

SECTION VIII

ACTIVITIES/ACADEMIC/NON-COMPETITIVE SPIRIT

8.1 ACTIVITIES

8.1.1 Interscholastic Eligibility: Scholastic Requirements

- A. A Student shall have a 2.0 grade point average with no more than one (1) F, based on a 4.0 grading scale, or its equivalent, either cumulatively or for the six or nine week grading period immediately preceding participation. Grades earned during a summer session must be placed on a student's transcript by the school registrar prior to the first day of the Fall semester in order for the course to be utilized for eligibility purposes.
 1. All class work counted for eligibility must be acceptable for graduation.
 2. The GPA is based on a 4.0 scale with an allowance for consideration of honors points.
 3. Cumulative provision
 - a. The cumulative provision may be applied only at the beginning of a semester.
 - b. Only semester grades can be used, and all semester grades starting with the 9th grade year must be utilized. (As cumulative grades start with the 9th grade year, the cumulative provision cannot be used for middle school/junior high Students.)
 - c. The cumulative provision may not be applied if a Student has more than one "F" in the semester grading period immediately preceding participation.
 - d. Stricter guidelines may be imposed by the local school board/district.
 4. A Student must be enrolled in more than half of the member school's regular class schedule and in regular attendance during the current as well as the previous grading period.
 5. A student enrolled in on campus courses for less than 51% of the school day will have their eligibility determined by semester grades only.
 6. Pursuant to State Statute 22-12-2.1.: Interscholastic extracurricular activities; student participation.
 - a. No student shall be absent from school for school-sponsored interscholastic extracurricular activities in excess of fifteen days per semester, and no class may be missed in excess of fifteen times per semester. Participation in state and national competitions is exempt.
 7. Prior to participation in a state conference or competition, the activity/sponsor/coach must submit a completed and signed NMAA Verification of Eligibility form attached to a list of participating students to the NMAA office. This form may be found on the NMAA website at www.nmact.org. The link for submitting this information is located on the Activities page of the NMAA website.

8.1.2 Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities are school sponsored activities not required by law or the Educational Standards for New Mexico Schools which have practice, meetings, events, performances, or interscholastic competition. Implementation of the Public School Reform Act precludes using school time for practice, meetings, and events.

Extracurricular activities provide worthwhile contributions to student growth and development. While these activities may have an indirect relation to the school's curriculum, extracurricular activities do not include direct instruction of the state-required student competencies established in Educational Standards for New Mexico Schools.

GPA and attendance requirements of the Public School Code apply for all extracurricular activities. (See 8.1.1)

Q1: A Student is a member of a school's concert band. The school will be participating in the State Concert Band Contest. The Student has not met the minimum 2.0 or Cumulative GPA requirements for the previous grading period. Is the Student eligible to participate in the Contest?

A1: Since GPA and attendance requirements of the Public School Code apply for all extracurricular contests, the Student would be ineligible to participate.

8.1.3 Co-Curricular Activities

Co-curricular activities are activities that are an extension of classroom instruction which are governed by the Educational Standards for New Mexico Schools or local board policy. Classroom instruction should require no more than twenty (20) hours per month of time for a student outside of the regularly scheduled instructional day for practice, meetings, events, or performance. Co-curricular activities are required as part of the course work if a student is to receive credit for the course. Co-curricular activities do not require that students be absent from class other than the sponsoring class for practice, meetings, events, or performance. Scholastic requirements for co-curricular activities may be waived depending on the specific situation. Contact the NMAA Director of Activities for interpretation.

Q1: A student is enrolled in a marching band class which meets during the school day. The band will be performing during halftime of the homecoming football game. The student has not met the minimum 2.0 or Cumulative GPA requirement for the previous grading period. Is the student eligible to participate?

A1: If participation in the event is a required component of the class, and the event is not a contest, the student is eligible to participate.

8.1.4 Constitutions

Activities organizations that are affiliated with the Association must have a current constitution on file with the Activities Coordinator in the Association. These constitutions must be updated when applicable and should be received by the first day of the current school year. Participation in NMAA activities is subject to the national charter and constitution of each individual activity.

8.1.5 Out-of-State Travel

Activities organizations that plan to compete or perform in interscholastic competitions outside the state of New Mexico must receive written approval from the local school district.

8.1.6 Home School Student Eligibility

A. As per New Mexico State Legislation, home school students are permitted to participate in NMAA activities **ONLY** at the public school in the district in which they live.

B. The individual activity, based on the constitution of its national governing organization, has the purview to allow home school teams to participate.

C. A home school student who participates on a home school team is not eligible for state awards.

D. A home school team, although eligible to participate in state competitions, is ineligible to compete for state awards.

E. A home school student who participates on a public school team is eligible to compete for individual awards under the name of that public school.

F. A home school student's participation on a public school team counts towards the final placement of that team in regards to any state awards.

G. Additional participation guidelines such as practice requirements, entry fees, etc., shall be determined by the individual activity.

H. Home school students are subject to any and all requirements set forth by the activity.

I. A school district may exclude students from co-curricular activities based on district enrollment policies.

Note: Please see NMAA Bylaws 10.5 for further information

8.2 NON-COMPETITIVE SPIRIT – SIDELINE ONLY

8.2.1 Declaring Status

Schools must declare whether they will participate in competitive spirit or sideline only spirit at the beginning of each two-year alignment/classification block. The declaration form may be found on the NMAA website at www.nmact.org. The link for submitting this information is located in the Forms section of the NMAA website.

a. Cheer and dance/drill squads at the same school may declare differently.

b. The decision will stand throughout the duration of the two-year block. A change may be petitioned through the NMAA and will ultimately be decided upon by the Executive Director.

Note: The guidelines listed herein apply to sideline (non-competitive) squads only. Competitive Squads should refer to Section VII for Bylaws that pertain to Spirit.

8.2.2 Scholastic Eligibility

All Spirit Students must adhere to the same scholastic requirements set forth by the Association for athletic participation. (See 6.2 and 8.1.1)

8.2.3 Residency

All Spirit Students must adhere to the same residency requirements set forth by the Association for athletic participation. (See 6.3 and 8.2.5/8.2.6)

8.2.4 Coaches Education

All Coaches and Sponsors must have a coaching license which is issued by the State Education Agency and be an employee or have a contractual relationship with that particular school system (this applies to both voluntary and paid individuals). All cheer/dance/drill or spirit coaches/sponsors, and athletic coaches (or those individuals who fulfill the responsibilities attached to these groups or teams in said capacity) are required to be licensed by the state and must take the NMAA Coaches Education Program prior to filling the role of coach/sponsor/advisor. Requirements of this provision may be waived by the Secretary of Education for temporary licensure.

Note: Spirit coaches must also complete the NFHS/AACCA Spirit Safety Certification Course.

8.2.5 Safety

All NFHS safety rules apply to all NMAA spirit squads at all times. Violation of safety guidelines at anytime during the school year may result in NMAA sanctions.

8.2.6 Physicals/Insurance/Catastrophic Insurance Requirements

Spirit participants must maintain an annual physical that is kept on file with the local school. (Please see 6.12 for specific guidelines). Spirit participants must also have on file insurance coverage that includes all Students participating in any spirit organization

8.2.7 Performances

For purposes of performances, i.e. pep assemblies, weekly games and half-time performances, Spirit Students may perform regardless of residency status. However, all Students must meet scholastic requirements in order to perform.

8.2.8 Competition

Sideline only/non-competitive squads are not eligible to compete at any level.