

Quick Check

Team and Player Registration:

All Member School teams and student-athletes competing in BC School Sports (BCSS) approved sports must be registered on a team in accordance with the BCSS Rules and Regulations prior to competing in all competition.

General Rule 1:

Student-athletes can only compete for the school at which they are registered.

General Rule 2:

There is a maximum age allowed for each level of competition.

General Rule 3:

Student-athletes are athletically eligible for five years, from entry into Grade 8.

General Rule 4:

Student-athletes cannot have graduated from secondary school.

General Rule 5:

Student-athletes must be full-time.

BC School Sports is a registered Society and the governing body for extra-curricular inter-school sport in British Columbia. BCSS is a membership organization of approximately 440 Middle, Junior and Senior Secondary schools in British Columbia. Membership is voluntary, but through membership schools agree that students, coaches and other participants will comply with the policies and Rules and Regulations established by the organization.

All Member School teams and student-athletes competing in BCSS-approved sports must be registered on a team in accordance with BCSS Rules and Regulations prior to competing in all Restricted competition.

Official Rules:

For a complete copy of BCSS Eligibility Regulations, please visit www.bcschoolsports.ca

Team and Player Registration:

All Member School teams and student-athletes (Grade 8-12) competing in BCSS-approved sports must be registered online with BCSS. Failure to properly register a team or an individual student-athlete will result in that team or individual student-athlete being ineligible for further competition (see rules for School Team Eligibility). A student-athlete's full name as written on their birth certificate must be used when registering.

Rationale for Competitive Rules:

All BCSS eligibility rules are in place to ensure fair and equitable competition among Member Schools. This same rationale is the basis for many other BCSS Competitive Rules and Regulations such as having specific seasons of play, multiple tiers based on school enrollment, and a strong policy against recruiting student-athletes.

Student Eligibility:

There are five basic eligibility rules for school teams and student-athletes participating in BCSS competition.

All Member School teams and student-athletes competing in BCSS-approved sports must be registered on a team in accordance with BCSS rules prior to competing in all competition.

1 Student-athletes can only compete for the school at which they are registered.

Some exceptions do exist and must be approved by BCSS. These exceptions are due to the variety of school configurations in B.C. as well as the BCSS purpose to encourage participation especially in the more rural and remote communities where smaller schools have had a history of not being able to field teams. Other than the above student-athletes cannot play for another school. Our goal is to maintain a competitive balance.

2 There is a maximum age allowed for each level of competition.

To encourage participation, proper athletic development, and equitable competition, many BCSS sports are organized in age-group competition. There is a maximum age allowed at each level of competition as well as a limited number of years in which a student-athlete can be eligible for a particular level of age-group competition. See Section III D3.

Grade 8 Competition:

Student-athletes must be under 15 years of age as of December 31st of the current school year and be in their first year of eligibility.

Grade 9 Competition:

Student-athletes must be under 16 years of age as of December 31st of the current school year and be in no more than their second year of eligibility.

Junior Competition:

Student-athletes must be under 17 years of age as of December 31st of the current school year and be in no more than their third year of eligibility.

Senior Competition:

Student-athletes must be under 19 years of age as of December 31st of the current school year and be in no more than their fifth year of eligibility.

3 Student-athletes are athletically eligible for five years, from entry into Grade 8.

To encourage athletic opportunities throughout the normal five years of high school and in support of equitable competition, student-athletes are limited to athletic eligibility for a five-year period starting with initial entry to Grade 8 (See Section III D4.1).

The eligibility calendar continues to run regardless of a student-athlete's actual participation on a team. If a student-athlete does not try out for a team, does not make the team, withdraws from school, is asked to leave school, or the school does not offer a particular sport during a time period that school year or portion still counts toward the student-athlete's five-year period of eligibility. Job action in a School District or school does not extend eligibility dates.

A student-athlete who has been out of BC on a BCSS-approved Exchange Program and meets conditions in Section III D4.1.5 may have up to one year of eligibility restored.

Member Schools are encouraged to file an eligibility application for student-athletes who have not completed their academic requirements in a five year period due to a serious accident or illness.

The key to Section III D4.1.3 is that the student-athlete has been unable to academically progress during the specific period of time directly due to the severity of the medical condition. Medical documentation and school absentee records are required as part of the application. Information regarding a student-athlete's involvement in a school or School District's "hospital / homebound" program should also be submitted.

4 Student-athletes cannot graduated from secondary school.

Student-athletes cannot complete BC Ministry of Education graduation requirements in the preceding school year nor can they accept a Senior Secondary Certificate of Standing in the current school year and be athletically eligible. A student-athlete may complete graduation requirements during 2016-2017, continue to take courses, and remain eligible as long as they do not accept the Certificate of Standing and they stay at their home school.

5 Student-Athletes must be Full-Time.

It is required that student-athletes must be enrolled in the equivalent of a 75% course load during the 2016-2017 school year to remain eligible. (see Section III D2.2)

Transfers:

A transfer of schools after the start of the first year of eligibility may limit athletic eligibility at the new school.

All student -athletes who transfer schools after the first year of eligibility must have their Athletic Director determine the student-athlete's eligibility based on BCSS Competitive Rules and Regulations. For eligible student-athletes, an online transfer must be completed and any documentation sent to and approved by the BCSS office before the student-athlete becomes eligible to compete. For ineligible student-athletes, an eligibility application form must be completed and sent to the Eligibility Officer for processing.

In support of the goal of equitable competition, student-athletes are eligible for the school at which they are registered on the first day of their 2nd year of eligibility: this is a student-athlete's "home school." Any transfer to another school after that day may affect athletic eligibility at the new school for a 12-month period. (see Section III D9) A student-athlete who has transferred into a new school and participates on a team at the new school affects the competitive balance of the team and therefore the competitive balance of the league or regional competition.

Student-athletes already at the school may lose their opportunity to participate. The transfer restrictions do not assume or imply that any recruiting or "shopping around" has taken place. It is simply to protect the competitive balance inherent between schools' existing student populations.

All transfers must be approved by the BCSS office.

Eligibility Application/Appeal Process:

BC School Sports has a two level application / appeal process available to Member Schools if the school believes that there are extraordinary circumstances regarding the eligibility status of a student-athlete. (see Section III D11)

First level: An eligibility application to the Eligibility Officer.

Second level: An appeal to the Eligibility Appeals Committee. This committee is comprised of six experienced volunteers from the BCSS membership who are all well-versed in the BCSS Eligibility Rules and the intent and spirit of those rules.

The Eligibility Officer will accept applications from August 15 through until June 1 each year.

The Eligibility Appeals Committee will meet six times in 2016-2017. Appeal meeting dates are:

- Saturday, September 24, 2016
- Saturday, October 22, 2016
- Saturday, December 3, 2016
- Saturday, January 14, 2017
- Saturday, March 11, 2017
- Saturday, June 3, 2017

All new additional information must be submitted to the BCSS office at least ten days prior to the scheduled meetings. No late appeals will be accepted. At this time member schools may request an appointment to speak with the Eligibility Appeals Committee as well.

Over the years of province-wide eligibility rules, decisions made have established numerous but specific precedents. Appeals that appear to be similar on their surface, may in fact be very different in detail, and may result in different decisions being made by the committee.

If an application is denied by the Eligibility Officer and there is either new information or there has been a technical error made by the Eligibility Officer, the Member School may submit a second level appeal to the Eligibility Appeals Committee, who meet six times per year as noted above.

Eligibility Appeals can only be filed by a Member School, and must include permission from the student-athlete or parent (guardian) for the release of the student-athlete's personal records and academic information.

Eligibility applications must be submitted on the 2016-2017 Eligibility Application Form, and include all required documentation.

There is a \$50 administrative fee for each eligibility application. There is a \$200 fee for an eligibility appeal application. The \$200 will be returned if the appeal is accepted.



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ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY OVERVIEW 2016-2017

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