

**Administrative Procedures for Policy #3452 (Students) of the Board of Education  
Regarding Academic Eligibility for Athletic Programs**

I. Statement of Belief

- A. Athletic programs are an integral part of the educational experience. The primary mission of the Calvert County Public Schools, however, is to ensure that all students demonstrate academic success. The Board of Education, therefore, directed that in order to participate in secondary athletic programs, students must meet established academic standards.

II. Definitions

- A. Athletic programs - extra-curricular activities at the middle and high school levels that are approved per Policy 3451 Regarding the Addition or Deletion of an Athletic Program and are included in the Calvert County Athletic Handbook per Policy 3450 Regarding the Calvert County Athletic Handbook
- B. Eligibility period – the period from the date a report card is issued to the date the next report card is issued
- C. Failing grade – a numerical grade of less than 60 percent for high school courses, or a grade of “E” for middle school courses
- D. Grade Point Average – All grades of the previous reporting period determine the Grade Point Average (GPA) for the winter and spring athletic seasons. For the purpose of eligibility, a minimum grade of 40 percent or the actual numerical grade between 40 percent and 59 percent, whichever is higher, is used to calculate the Grade Point Average. The year-to-date and cumulative GPAs are not used for eligibility purposes. For middle school, GPAs are calculated on a grade scale with A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, and E = 0.
- E. New students – Students transferring into the Calvert County Public Schools System from another school district

III. Academic Standards for Participation in CCPS Athletic Programs

A. High school

1. Students must maintain a 70 percent Grade Point Average with no more than one failing grade.
2. Students who fail a course worth two or more credits will be deemed ineligible.
3. New students, in order to participate, must meet the same criteria.
4. Grades earned for specific dual enrollment courses taken on the high school campus will count towards eligibility.

5. Students with a grade of INC for any course will be deemed ineligible until either a grade is issued, or the principal determines eligibility.
  6. Weighting for AP courses will be used in the eligibility calculation for students earning a 60 percent or higher in an AP course.
  7. Students shall not be permitted to withdraw (W) from a course for the sole purpose of athletic eligibility.
- B. Middle school students must maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average with no more than one failing grade. New students, in order to participate, must meet the same criteria.
  - C. Quarterly report card grades will determine winter and spring eligibility.
    1. Marking period 1 grades will determine continued eligibility for fall and winter eligibility.
    2. Marking period 2 grades will determine continued eligibility for winter and spring eligibility.
    3. Marking period 3 grades will determine continued eligibility for spring.
  - D. Final report card grades from the previous academic year will be used to determine fall eligibility.
    1. Incoming 9th Grade students are automatically eligible for the fall season.
    2. When determining the numerical GPA using final course grades, half credit (semester) courses will be weighted 0.5, one credit courses will be weighted 1.0, two credit courses will be weighted 2.0, and three credit courses will be weighted 3.0.
    3. Failing a semester (0.5) credit course in the fall of a high school year will not be calculated for the subsequent fall eligibility when final grades are used.

#### IV. Athletic Reinstatement

- A. Interim reports may be used to reinstate a student's eligibility.
- B. The Athletic Director or athletic program sponsor at each secondary school or his/her designee will verify the numerical grade(s) of a student who petitions for reinstatement by examining the grades reported on the official interim on an interim report date.
- C. The student must meet the academic standard in order to be reinstated.

#### V. Raising a GPA through Summer School

- A. A student may improve a GPA by retaking a course or by taking an additional course in summer school.
- B. A student who fails a course may take the same course in summer school if it is offered. The summer school grade replaces the final grade for athletic eligibility purposes. All policies regarding the replacement of a final grade on the permanent record remain in effect.
- C. If a student fails a course which is not offered in summer school, he/she may enroll in a comparable level course that is approved by the principal. The summer school grade

replaces the lowest final grade for athletic eligibility purposes. All other policies regarding the replacement of a final grade on the permanent record remain in effect.

- D. A student who enrolls in summer school to improve his/her GPA of passed courses (i.e., a student with a GPA between 60% and 70% with no failing grades) should take the course most useful to his/her needs. The principal may designate which course a student should take. The summer school grade will replace the lowest final grade for athletic eligibility purposes.

VI. Participation in Athletic Team Practice and Games

- A. An athlete may try-out and practice during periods of ineligibility.
- B. An ineligible athlete may not accompany the team on trips, be excused from classes, play in games, or participate in team recognitions during the period of ineligibility.

VII. Students with Disabilities

- A. A student with a specialized education plan under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (Individual Education Plan or IEP) or Section 504 (504 Plan) is subject to the athletic eligibility standards outlined above.
- B. A student's IEP or 504 Plan may require review to ensure the student has an equal opportunity to meet athletic academic eligibility standards.

VIII. Appeals of Athletic Eligibility Status

- A. When a student believes that an error occurred in the awarding of a grade, he/she may file an appeal with the school principal.
- B. The student must demonstrate the circumstance which may have contributed to the awarding of an incorrect grade.
- C. Appeals must be initiated within five days of the issuance date of the report card.
- D. The student remains ineligible for athletics during the appeal process.
- E. The school principal shall render a final decision within five days of the appeal date.