



ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: High School Principals
High School Athletic Directors

THRU: Hugh Hattabaugh
Ann Clark

FROM: Sue Doran (contact person, 980-343-6980 or sue.doran@cms.k12.nc.us)

DATE: June 7, 2011

SUBJECT: Rising Senior Student-Athletes – Classes Required for Eligibility

ACTION: Distribute information to high school guidance counselors

Per conversations with the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and CMS Associate General Counsel Sarah Crowder, please note the information below regarding athletic eligibility course load requirements for senior student-athletes.

Course Load Requirements

Although this is not specifically a graduation rule, several questions have been posed this year, asking for information on whether seniors may take less than a full load of courses. The answer is yes. Effective with the 2010/11 school year, seniors on track to graduate are permitted to take fewer than a full load of classes if they took at least two courses *through* the high school (i.e., NC virtual courses are permitted) and they continue to be on track to graduate. This rule is *not* applicable only to fifth-year seniors; it applies to all seniors. Such a schedule does not require any unusual approvals.

However, the CMS Athletics Department has learned that the NCHSAA does not necessarily agree that student-athletes would retain eligibility if they take such a reduced load. The NCHCSS has a higher standard than CMS and strictly enforces its rule requiring students to pass a minimum of three courses in a semester in order to be eligible to play sports the next semester. Therefore, if you have seniors next year who wish to play sports during second semester, they must be enrolled in at least three 4x4 (or six A/B day) classes and pass all of them.

Please be aware of this rule and advise your guidance counselors and rising senior-athletes accordingly as they schedule courses for next year.

Thank you.

SD

c: Zone superintendents
Karen Thomas
Sarah Crowder