

Student-Athlete Eligibility Policy

For the purpose of determining high school athletic eligibility, the following shall be considered “additional” to those required by the CIAC Board of Control (Appendix B).

Student-Athlete Eligibility Checklist – High School

1. () Enrolled in no less than four full-time courses (*CIAC Rule 1.B.*).
2. () Passing in no less than four full-time courses (*CIAC Rule 1.B.*).
3. () Maintained a numeric grade average of 70 or higher **OR** a 1.67 GPA during the marking period preceding and during the student’s participation (see conversion table attached). Changes in a student’s academic eligibility status commence on the date of district report card distribution. **Exception: Grade 9 Fall Sports only.**
4. () **Fall Sports:** Earned no less than four credits toward graduation in the preceding school year (*CIAC Rule 1.A.*).
5. () Is an enrolled student in the school for which playing (*CIAC Rule II.A.*).
6. () Has never dropped out of school (*CIAC Rule II.A.*).
7. () Has not changed schools without parents moving to another school district or school service area (*CIAC Rule II.C. - see exceptions*).
8. () Has not attended more than eight (8) consecutive semesters or four (4) consecutive years of school after entering grade nine (*CIAC Rule II.B. and specific exceptions as stated therein apply*).*
9. () Has not turned 20 years of age during the season in which he/she is playing (end of season date is state finals) (*CIAC Rule II.B.*).
10. () Has not played or practiced a sport with another team during the high school season for the same sport (*CIAC Rule II.E.*).
11. () Has not been on more than one school team in the same season nor represented more than one school in the same season at the same time (*CIAC Rule II.D.*).
12. () Has not received a salary or personal economic gain for playing the sport or competed under an assumed name (*CIAC Rule II.F.*).
13. () Is not a member of a school team of the opposite gender (boy on a girl’s team) (*CIAC Rule IV.F.*)
14. () Has not been recruited to attend his/her high school for athletic purposes (*CIAC Rule IV.C.*).
15. () Is a foreign exchange student registered with the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) (*CIAC Rule II.C.4*).
16. () Is complying with all additional CIAC and school athletic regulations.
17. () Every athlete who participates in any tryout, practice, or contest must first be determined physically fit through an annual, written pre-participation medical evaluation conducted by a licensed medical professional. The Waterbury Public Schools provides opportunities to lessen the financial impact to families of student/athletes requiring this service.

* A student has eight (8) consecutive semesters or four (4) consecutive years of eligibility from the date of entry into the ninth grade to be eligible for interscholastic competition. Date of entry is defined as the first date of enrollment as a grade 9 student taking four (4) or more high school subjects. (1) Students who are not eligible or elect to not participate do not preserve additional semesters for use at a later time. That is, there is no fifth year of eligibility per se.

NOTE: *The use of this checklist does not absolve the athlete of the responsibility of checking eligibility against the complete rules and regulations contained in the document entitled “Rules of Eligibility and Control for Boys and Girls High School Athletics in Connecticut”, effective July 1, 2016.*

STUDENTS MUST NOT DETERMINE THEIR ELIGIBILITY. THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCHOOL. This checklist is for the coach, athletic director, principal, assistant principal, guidance counselor or athlete to enable him/her to become aware of the CIAC and WPS rules of eligibility.

Student-Athlete Eligibility Policy, continued

High School Checklist

WATERBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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GPA Conversion Scale for Athletic Eligibility

This table is utilized for the sole purpose of determining eligibility for students to Participate in *Waterbury High School Athletics*

(Based on Academic Core Scale)

Grade	GPA	Grade	GPA	Grade	GPA	Grade	GPA
100	4.33	89	3.33	79	2.33	69	1.33
99	4.33	88	3.33	78	2.33	68	1.33
98	4.33	87	3.33	77	2.33	67	1.33
97	4.0	86	3.0	76	2.0	66	1.0
96	4.0	85	3.0	75	2.0	65	1.0
95	4.0	84	3.0	74	2.0		
94	4.0	83	3.0	73	2.0		
93	3.67	82	2.67	72	1.67		
92	3.67	81	2.67	71	1.67		
91	3.67	80	2.67	70	1.67		
90	3.67						

*all grades rounded off to the nearest one hundredth

Eligibility Calculations – Examples

*In order to be eligible to play, a given student must maintain a minimum 1.67 Grade Point Average (GPA) and/or a 70+ numeric average in the marking period immediately preceding, and during, the student’s participation. Changes to a student’s academic eligibility status commence on the date of district report card distribution.**

Example #1
KHS Student X

	<u>#</u>	<u>GPA</u>
Algebra I	73	2.0
World Civ. I	81	2.67
English I	62	0.0
Spanish I	71	2.0
Earth Science	55	0.0
Art I	87	3.33
Health & Cond.	82	2.67
Total	511	12.67
Average	73.0*	1.81*

**Eligible to play by virtue of 70.0 + avg. and 1.81 GPA*

Example #2
WHS Student Y

	<u>#</u>	<u>GPA</u>
Geometry	72	1.67
US History	81	2.67
English II	60	0.0
Chemistry	25	0.0
Keyboarding	81	2.67
Art II	81	2.67
Concert Band	81	2.67
Total	481	12.35
Average	68.7	1.76*

**Eligible to play by virtue of 1.76 GPA*

Example #3
WCA Student Z

	<u>#</u>	<u>GPA</u>
Algebra II	70	1.67
US History	80	2.67
English III	60	0.0
Biology	70	1.67
Italian II	55	0.0
Marketing	80	2.67
Chorus	70	1.67
Total	485	10.35
Average	69.3*	1.48*

**Ineligible to play by virtue of substandard GPA and <70.0 avg.*

* Exception to academic eligibility requirement: Grade 9 Fall Sports only.

Student-Athlete Eligibility Policy, continued**High School**

In the event that a student is deemed academically ineligible to play, coaches may elect, at their discretion, to require the student-athlete to continue to attend and/or participate in practices with the team while ineligible to compete in game play. Coaches may elect to accommodate a student in such a manner for up to one (1) full marking period, maximum. Changes to a student's academic eligibility status will be determined for all students on the date that report cards are distributed or on the fourteenth calendar day following the end of the marking period, whichever comes first, per CIAC Board of Control policy.

Summer School passing grades may be used to satisfy the four (4) passing subject areas pursuant to CIAC regulation 1.B.

Equivalent passing grades for any/all summer school courses shall be computed as the equivalent of a seventy (70) and commensurate 1.67 GPA solely for the purpose of determining athletic eligibility.

Equivalent passing grades for any/all district-approved online courses shall be computed as the actual numeric grade earned online, and the corresponding GPA conversion calculation awarded the student for the purposes of determining athletic eligibility.

Enforcement of compliance with the policy subsequent to July 1, 2016 is a directive from the Superintendent that is backed by her full authority.

Non-compliance with the policy is subject to disciplinary action(s) from the Superintendent, and may also be subject to a full range of CIAC sanctions, including forfeiture, suspension and fines as enumerated in the "Rules of Eligibility and Control for Boys and Girls High School Athletics in Connecticut", effective July 1, 2006.

Unified Sports

For the purposes of determining the eligibility of either a student with intellectual disabilities AND their non-disabled partners, the WPS High School academic eligibility provisions will NOT apply – the sole considerations for partnering disabled and non-disabled peers will be those articulated by the CIAC Board of Control (Appendix A) and those determined, in the best collective judgement of the school faculty and staff, regarding the overall suitability of such personalized partnerships on a sport-by-sport basis.

CIAC Eligibility Checklist for participation in Unified Sports:

- General Statement of Eligibility – Every person with intellectual disabilities who is at least five years of age is eligible to participate in Unified Sports.
- A student who has a special education identification of intellectually disabled can participate in the CIAC-sanctioned Unified Sports program prior to reaching his/her 22nd birthday. This student must be enrolled in a CAS-CIAC member school with a documented individual educational program approved by the pupil placement team at such school.
- The minimum age requirement for participation in Unified Sports is five (5) years of age.

Student-Athlete Eligibility Policy, continued**High School**

- Degree of Disability – Participation in Unified Sports training and competition is open to all persons with intellectual disabilities who meet the age requirement of this Section, regardless of the level or degree of that person’s disability, and whether or not that person also has other mental or physical disabilities, so long as that person registers to participate in Unified Sports as required by these General Rules.

- Identifying Persons with Intellectual Disabilities – A person is considered to have intellectual disabilities for purposes of determining his or her eligibility to participate in Unified Sports if that person satisfies any one of the following requirements:
 - The person has been identified by an agency or professional as having intellectual disabilities as determined by their localities; or
 - The person has a cognitive delay, as determined by standardized measures such as intelligent quotient or “IQ” testing or other measures which are generally accepted within the professional community in that accredited program’s nation as being a reliable measurement of the existence of a cognitive delay; or
 - The person has a closely related developmental disability. A “closely related developmental disability” means having functional limitations in both general learning (such as IQ) and in adaptive skills (such as in recreation, work, independent living, self-direction, or self-care). However, persons whose functional limitations are based solely on a physical, behavioral, or emotional disability, or a specific learning or sensory disability, are not eligible to participate as Special Olympic athletes, but may be eligible to volunteer for Unified Sports.

UNIFIED PARTNER ELIGIBILITY**Definition**

Special Olympics Unified Sports is a program that combines approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes and athletes without intellectual disabilities (partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Age and ability matching of athletes and partners is specifically defined on a sport-by-sport basis.

Partner Eligibility

Though the above definition allows for partners with disabilities other than intellectual disabilities, Unified Sports was developed to provide Special Olympics athletes with the choice of a sports program that brings about meaningful inclusion with their non-disabled peers.

The spirit of Unified Sports intends to introduce opportunities to those Special Partners who do not qualify/play at a varsity or junior varsity level to participate on a Unified Sports team. However, Unified Sports programs would be remiss if we did not allow all non-intellectually disabled (ID) students to qualify as Special Partners. Further options would allow a Special Partner to participate on a Unified Sports team as a practice only partner, assistant coach, or a one-on-one aide. A varsity or junior varsity athlete may compete as a Special Partner in any Unified Sports sport season that is a different sport season than the varsity or junior varsity athlete is qualified in.

Student-Athlete Eligibility Policy, continued**Middle School Checklist**

1. () Passing in no less than five combined Academic and Unified Arts courses.
2. () Maintained a numerical average of 70.0 or higher OR a 1.67 GPA during the marking period preceding and during the student's participation (see conversion table attached). Changes in a student's academic eligibility status commence on the date of district report card distribution.
3. () Is an enrolled student in the school for which playing, or within its district while attending a public school of choice.
4. () Has not changed schools without parents moving within the district or school service area.
5. () Has not played more than two (2) seasons of the same sport after entering grade eight.
6. () Has not turned 16 years of age before July 1 preceding the school year.
7. () Has not been on more than one school team in the same season nor represented more than one school during the same season at the same time.
8. () Has not received a salary or personal economic gain for playing the sport or competed under an assumed name.
9. () Has not been recruited to attend this middle school solely for athletic purposes.
10. () Is complying with all additional school rules and regulations.
11. () Every athlete who participates in any tryout, practice, or contest must first be determined physically fit through an annual, written pre-participation medical evaluation conducted by a licensed medical professional. The Waterbury Public Schools provides opportunities to lessen the financial impact to families of student/athletes requiring this service.

STUDENTS MUST NOT DETERMINE THEIR ELIGIBILITY. THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCHOOL. This checklist is for the Coach, Athletic Director, Building Principal, House Principal, and/or Guidance Counselor to enable him/her to become aware of the rules of eligibility.

Student-Athlete Eligibility Policy, continued

Middle School

GPA Conversion Scale for Athletic Eligibility

This table is utilized for the sole purpose of determining eligibility for students to participate in *Waterbury Middle School Athletics*

Grade	GPA		Grade	GPA		Grade	GPA		Grade	GPA
100	4.33		89	3.33		79	2.33		69	1.33
99	4.33		88	3.33		78	2.33		68	1.33
98	4.33		87	3.33		77	2.33		67	1.33
97	4.0		86	3.0		76	2.0		66	1.0
96	4.0		85	3.0		75	2.0		65	1.0
95	4.0		84	3.0		74	2.0			
94	4.0		83	3.0		73	2.0			
93	3.67		82	2.67		72	1.67			
92	3.67		81	2.67		71	1.67			
91	3.67		80	2.67		70	1.67			
90	3.67									

*all grades rounded off to the nearest one hundredth

Eligibility Calculations – Examples

#1: WSMS Student X

	<u>N</u>	<u>GPA</u>
Math	73	2.0
Social Studies	81	2.67
Language Arts	66	1.0
Reading	66	1.0
Science	50	0.0
Art	73	2.0
Phys Ed.	92	3.67
Life Mgmt.	50	0.0
General Music	80	2.67
Numeracy	70	1.67
Total	701	16.68
Average	70.1*	1.67*

#2: NEMS Student Y

	<u>N</u>	<u>GPA</u>
Math	70	1.67
Social Studies	81	2.67
Language Arts	71	1.67
Reading	81	2.67
Science	41	0.0
Art	91	3.67
Phys. Ed.	70	1.67
Life Mgmt.	80	2.67
Chorus	65	1.67
Numeracy	46	0.0
Total	696	18.36
Average	69.6	1.84*

#3: WMS Student Z

	<u>N</u>	<u>GPA</u>
Math	60	0.0
Social Studies	82	2.67
Language Arts	60	0.0
Reading	71	1.67
Science	45	0.0
Art	74	2.0
Phys. Ed.	83	2.67
Life Mgmt.	68	1.33
Band	82	2.67
Numeracy	65	1.0
Total	688	14.01
Average	68.8	1.40

*Eligible to play by passing 5+ classes, 70+ average AND 1.67 GPA

*Eligible to play by passing 5+ classes AND 1.84 GPA **earned** only

INELIGIBLE TO PLAY
Did pass 5 classes, but <70 avg. and < 1.67 GPA

In the event that a student is deemed academically ineligible to play, coaches may elect, at their discretion, to require the student-athlete to continue to attend and/or participate in practices with the team while ineligible to compete in game play. Coaches may elect to accommodate a student in such a manner for up to one (1) full marking period, maximum. Changes to a student's academic eligibility status will be determined for all students on the date that report cards are distributed or on the fourteenth calendar day following the end of the marking period, whichever comes first, per CIAC Board of Control policy.

Student-Athlete Eligibility Policy, continued**Middle School**

Summer School passing grades may be used to satisfy the five (5) passing subject areas pursuant to CIAC regulation 1.B.

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- The minimum age requirement for participation in Unified Sports is five (5) years of age.
- Degree of Disability – Participation in Unified Sports training and competition is open to all persons with intellectual disabilities who meet the age requirement of this Section, regardless of the level or degree of that person's disability, and whether or not that person also has other mental or physical disabilities, so long as that person registers to participate in Unified Sports as required by these General Rules.
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 - The person has been identified by an agency or professional as having intellectual disabilities as determined by their localities; or
 - The person has a cognitive delay, as determined by standardized measures such as intelligent quotient or "IQ" testing or other measures which are generally accepted within the professional community in that accredited program's nation as being a reliable measurement of the existence of a cognitive delay; or

Student-Athlete Eligibility Policy, continued**Middle School**

- The person has a closely related developmental disability. A “closely related developmental disability” means having functional limitations in both general learning (such as IQ) and in adaptive skills (such as in recreation, work, independent living, self-direction, or self-care). However, persons whose functional limitations are based solely on a physical, behavioral, or emotional disability, or a specific learning or sensory disability, are not eligible to participate as Special Olympic athletes, but may be eligible to volunteer for Unified Sports.

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