**Houston County Middle School Athletics Requirements for Participation**

**HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOLS COMPETITIVE INTERSCHOLASTIC**

**EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

 Principals, coaches, extracurricular sponsors and other appropriate personnel are to use the following guidelines to establish the eligibility of students for participation in competitive interscholastic extracurricular activities. All students who participate in a competitive interscholastic extracurricular activity must appear on the eligibility roster. Middle schools may use the roster format found in the Standards Manual. All questions concerning eligibility under State Rule 160-5-1-.18 and .19 should be addressed to the Board office in Perry.

 **Note: Ineligible students are prohibited from practicing or dressing out for any competitive extracurricular activity.**

**7th Grade Athletic Eligibility**

\*Students that are retained are ineligible for the entire school year; first and second semester.

 **First Semester** – All students entering the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for interscholastic extracurricular activities for fall semester.

**Second Semester** - To be eligible for participation in competitive interscholastic extracurricular activities the second semester of the seventh grade year, the **student must have passed three academic classes and have a 70 average for their four connection classes the previous semester** and be enrolled in six subjects the current semester.

 **ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN SEVENTH GRADE ATHLETIC/SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

If a student enrolled in seventh grade meets the eligibility requirements above and will not have reached their 14th birthday prior to May 1st of the school year, the student will participate on seventh grade sports teams. If a student meets the eligibility requirements above and will have reached the 14th birthday prior to May 1st of the school year, the student must participate on eighth grade sports teams.

**8th Grade Athletic Eligibility**

**\***Students who are retained are ineligible for interscholastic extracurricular activities for the entire school year; first and second semester.

\* Students who are placed are ineligible first semester, but may gain eligibility their second semester as long as they meet the grade and age requirements.

\* It should not be assumed that because a student is in the next grade they are automatically eligible. Eligibility for 8th grade always depends on the grades earned the previous semester along with being promoted.

**First Semester** – To be eligible for participation in competitive interscholastic extracurricular activities the first semester of the eighth grade year, the **student must have passed three academic classes and have a 70 average for their four connection classes the previous semester** and be enrolled in six subjects the current semester.

**Second Semester** - To be eligible for participation in competitive interscholastic extracurricular activities the second semester of the eighth grade year, the **student must have passed three academic classes and have a 70 average for their four connection classes the previous semester** and be enrolled in six subjects the current semester.

**ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION IN EIGHTH GRADE ATHLETIC/SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

 If a student enrolled in the eighth grade meets the eligibility requirements above and will not have reached their 16th birthday prior to May 1st of the school year, the student will participate on eighth grade sports teams. A student in the eighth grade who will have reached the 16th birthday prior to May 1 of the school year will be ineligible to play on eighth grade sports teams.

**Note: For 7th and 8th Grade: If retained, a student is ineligible the first semester and may not gain eligibility the second semester.**

**The following will govern Houston County Middle School Athletic Eligibility:**

         **4 Semester Rule – No student may be eligible to participate at the middle school level for a period lasting longer than 4 semesters; two fall semesters and two spring semesters.**

         **If a student that is ruled ineligible competes interscholastically, one or more of the following actions shall be taken against the school involved in the interest of restitution and fairness to the competing schools:**

* **Require that individual and/or team records and performance achieved during competition be vacated or stricken.**
* o   **Require that team victories be forfeited to opponent(s)**

o   **Require that team awards earned by the school or individual awards earned be returned.**

o   **If it is determined that the school has exercised every reasonable precaution and has been deceived regarding the students data, any and all penalties may be set aside.**

         **Student athletes who are charged in the community with a felony or misdemeanor offense are subject to suspension or dismissal from middle school athletic teams.**