



Student Eligibility Guidance for High School Principals and Athletic Administrators

Bylaw 4-4-5, 7/8 Grade Scholarship

This document will focus on Bylaw 4-4-4 and 4-4-5, which read as follows:

BYLAW 4-4-4 *A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of four of all subjects carried the immediately preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.*

BYLAW 4-4-5 *A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades at the conclusion of that grading period in a minimum of four of those subjects in which the student received grades.*

Bylaw 4-4-4 requires that a student who is rising into the first grading period after advancement from 8th grade meet the standard found in Bylaw 4-4-5 – passing four subjects from the last grading period of the 8th grade school year, which would be the immediately preceding grading period.

Bylaw 4-4-5 is the standard 7/8 grade eligibility rule. It is based on a school's grading period and requires a student to have received, when that grading period is concluded (think of this as a "snapshot" of the student's academic performance up to that time), passing grades (not necessarily a traditional letter) in four subjects. Please be advised that it is necessary to verify compliance with this bylaw at the end of each grading period regardless of the educational option the student-athlete has selected. Whether the student is home-schooled; is attending a Community, STEM or non-public school as a non-enrolled student; taking an online credit recovery course; is attending the Career Center, is enrolled in College Credit Plus; is taking Credit flex courses; or any of the other myriad options for students, the school administrator must receive a written accounting of the grades received or evidence of passing the requisite four subjects when the grading period of the member school at which the student is seeking eligibility ends.

Here is a form to assist you in collecting those grades:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/CCP.Non-EnrolledStudentGradeSheet.pdf>

Here is the guidance to assist you in understanding how to compute equivalencies:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/EligibilityGuidelinesGuidanceCounselors.pdf>

Bylaw 4-4-5 has two exceptions, each of which is explained below and includes the information needed to waive the bylaw in accordance with each exception.



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

EXCEPTION 1

EXCEPTION 1: The Executive Director's office may waive the requirements of this bylaw provided the student has been physically withdrawn or removed from school because of circumstances due to personal accident, illness or family hardship. An appeal for such a waiver must come from the principal of the school and be in writing. The appeal for waiver shall contain documents with school and medical supporting evidence.

Exception 1 Guidance: This exception recognizes that students who cannot attend school during a grading period or who must take a reduced course load should be provided relief from this scholarship requirement, and thus the standard of passing five one credit courses (or the equivalent), when the reasons for that inability to meet that standard can be verified, should be waived. Please note that in order for the Executive Director's Office to consider application of this exception, this supporting evidence must be contemporaneous with the decision to withdraw the student from school or reduce the student's course load. Evidence obtained "after the fact" will not be accepted. **To request a ruling on Exception 1**, please complete the following form:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/4-4Hardship.pdf>

EXCEPTION 2

EXCEPTION 2: If a student's failure to meet the requirements of this bylaw are due to an "incomplete" given in one or more courses which the student was taking during the grading period in question, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Executive Director's office once the "incomplete" has been changed to a passing letter grade provided:

- a) the failure to complete the required coursework during the grading period was due to calamity day(s), family tragedy, or illness or accident as verified by a physician contemporaneous at the time of the incident; and*
- b) the "incomplete" was given in accordance with Board of Education/other governing board adopted policies and procedures and is applicable to all students in the school; and*
- c) the previously scheduled work and/or exams is/are completed within the time period provided in Board policy for completing work required to convert an "incomplete" into a letter grade; and*
- d) there is no evidence that the "incomplete" was given in order to afford the student extended time in order to provide the student tutoring or other educational services simply to avoid a failing grade.*

Note: This exception only applies where an "incomplete" has been issued and not a letter grade that is subsequently changed as a result of the extended time/additional work. If a high school district/system does NOT have a Board Policy on the Restoration of an Incomplete to a Grade or did not have a policy when this exception was requested, the student shall not be able to avail him or herself of this exception.

Exception 2 Guidance: Please note that this exception only applies when a student has received an Incomplete in one or more courses, not a letter grade. Further, if a high school district/system does NOT have a Board Policy on the Restoration of an Incomplete to a Grade or did not have a policy when this exception was requested, the student shall not be able to avail him or herself of this exception. **To request a ruling on Exception 2**, please complete the following form:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/4-4Incomplete.pdf>



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NOTE ON ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR:

Please note that the concept of “substantively eligible,” as expressed in Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, is NOT applicable to this high school scholarship standard. Requests for appeal citing this bylaw shall be denied. *“Students who have not met the high school or middle school scholarship requirement are not “substantively eligible;” and a student who fails to register for enough credit hours, fails a class(es) or drops a class that lowers the student below the requisite number of credits, always has a shared responsibility for this shortcoming thus disqualifying such shortcoming from the “due solely to an administrative error” category. Therefore; this Bylaw shall never be used to waive the standards found in Bylaws 4-4-1 or 4-4-5.”*

NOTE ON EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS:

On occasion, the OHSAA is asked to provide guidance on how to evaluate completion of a course requirement that is being taken in one of these non-traditional offerings. The Board of Education or governing board of each member school is essentially tasked with that responsibility, but as educators we can provide suggestions. Some school districts set standards for completion, particularly with online or credit flex courses, which require a student to complete a specific percentage of the course at the end of each grading period in order to receive a satisfactory grade. This process keeps students engaged throughout the duration of that course work and deters a student from failing to complete any work during a specific grading period. To assist with these options, we do need to know the duration of the course and the credit to be awarded. When supplied with that information along with the delivery mechanism, we may be able to help you with this determination. Please feel free to consult us if you have any questions.

Please feel free to contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) or Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) if you have any questions!