

## Academic Eligibility for Intermediate School Athletics

**Rationale:** In the area of academic eligibility for intermediate school athletics, both the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) leave the establishment of academic eligibility rules to the local school district. Intermediate schools have been using the Power of “I” for grading purposes since the 2006 – 2007 school year. Over that period of time there have been inconsistencies on how the current rules regarding eligibility have been interpreted and enforced. There is disagreement among staff members within a school over what an “I” assignment is not to mention from one school to another. In an effort to bring consistency and fairness to the rules regarding academic eligibility for our intermediate schools, the following rules have been developed.

- I. The roster for each team must be entered and maintained on Infinite Campus.
- II. A report will be run every Thursday afternoon during the season of a sport by a secretary chosen by the administration and given to the building AD. The report will list students out for the sport with a failing grade in a class or classes. The AD will share the list with the coaches prior to practice on Friday. The coach will inform the student he/she needs to work with the teacher before/after school at least twice next week to raise the grade or turn in missing work that raises the grade above an F. During this week, the student is still eligible to play.
- III. The athlete will turn in a pass, developed by the AD, which will be signed by the teacher indicating the dates and times the athlete met with the teacher or signed by the teacher indicating missing work has been turned in raising the grade above an F. The pass will be turned in to the AD no later than Friday morning or the last morning of the week. The AD will then contact the coach to inform him/her of eligibility.
- IV. If the athlete’s grade is still failing and the athlete has met with the teacher at least twice during the week, the athlete is still eligible for participation.

- V. If the athlete turns in missing work that raises the grade to passing, the athlete is eligible and does not have to meet with the teacher during the week.
- VI. If the athlete does not meet at least twice with the teacher or raise the grade above an F, **the athlete is ineligible to play for the entire following week and must continue to work with the teacher to raise the grade.**
- VII. The academic eligibility report will be run each week of the season, starting with the first week of practice.

### Questions and Answers

**Q1.** When is the academic eligibility enforced?

**A.** The eligibility is enforced during the sport season. Reports will be run starting the week of the first practice through the last week of the season.

**Q2.** Aaron has an F in his math class because of four missing assignments. If he turns in the assignments and raises the grade above F, does he still have to work with the teacher at least twice that week?

**A.** No. If the missing work is turned in and raises the grade above an F, Aaron has fulfilled the requirement and is eligible the next week.

**Q3.** Kelly has an F in her science class. She does not meet with the teacher and does not turn in missing work to raise her grade. Is Kelly eligible to play in games the next week?

**A.** No. Kelly has not met the requirements to remain eligible for the next week. She must meet with the teacher at least twice the following week or raise her grade above an F.

**Q4.** Since Kelly is ineligible to play in games next week, can she still go to practice?

**A.** Yes. Kelly is ineligible for games but is expected to continue to practice with the team.

**Q5.** How will the volleyball coach know if Leslie is eligible next week since she was failing her language arts class this week?

**A.** Leslie will have the teacher sign the form indicating she either raised her grade above an F or came in at least twice this week for the teacher. She has to turn the form in to the building AD by Friday morning. The AD will inform the coach if Leslie has met the requirements to be eligible next week. If Leslie does not get the form to the AD, then she will be ineligible next week.

**Q6.** Alex has an F in his social studies class. He has been in twice this week to receive help, but has not raised his grade above an F. Is he eligible next week?

**A.** Yes. Alex met the requirement to remain eligible for the next week. Since his grade is still an F, he has to continue to meet with the teacher at least twice a week or raise his grade above an F to maintain his eligibility.

**Q7.** This is a short week of school with no school on Friday. When does Maggie have to turn in her form to the AD?

**A.** Maggie has to turn in the form to the building AD the morning of the last school day for the week, in this case Thursday morning.

**Q8.** Brad failed his Health class for the first semester. He doesn't go out for a sport until track starts in March. Is he eligible for track?

**A.** Yes. The eligibility only applies to the classes Brad is taking during the track season. The grades are viewed on a weekly basis during the season and will then affect Brad's eligibility.

**Q9.** Ethyl is failing her social studies class. She did not meet with the teacher or turn in any missing work, so she is ineligible. On Tuesday of the ineligibility week, Ethyl turns in her missing work and raises the grade above an F. Can she play in games later in the week?

**A.** No. Once Ethyl was declared ineligible for the week, the ineligibility remains in effect for the entire week, regardless of what she does. If she raises her grade above failing by turning in missing work or meets twice with the teacher during the week, Ethyl will regain her eligibility for the next week.