

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

S. Dallas Dance ♦ Superintendent ♦ 6901 Charles Street ♦ Towson, MD ♦ 21204

The Baltimore County Office of Athletics handles eligibility concerns for student athletes as it relates to participating in Interscholastic Athletics. Your child's participation in athletics may help to make high school the most enjoyable time in his/her young life. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) and Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) want to ensure that you understand and meet all eligibility requirements for participation in interscholastic sports.

The State of Maryland passed legislation that a recommendation for a 2.0 Grade Point Average is put in place for all student athletes to participate in interscholastic sports. In order to meet the State of Maryland's recommendation, the Baltimore County Public Schools Office of Athletics has implemented the following Athletic Academic Eligibility Policy.

1. Students are ineligible if:
 - a. They have less than a 2.0 grade point average.
 - b. They have more than one failing, incomplete, or medical grade in the marking period prior to the start of the season of participation.
 - i. First, second, third, and fourth grading period will be used for determining scholastic eligibility for winter, spring, and fall.
 - ii. The beginning dates for grading periods shall be designated on the approved school schedule.

This regulation does not apply to incoming 9th grade students for fall eligibility. Any student who is entering the 9th grade from a middle school will be exempt from the Academic Eligibility Policy during the 1st quarter only. These incoming 9th grade students have until the release of the 1st quarter report cards before they can become ineligible.

If you have any questions regarding the athletic eligibility requirements, please contact your school's athletic director or the Office of Athletics, 410-887-2328.

Academic Eligibility

1. Students are ineligible if:
 - a. They have less than a 2.0 grade point average.
 - b. They have more than one failing, incomplete, or medical grade in the marking period prior to the start of the season of participation.
 - i. First, second, third, and fourth grading period will be used for determining scholastic eligibility for winter, spring, and fall.
 - ii. The beginning dates for grading periods shall be designated on the approved school schedule.
 - c. They re-enter school after withdrawing and their work or conduct at the time of withdrawal was such that they would not have been eligible in the grading period.
 - d. They did not attend school the grading period prior to the intended participation.
 - e. They are failing a class at the time of withdrawal in addition to another failure. The students shall be penalized for the withdrawal failure for one grading period only. Any first semester course or full year course dropped prior to November 15 will not be counted in determining eligibility. The date for dropping a second semester course is prior to April 15.
 - f. A multi-hour course is counted as multiple courses when determining whether a student has maintained a 2.0 average, but is counted as one course when determining the number of failed classes.
2. A student who is eligible during a grading period that does not maintain a 2.0 average or has more than one failing grade at the close of that grading period becomes ineligible to play **on the day report cards are distributed**.
3. A student who is ineligible in a grading period can become eligible to play no earlier than the **day report cards are distributed**. However, this student can become eligible to practice on the day designated as the end of that grading period in which the ineligibility occurred.
4. This regulation does not apply to incoming 9th grade students for fall eligibility. Any student who is entering the 9th grade from a middle school will be exempt from the Academic Eligibility Policy during the 1st quarter only. These incoming 9th grade students have until the release of the 1st quarter report cards before they can become ineligible.