

11. How are parents notified of their child's eligibility status?

ANSWER: Schools have procedures to notify parents at the end of each semester of their child's status. Particularly important is that schools notify parents at the end of the school year that their child will be ineligible to participate the next semester (Fall Semester, August-December), and would need to pass the appropriate course(s) in Summer School in order to be eligible.

12. Who is responsible for monitoring the grades of students who participate in competitive co-curricular activities?

ANSWER: Parents, students and school personnel share the responsibility for monitoring grades. Students should always know their academic standing in each class. Parents should maintain regular communication with the school (including conferences) concerning the progress of their children, including the review of progress reports and report cards. Daily grades are also available for parental monitoring through School Fusion.

High-school athletics directors and middle-school athletics coordinators are responsible for monitoring the grades of students, along with assistance from teachers, coaches, sponsors and guidance counselors.

13. Where did the original idea of requiring a 2.00 GPA come from?

ANSWER: Over a period of a year, a countywide committee of more than 40 educators, parents and students developed recommendations, which also incorporated feedback from school principals and athletic directors. The committee asserted that students would have to meet academic expectations and follow the code of conduct in order to participate in athletics.

14. When do the new rules go into effect?

ANSWER: The first possibility for a student-athlete to be ruled academically ineligible would occur in January 2013.



Beaufort High School
Women's Golf



Battery Creek High School
Varsity Football



Hilton Head Island High School
Cross Country

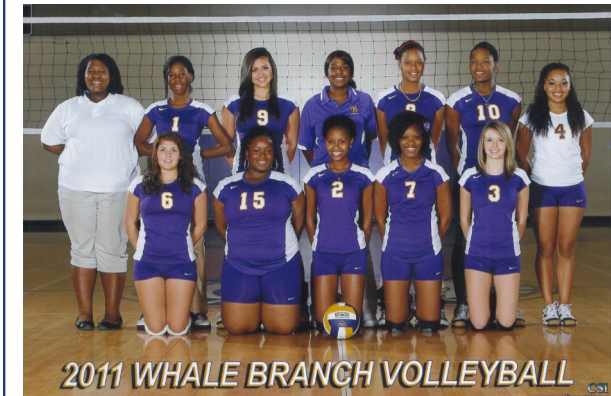


Athletic Participation Policy

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)



Bluffton High School
Football



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The Beaufort County Board of Education endorses student athletic activities that support high academic achievement. Sports participation can:

- Promote a sense of accomplishment.
- Provide leadership opportunities.
- Promote good sportsmanship.
- Encourage self-discipline and individual responsibility.
- Encourage cooperation and concepts of team building.
- Provide healthy outlets for competition and physical fitness.
- Develop personal skills and talents.

The Board of Education believes that student participation in sports should be accompanied by student successes in school as measured by Grade Point Average (GPA), attendance and conduct. That belief has led the Beaufort County School District to require that all students who participate as members of middle or high school athletic teams must maintain a GPA no lower than 2.00.

Student athletes must also be in compliance with rules established by the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL), the statewide governing body for interscholastic athletics in South Carolina. SCHSL rules cover things like the age, health and transfers of students engaging in interscholastic athletic contests.

This brochure answers questions about Beaufort County School District Policy SS-36, commonly known as the Athletic Participation Policy, which was approved by the Board of Education in November 2011. The complete policy can be viewed on line at the district's website (www.beaufort.k12.sc.us), and printed copies are available at all middle and high schools.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Athletic Participation Policy, and to which students does the policy apply?

ANSWER: The Athletic Participation Policy requires that any student in grades 7-12 who wishes to participate as a member of an interscholastic sports team must have a minimum "cumulative" GPA of 2.00 (no lower than 77 on the district's 100-point grading scale). This refers to the average of all of that student's grades from the previous semester. The student must also maintain the minimum course load required by the SCHSL.

2. Why does our District have a Athletic Participation Policy when some other districts do not?

ANSWER: While participating in team sports can contribute to student growth in many ways, the school's primary goal is to make certain that all students learn the academic skills they need in order to succeed in college, in careers or in the military. The Beaufort County Board of Education's adoption of the Athletic Participation Policy is intended to send a strong message to students and educators that success in the classroom comes first, and that success in the classroom must be achieved before a student is permitted to participate on sports teams.

3. Can a student who is ineligible at the beginning of a semester become eligible during some point in the semester?

ANSWER: No. A student who is ineligible at the end of a semester will remain ineligible for participation for the entire next semester until he or she meets both District and SCHSL requirements. Even if a student has improved grades during the ineligible semester, he or she must still wait until the next semester to participate.

4. Does the policy give any special consideration for rising 6th and 9th-graders during their transition from elementary to middle and from middle to high school?

ANSWER: Yes. All students entering 7th and 9th grades will be allowed to participate on interscholastic sports teams and given one semester to obtain the required 2.00 GPA/77 grade aver-

age. Students must still meet SCHSL requirements. According to the SCHSL, sixth-graders can't participate in interscholastic sports.

5. How does the policy affect out-of-district transfer students?

ANSWER: Out-of-district transfer students with a GPA less than 2.00, but eligible according to SCHSL policy, will be eligible to participate on probation for one semester. Thereafter, s/he must meet the District's 2.0 GPA/77 grade average eligibility requirement.

6. What about special education students?

ANSWER: Special education students being served in a non-diploma program are eligible to participate if they are successfully meeting the requirements of their IEP. Diploma program special education students must have a 2.00 GPA/77 grade average.

7. What type of academic assistance is available for students who are in danger of falling below the 2.00 GPA?

ANSWER: Each middle and high school has an after-school tutorial program available to all students. The program is mandatory for those students who participate in competitive co-curricular activities and who are in danger of falling below the 2.00 GPA/77 grade average. Interim reports, report card grades, teacher/sponsor recommendations and coaching staff requirements are used to determine the pool of students required to attend the after-school tutorial program.

8. Can a student use summer school grades to help with eligibility?

ANSWER: Yes. For high school students, a maximum of two credits earned in a State Department of Education (SDE) approved summer school may apply towards first-semester eligibility. For middle school students, a maximum of two grades earned in a SDE-approved summer school may be used.

9. Can an ineligible student practice with a team/group?

ANSWER: The District translates "participation" to mean dressing or playing in competition.