

Policy 6220

Waiver of High School Physical Education Graduation Requirement

Effective August 1, 2025

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As stated in Section 3313.603 of the Ohio Revised Code, students in grades 9-11 may be excused from the physical education course requirement by participating in school-sponsored interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir, or cheerleading for at least two athletic seasons during grades 9-11.

The Ohio Revised Code defines school-sponsored interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir, or cheerleading as any high school athletic team, high school cheerleading squad, high school marching band, or show choir of the student's Catholic high school that participates in the regular athletic season(s) (as such seasons are established under the rules and bylaws of the Ohio High School Athletic Association) and is operated under the supervision of a school employee. The following types of activities are excluded from consideration for credit under the Ohio Revised Code: participation in non-interscholastic leagues such as the AAU or CYO; athletic club activities and/or club sports; and/or private athletic training. No credit shall be issued for such activities.

High school students in grades 9-11 who meet this requirement shall not be required to complete any physical education course as a condition to graduate. In order to be eligible for graduation, a high school student who is excused from the high school physical education class requirement must complete at least one-half unit (60 hours of instruction/one semester) in another course of study. Such instruction shall be separate from and in addition to all other courses of study and hours of instruction that are required to graduate.

At the conclusion of each season, coaches/directors will submit a roster of students who have satisfactorily completed the full season. The guidance office of each high school will track and record this information.

A high school student who has not fulfilled his/her physical education requirement prior to the beginning of his/her senior year will be scheduled into a physical education class. Participation in school-sponsored interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir, or cheerleading during the senior year cannot be used to fulfill the physical education graduation requirement.

Eligibility for Physical Education Waiver

The first season a student will be eligible to participate in the waiver will be the Fall season of 2025. A season will be defined in terms of Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons. If a student, for example, mainly participates with the soccer program, but kicks for the football team on Friday nights, that participation for the purposes of the PE waiver would be one season – Fall. A full season is determined to be from the first regular season contest through the last contest. A student-athlete must complete the full season in "good standing" for the season to be counted toward the PE waiver. Other activities which involve physical activity on the part of students may not be counted toward the two semesters of physical education. The state statute specifically limits the participation to

interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir, and cheerleading. There is no authority granted to the school or to the Diocese of Columbus to include any additional participation.

The statute requires participation “for at least two full seasons.” There is no provision in the law that would permit any type of partial excuse or partial credit, such as participation in one season. There is also no provision in the law for mixing one athletic season with one PE class. The requirement is for two full seasons of a qualifying sport OR two semesters of PE. If a student is cut or quits participation on a team, the season during which a student was cut or quit the activity could not be used to meet the two-season requirement and the student may need to complete the PE course requirement. However, injury will not prevent the completion of one season if the principal, athletic director, and coach determine that the student actively participated with the team during the injury and took part in any physical rehabilitation required to treat the injury. Student team managers, student trainers, statisticians, helpers, etc. are not eligible for the waiver. Only students physically participating in the activity are eligible.

When a student qualifies for the waiver, it shall be listed on his/her transcript as “PE Waiver” with no credit assigned. The 0.5 credit that would normally be earned through PE classes will be recovered by other elective courses.

List of Qualifying Activities

Baseball
Basketball
Bowling
Cross Country
Field Hockey
Football
Golf
Gymnastics
Ice Hockey
Lacrosse
Soccer
Softball
Swimming/Diving
Tennis
Track & Field
Volleyball
Water Polo
Wrestling
Cheerleading
Marching Band
Show Choir

Revision History:



Student P.E. Waiver

Student Name

Student Date of Birth

The student listed has completed a Junior Varsity or Varsity Sport

Season 1 Sport: _____

School Year: _____

Season: _____

Coach Name

Coach Signature

Date

Athletic Director Name

Athletic Director Signature

Date

The student listed has completed a Junior Varsity or Varsity Sport

Season 2 Sport: _____

School Year: _____

Season: _____

Coach Name

Coach Signature

Date

Athletic Director Name

Athletic Director Signature

Date

School Use Only

School Counselor/Administrator Signature: _____

Date: _____