

VHSL Eligibility Rules

There are 13 individual eligibility regulations. The first 7 are applicable to all student participants. The last 6 apply only to those participants on athletic teams.

A. General Rules Applicable to All Students

28A-1-1 Age Rule - The student shall not have reached the age of 19 on or before the first day of August of the school year in which he/she wishes to compete.

28A-2-1 Bona Fide Student Rule – The student shall be a regular bona fide student in good standing of the school which he/she represents.

28A-3-1 Enrollment Rule – The student shall have been regularly enrolled in the school which he/she represents not later than the fifteenth school day of the semester.

28-2-4-1 Grade Rule – The student shall be enrolled in the last four year of high school.

28A-2-5-1 Scholarship Rule – The student shall:

- (a) For the first semester be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation; and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding year or the immediately preceding semester for schools that certify credit on a semester basis; and
- (b) For the second semester be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation; and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding semester.

28A-2-6-1 Semester Rule – The student shall not have been enrolled in the last *four* years of high school for a period of more than eight consecutive semesters, beginning with the semester in which he/she was enrolled for the first time in the ninth grade. The eight consecutive semesters shall be counted continuously from that point, regardless of whether or not he/she remains continuously enrolled in school.

28A-7-A – Transfer Rule – The student shall not have enrolled in one high school and subsequently transferred to and enrolled in another high school without a corresponding change in the residence of his/her parents, parent, or guardian. The sending and receiving VHSL school principals are required to complete and file the VHSL Transfer Form, acknowledging that to the best of their knowledge the student has met all aspects of the transfer rule or its exceptions. Home instruction does not constitute enrollment in a public school. Home schooling is a process through which Virginia Code compulsory education requirements may be met, as is private schooling. Home schooling is the equivalent of school enrollment for Transfer Rule purposes, and determining whether the student has met Scholarship Rule requirements of having passed five academic subjects recognized by the Virginia Department of Education in the most recent prior semester.

B. Regulation Governing Athletes Only

28B-1-1 All-Star Participation Rule – Only students of member schools who have completed their eligibility in a sports may participate in no more than one all-star game in that sports season prior to graduation from high school.

28B-2-1 Amateur Rule – A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasure benefits derived therefrom.

28-3-1 Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination Rule – The student shall have submitted to the principal of his/her school, prior to becoming a member of any school athletic squad or team, League Form No. 2 (Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination Form), completely filled in and properly signed, attesting that he/she has been examined and found to be physically fit for athletic competition, and that his/her parents consent to his/her participation.

28-4-1 Award Rule – Students may accept permissible awards presented or approved by the student's school.

28-5-1 College Participation Rule – The student shall not have been a member of a college team in the sport in which he/she desires to represent his/her school.

28-6-1 Independent Team Rule – Student responsibility for sports participation. During the sports season for the relevant sports, a student may, while a member of a school squad or team engaged in interscholastic sports become a member of or participate with an organized team in the same sport which is independent of the school's control so long as such participation does not conflict with the scheduled activities of the school squad or team.