sessions do not exceed 2.0 hours in total duration, including time for stretching, meetings, weight training, and breaks.***

The rationale behind this request stems from the challenges faced by schools in integrating strength training, warm-up exercises, and skill development into a 1.5-hour session during the off-season. Specifically, some schools lack the resources to offer weightlifting classes during the school day and, as a result, rely on after-school programs to provide these crucial components. Expanding the time limit to 2 hours will offer sufficient flexibility for schools to conduct comprehensive, competitive, and voluntary sessions that align with the needs of their student-athletes during the off-season. This request is supported by the 10 high schools in Union County Public Schools.

We welcome any further questions or clarification regarding this request and appreciate your consideration of our proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nelson Garner".

Nelson Garner  
Director of Athletics  
Union County Public Schools