



2016-17 KNOX COUNTY SCHOOLS

Middle School Interscholastic Track Regulations

Revised *Dec. 6, 2016*

Revisions are in *bold italics*

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MEMBERSHIP

All middle schools of the Knox County School System shall comprise the membership of the Knox County Track League.

DISTRICT

The schools shall compete in one district as follows:

Bearden	Karns
Carter	Northwest
Cedar Bluff	Powell
Farragut	South-Doyle
Gresham	Vine
Halls	West Valley
Holston	Whittle Springs

PHYSICALS AND PARENT PERMISSION

No student shall be allowed to participate in any form of practice or meet until the principal has on file evidence of a physical examination by a Medical Doctor or a Nurse Practitioner and a signed statement by the parent/guardian giving the student permission to participate, not prior to April 15. Knox County Sports Medical Permission Forms shall be used for this documentation.

ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. No student shall participate more than three seasons.
2. A student shall have 6 semesters to complete 4 possible semesters of participation after entering the 7th grade.
3. Any student who repeats the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade after having passed the grade shall not be eligible until they have reached the next higher grade.

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4. No student shall be eligible to participate if he/she becomes fifteen years of age on or before August 1.
5. A student shall have been promoted academically to the next higher grade.
6. Participation as a fifth grader shall not reduce the number of semesters a student is allowed to participate after enrolling in the sixth grade.
7. Academic Eligibility
 - a. Students must have a “C” average at the end of the first semester grading period to participate.
 - b. Students must maintain a “C” average each 9-week grading period to be eligible to participate in meets.
 - All subjects are included in determining grade point average.
 - Averages are not to be rounded up.
 - A grade report form with all participants shall be sent to the Athletics Specialist office each grading period during season.
 - c. Anytime a student is added to the team, an eligibility form with the student’s last report card grade must be sent to the Athletics Specialist prior to participation.
8. Students Changing Schools

Residence. A student changing schools for any reason, to be eligible, must live at home with his/her parent(s) or guardian(s), unless:

- a. the student is moving as a direct result of the dissolution of the student’s home due to death;
- b. the student is moving as a direct result of the divorce of the student’s parents; or
- c. the student is moving as a direct result of the separation of the student’s parents, provided a complaint or petition for absolute divorce has been filed with a court having jurisdiction to grant divorce.

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“Transfer Student” Defined. A transfer student is any student changing schools for any reason other than having completed the highest or terminal grade at another school. A student who must change schools because he/she has completed the highest grade at his/her previous school is not considered a transfer student and is eligible to participate in athletics at any school he/she attends, without further approval, provided he/she satisfies the residence requirement above.

Athletics Specialist Approval Required. A school may not allow a transfer student to participate in athletics until his/her eligibility has been verified and approved by the Athletics Specialist. The school is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied to the Athletics Specialist for this purpose. A letter from the school student is leaving, stating the move was not for Athletic or disciplinary reason is required.

Participation While Ineligible. If a student who is ineligible, under these provisions regarding students changing schools, competes in a contest while ineligible, then the student upon becoming eligible under these provisions will nonetheless be ineligible to participate in twice the number of contests in which he/she participated as an ineligible student or will be ineligible for the remainder of the season, whichever is less.

9. Eligible Transfer Students. Except as otherwise provided in number 10 below, the following transfer students are eligible:
 - a. The student has no athletic record in the previous twelve months in any sports sanctioned by KCS;
 - b. There has been a bona fide change of residence by the student’s entire family unit in which (1) the old residence is outside the zone of the new school, (2) the new residence is outside the zone of the old school, and (3) the new residence is inside the zone of the new school. If such a change of residence occurs between school years, the student must transfer at the beginning of the school year to be eligible. If the change of residence occurs during the school year, the student may transfer without loss of eligibility (1) at the time his/her parents change residence; (2) at the end of the next report card period; (3) at the close of the semester or term; or (4) at the close of the school year;
 - c. The student who has been determined by a Court to be dependent and neglected and consequently changes residence and schools as a result of a Court order;

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- d. The student who has been determined by a Court to be dependent and neglected and consequently changes residence and schools as a result of a Court order;
 - e. The first time the student changes residence from one parent to the other as a result of a court ordered custody change, so long as the principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not for athletic or disciplinary reasons; or
 - f. The first time the student changes residence from a guardian to either or both parents as a result of a court ordered custody change, so long as the principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not for athletic or disciplinary reasons;
 - g. The student who transfers to school A to school B and then returns to school A without having participated in any sport or without practicing in any sport at school B. This must be verified in writing by the administration of school B.
10. Ineligible Transfer Students. The following transfer students are ineligible for a period of twelve months from the student's last participation date:
- a. A student transfers without a bona fide change of residence by his/her parents;
 - b. A student who transfers as a result of a change of residence is ineligible unless the old residence is outside the zone of the new school, and the new residence is both outside the zone of the old school and inside the zone of the new school;
 - c. If a student has been ruled eligible as a result of a change of residence, and the parents or guardian return to the former residence before the student has been enrolled in the new school for one complete school year (or twelve months if the transfer occurred during the school year), the student will be ineligible for twelve months from his/her last participation date;

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- d. If a student has satisfied all other requirements for eligibility but was under discipline at his/her former school, the student shall be ineligible at the new school for twelve months or until the disciplinary charges have been removed, whichever is less.

COACHES

All Coaches will fall under one of the following categories:

1. Full-time employee a minimum of 100 school days) of a board of education with a Tennessee State Teaching License or the equivalent.
 2. Retired educator (five or more years' experience) with a valid Tennessee State license or the equivalent.
 3. Non-faculty coach – Anyone approved by the principal, superintendent, and/or board of education in the normal course of employment procedures in accordance with applicable state law.
- A. All coaches must be approved by the principal, superintendent, and/or board of education. Any coach who is not a full-time employee of the school system and does not possess a teacher's certificate or the equivalent, or is not a retired educator must complete the NFHS, "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "First Aid, Health, and Safety for Coaches", courses prior to assuming the position.
- B. Head coaches may be full-time employee retired educators, or a non-faculty coach.

SPECIAL CASES INVOLVING HARDSHIP

Except for the eligibility rules in regard to age and to the number of semesters in school, the Athletics Specialist shall have the authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule upon an individual student when:

- a. the circumstances causing the student to fail to satisfy the eligibility rule were unforeseen and unavoidable;
- b. application of the rule to the student works an undue hardship in light of the unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances;

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- c. application of the rule would not accomplish the purpose for which the rule was intended; and
- d. in the case of a change of schools, the change is for reasons unrelated to participation in athletics.

The burden of establishing each of these elements to the Athletics Specialist's satisfaction is upon the school at which eligibility is sought.

HOME SCHOOL RULE

This rule establishes the minimum eligibility requirements for a home school student desiring to participate in sanction athletics at a Knox County Middle School.

A. Definitions

1. A "home school" is a school conducted by a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for their own child. To be a "home school" for the purposes of this rule, the child must be registered with the LEA that the child would otherwise attend if he/she were not being home schooled. For a student of a "home school" to be eligible under this bylaw, the parent-teacher must satisfy all of the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. Section 49-6-3050(b) and ***Board Policy I-171***.
2. "Director of Schools" shall mean the chief administrative official of the school system.

B. Minimum Eligibility Requirements

1.
 - a. The student shall be enrolled in a home school conducted by his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
A complete list of non- public schools may be found on the State Department of Education website at:
<http://tn.gov/education/topic/non-public-schools>
 - b. The student must be taking a minimum of five (5) academic subjects or the equivalent administered by the parent(s) or guardian(s) which count toward graduation.

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- c. The student must be registered with the Home School Office by August 1 of the current school year.
 2. The participating student must have a legal residence within KCS zone where he/she is registered.
 3. By August 15 of the school year, the parent or guardian must make application for participation in athletics to the principal of the school in which the home school athlete wishes to try out and possibly participate.
 4.
 - a. The home school athlete shall meet the same academic and conduct standards required of a KCS student-athlete to participate in the athletic program.
 - b. The Director of Schools or their designee shall confer with the parent(s) or guardian(s) conducting the home school to determine that the home school student is academically eligible.
 - c. If a home school student's course of study does not include five (5) academic subjects or the equivalent, which are being administered by the parent/guardian, then the Director of Schools or their designee and the parent/guardian shall develop an alternative measure of academic progress and submit it to the Athletic Specialist for approval.
 - d. In no event shall a home school student be eligible who is not receiving the minimum four (4) hours per day of instruction administered by their parent/guardian.
 - e. In no event shall a home school student be eligible who has fallen three (3) or more months behind the student's appropriate grade level.
 - f. Verification of academic eligibility shall be provided by the school to the Athletics Specialist each semester.
 5. The School may impose a participation fee for each sport in which a home school athlete participates. Such participation fee shall not exceed the fees or costs charged to or borne by students enrolled at the school and shall be paid in full prior to the first regular season contest.

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6. The home school student must meet all other KCS eligibility requirements.
7. The home school athlete must adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibility, performance, and code of conduct as other participants of the team.
8. Ultimate decisions on team rosters are left to the schools.

TRANSFER

1. Eligibility will be established at the first school the home school athlete decides to participate. After participation at the first school, any changes within schools shall be governed by the transfer rule.
2. Any student who withdraws from a KCS program, to enroll in a home school education program and who is ineligible at the time of withdrawal from the KCS program due to his/her failure to meet academic or behavioral eligibility standards shall be ineligible to compete in athletic competition as a home education athlete until such time as he/she has satisfied this home school regulation as well as all other eligibility regulations.

DATE FOR BEGINNING PRACTICE

Practice shall start the first Monday of February.

DATE FOR BEGINNING MEETS

Meets shall begin no earlier than the second week of March.

SCHEDULES

There shall be four regular season meets each year scheduled by the Knox County Specialist of Athletics. An additional two more meets may be scheduled by each school.

INSURANCE

All participants shall participate in the Knox County Schools athletic insurance program.

CHAMPIONSHIP MEET

A Knox County championship meet shall be scheduled at the end of regular season each year.

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EVENTS

The following is a list of events in order for each regular season track meet (boys and girls):

- 3,200 meter run
- 100 meter dash
- 3,200 meter relay
- 800 meter relay
- 400 meter run
- 1,600 meter run
- 400 meter relay
- 800 meter run □ 200 meter run
- 1,600 meter relay

Field Events:

- Shot Put
- Long Jump
- Discus

PARTICIPATION

Schools are limited to four students or two teams per event with the exception of the 800meter run, the 1,600 meter run, the 3,200 meter run, and field events

A student shall not participate in more than three events.

OFF-SEASON PRACTICE - No Restrictions

Begins with the end of the East Tennessee Middle School Elite Championships and concludes with the end of school.

SUMMER PRACTICE – No Restrictions

The period of time from the end of the school year until the beginning of the following school year.

DEAD PERIOD

The week preceding the Fourth of July week and the week of the July fourth is the dead period. There can be no coaching, observing, or contact between coach and players.

All schools' indoor facilities must be closed.

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