

Oak Ridge Schools

Office of the Superintendent



Administrative Procedure 4.301

Interscholastic Athletics

October 1, 2015

Interscholastic athletics shall be administered as a part of the regular school program and shall be under the same administrative control as all other parts of the education program. Only middle school sixth, seventh and eighth grade students and high school students shall engage in interscholastic activities.

Where applicable, all high school and middle school athletic events shall be conducted under the rules and regulations of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) or Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association (TMSAA). Swimming is governed by the Tennessee Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association (TISCA) and the Knoxville Interscholastic Swim League (KISL).

No athletic game or event shall be scheduled during the school day unless it is a TSSAA district, regional or state contest or unless prior approval is given by the Superintendent of Schools. Middle school athletic events are not to be scheduled during the school day.

Only (1) game per week should be scheduled in football. In unforeseen circumstances two football games may be played in one week with Superintendent or designee approval. In other sports, the number of games per week shall be left to the discretion of the coach, with approval by the principal or designee.

At the high school, up to three events and/or tournaments per season can involve an overnight trip; however, no more than one day of school may be missed for these trips. (Under certain conditions, the Superintendent of Schools or designee may approve additional events.) These trips must be paid entirely from funds outside the Oak Ridge High School Athletic Department. TSSAA Tournament games would be an exception to this policy. (All overnight trips involving middle school athletics require Superintendent or designee approval.)

The maximum number of games, tournaments and meets shall follow TSSAA or TMSAA guidelines. Swimming may have up to 14 regular season meets and other state tournament events. The interscholastic teams are as follows:

Middle Schools: Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Track, and Volleyball.

High School: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track, and Volleyball.

No scheduled football game shall be played by Oak Ridge middle school or senior high school after Thanksgiving Day, except for TSSAA play-off games. Any post-season bowl game must be recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and approved by the Board of Education.

All practice schedules shall conform to TSSAA, TMSAA or the swim team associations with specific local high school schedules approved by the high school athletic director and principal. At the middle school, administrative guidelines outlining specific practice schedules, participants, and academic requirements shall be approved by the Superintendent of Schools.

Receipts and expenditures for school athletics shall be accounted for in the same manner as other student activities. Athletic accounts shall be charged for certain costs to the school system accrued by the fact of the sport or game.

October 1, 2015

All members of TSSAA and TMSAA sanctioned sports, the swim team and cheerleaders shall be required to have insurance, a physical examination, and completion of a school sports information form before they participate in athletics.

Middle School

Academic Eligibility

Participation consequences for failure to maintain academic standards required for participation in middle school interscholastic athletics will be initiated immediately upon the delivery of grade reports to students. Robertsville and Jefferson will both distribute grade reports on the same date, thus allowing both schools to implement the same eligibility period.

Coaches will use mid-term reports and nine week grade reports to determine academic eligibility of students. Students with failing grades (an F in any subject) lose eligibility as follows:

Mid-term Grade Reports – students with a failing grade(s) may continue to practice and dress out with the team but cannot compete until the failing grade(s) has been raised to passing (minimum of 70 average) There is no minimum time for ineligibility. The student regains eligibility immediately upon achieving passing grades in all subjects. The coach is responsible for communicating with the student's teacher(s) to ensure that the student has raised the grade(s) to passing before being allowed to compete.

End of 9 Week Grade Reports – students with failing grade(s) are ineligible for a minimum of two calendar weeks. Students may continue to practice and dress out with the team but cannot compete until the failing grade(s) has been raised to passing (minimum of 70 average). The student regains eligibility after two calendar weeks of ineligibility and upon achieving passing grades in all subjects. The coach is responsible for communicating with the student's teacher(s) to ensure that the student has raised the grade(s) to passing before being allowed to compete.

High School

Academic Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in athletic contests during any school year the student must earn five credits the preceding school year if less than 24 credits are required for graduation or six credits the preceding school year if 24 or more credits are required for graduation. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year. Academic eligibility for a student is based on the requirements of the school the student was attending at the conclusion of the previous school year.

Students who are ineligible the first semester may gain eligibility the second semester by passing five subjects (1/2 credit) or three blocks (one credit per block) or the equivalent.

Revisions go into effect August 3, 2015, allowing upcoming students eligible for participation beginning with the 2016/2017 school year to participate in preparatory activities (tryouts, etc.)

October 1, 2015