

Rule 160-5-1-19 Competitive Interscholastic Activities
Descriptor Code: IDE (2) Issued Date: 07/23/96

- A. MacIntyre Park Middle School shall develop an ineligibility list each semester. This list shall show the student's name, grade and period of ineligibility. The names of all students who fail to pass five subjects shall appear on the list. The list shall be given to each coach and/or sponsor to ensure that ineligible students do not participate. The list shall be retained in the school's file for five years.

Students gain or lose eligibility on the first day of the subsequent semester. The length of the semester will be the minimum length of the ineligibility period. Students must pass five subjects in the semester immediately preceding participation. These subjects must carry credit toward grade promotion. Summer school is an extension of the second semester of the school year. Independent study course credit taken in summer school is not acceptable to gain eligibility. The Thomasville City Board of Education does not recognize summer school credit earned in non-accredited home study programs or non-accredited private schools. Accreditation recognized under this rule shall be from one or more of the following: Georgia Accrediting Commission or a regional or national accreditation agency. A student may have 14 calendar days after the close of each semester to complete make-up work that shall be accepted on the same basis for all students. A student is ineligible until the make-up work is completed and the required passing grade(s) is/are recorded on the permanent record.

Physical examinations are required for all students who participate in competitive interscholastic athletics and cheerleading in grades 6-8. The annual physical examination must indicate approval for participation. An examination form must be signed by a licensed physician prior to the student's participation in any tryout, practice or conditioning (whichever comes first). The physical examination form must include the date that the exam was performed (month, day, year), the student's name and the physician's signature.

The following time restrictions must be observed. Competitive interscholastic activities and all individual and group practice for such activities by students in grades 6-8 shall be conducted outside the six-hour academic school day.

Group and individual practice on a day preceding a school day may not begin prior to the end of the regular school six-hour academic day and must end by 7:00 p.m. Only one day or night each week preceding a school day may be used to schedule a competitive interscholastic activity (tournaments excluded). The activity must be held outside the six-hour academic day and must be completed by 7:00 p.m.

No student shall participate in more than one basketball game per week on a day preceding a school day. It is permissible to play girls on one day and boys on another. It is permissible to schedule and play a game or match in one sport on one day and another game or match in another sport on another day, provided the game or match is completed by **7:00 p.m.** and all participants are eligible. Schools may play a seventh grade football game on one day and an eighth grade football game on another, provided no student participates in more than one game or sport per week.

Students in grades seven and eight shall not play more than 60% of the number of regularly scheduled games played by the high school varsity in any given sport. One tournament, not to exceed four games, may be played in addition to the regular-season games. Students in grade 6 shall not play more than 50% of the number of regularly scheduled games played by the high school varsity in any given sport. One tournament, not to exceed four games, may be played in addition to the regular season games.

The officially adopted dates of the Georgia High School Association shall be followed. Competitive interscholastic activities on dates not set by the GHSA shall be considered in season for the entire school year.

All out-of-season practice, except spring football practice, is prohibited by this policy during the school year (August 1 through the end of the school year for students). Spring football practice is permitted during the month of May for 10 consecutive school days as provided for in the Georgia High School Association's Schedule of Events Calendar. However, such practices shall be scheduled so that it does not interfere with other regular season sports or with final examinations. The school is prohibited from having an interscholastic game during this 10-day period. If a team or individuals are participating in scheduled league or association playoffs, the individuals are excused for the duration of the playoffs.

Neither schools, sponsors nor coaches shall suggest, require, or otherwise attempt to influence students to participate in, practice and/or condition for a competitive interscholastic activity outside the Georgia High School Association designated season.

Retention of students for athletic purposes (red-shirting) is prohibited. If school chooses to retain a student in grades 6-8 who has passing grades, the school shall document the educational reasons for the retention. Written documentation shall include the following information.

1. A parent/guardian written request outlining the reasons for requesting the retention and/or a school-initiated written request with accompanying written approval of the request by the parent/guardian.
2. Statements from two professional sources other than school officials justifying the retention for educational reasons.
3. Written approval of the retention request and justification of the retention for educational reasons by the principal, the superintendent and by two teachers, other than athletic coach, who have taught the student.
4. Written documentation shall be available prior to the retention of the student and shall be maintained in the student's permanent record.

I. The following special provisions exist:

1. Special education students shall meet the same eligibility requirements as regular students, except that the courses passed must be according to the student's IEP. Special Olympics or other programs designed exclusively for students with disabilities are exempt.

2. Ineligible students are prohibited from practicing or dressing out for competitive interscholastic events.
 3. MacIntyre Park Middle School shall maintain documentation and, upon request of the department of education, produce evidence that an ineligible student did not participate. Such evidence could include rosters, scorebooks, newspaper reports, yearbooks and/or testimony from a coach, sponsor or student. Awards banquets are exempt from this rule.
- J. The Thomasville City Schools' personnel must report suspected violations of this policy to the superintendent. The superintendent shall investigate and report all violations to the state superintendent of schools.
- K. Requests for waiver of this rule must be made to the department of education and the Georgia Board of Education. The request may be made by the student, the student's parent/guardian, the student's principal, the school system or the Thomasville City Board of Education.

MPMS EXPECTATIONS FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. All coaches and/or sponsors are expected to follow all procedures and policies set forth by both the TCS Board of Education and MPMS.
2. Coaches and sponsors are expected to lead by example. Character and sportsmanship are the main priorities of all extracurricular activities at MPMS.
3. Participation in any extracurricular activity is a privilege earned for academic success, good discipline and the ability to represent TCS, MPMS and the community of Thomasville. Discrepancies in any area can result in the student not participating.