MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

2017-2018

Seventh and eighth grade students interested in participating in athletics in the 2015-2016 school year, should familiarize themselves with the following eligibility requirements and athletic policies.

2016-2017 SPORTS SEASON DATES

# **Fall Sports - First Practice/tryout date August 29**

# **Winter Sports - First Practice/tryout date November 14**

# **Spring Sports - First Practice/tryout date February 12**

# **Eligibility: In order to be eligible for any athletic activity, the athlete:**

1. Must **meet all eligibility requirements** prior to the first tryout/practice date.
2. Must have a **completed and signed Middle School Athletic Participation Form** prior to the first tryout/practice date.
3. Must have a **completed and signed the Parent and Student Concussion Information Packet.**
4. Must not participate if he/she becomes **15 years of age on or before August 31, of the current school year**.
5. Must receive a **medical examination once every 395 days** by a licensed medical physician, physician’s assistant or family practitioner in the United States.
6. Must meet promotion requirements to be eligible for fall semester. The State Board of Education defines promotion as “progressing to the next grade.” Students retained either by the school or the parents will be ineligible for the fall semester.
7. Semester Rule **-** No student may be eligible to participate at the Middle School level for a period lasting longer than 6 consecutive semesters beginning with the students’ first entry into 6th grade. While WCPSS only offers athletics beginning in seventh grade, the 6 semester rule begins with initial entry into 6th grade for all public middle schools in the state.
8. Must earn passing grades (D or better) in three core course each semester to be eligible for participating during the succeeding semester.
9. Must not have more than **14 total absences (85% attendance requirement)** in the semester prior to athletic participation. This is a State Board of Education requirement. According to Board Policy 6860, students who participate in interscholastic athletics must meet all requirements of the State Board of Education.
10. Must **purchase regular school accident insurance or provide proof of insurance coverage** by filling out the insurance information waiver on the Middle School Athletic Participation Form.
11. Must **not participate** (practice or play) if **ineligible**.
12. Must **not participate** (practice or play) in any athletic event or practice if **suspended** or is actively serving in the **in-school suspension program (Cougar Den) for that day or days**.
13. Must be **present in school** the entire day in order to participate in practices or games.
14. Must **live with a parent or legal custodian** within the Wake County Public School System administrative unit. (Must notify the athletic director if not living with a parent or legal custodian.)
15. **A student upon first entering grade seven (7)** is academically eligible for competition on middle school teams. All requirements must be met the first semester (fall) in order for this student to be eligible for athletic participation the second semester (spring).
16. A player **must practice** a total of six (6) days before playing in a game in all sports except football, where a player must practice nine (9) days.
17. **A player injured requiring medical attention** and/or absent due to illness must meet eligibility requirements and must have practiced the required number of days above (# 16). This player may not participate in practice or a contest without a doctor’s note. Students absent from athletic practice 5 or more days due to illness or injury shall receive a medical release by a licensed physician before they are able to practice or play.
18. If **school is not in session or school closes early**, no practice or game will take place. There will be no practice on Saturdays (this includes year round schools), holidays, or vacation days.