

## ARTICLE 5 – STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

### 5.1 ACADEMICS

- 5.1.1 Each school must maintain and enforce an academic eligibility policy with a minimum of all passing academic grades ~~(No F's)~~. (2019)
  - 5.1.1.1 If a player that is not academically eligible participates in a CAA game/contest, that game/contest is declared a forfeit.
- 5.1.2 Players must take no less than 51% of their schooling through the school's curriculum.
  - 5.1.2.1 Students must be enrolled in three core curriculum classes at their school to be considered eligible for that school.
  - 5.1.2.2 In a student's last year of high school, they are only required to take as many classes as necessary to complete their graduation requirements in order to be considered eligible.
- 5.1.3 Once a student has met the Arizona State Department of Education requirements for graduation, they lose eligibility to compete in the CAA, even if they still meet age requirement.

### 5.2 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE/TEAM

- 5.2.1 High school students cannot be 19 on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 5.2.2 Students are limited to four years of high school eligibility from 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade per sport. Eligibility starts when student enrolls as a freshman (8 semesters). No 5<sup>th</sup> year seniors.
- 5.2.3 Junior Varsity athletes can be in 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grades only.
- 5.2.4 Varsity athletes can be in grades 7-12. Exception: Varsity football, players must be in 9-12 grades.
- 5.2.5 Student-athletes in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or below may not compete on varsity level teams.

### 5.3. JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT-ATHLETE/TEAM

- 5.3.1 Junior high students cannot be 15 on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 5.3.2 Players must be in 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade to compete in junior high sports. The individual school is responsible for determining the accurate grade level of the student based on that school's standards.
- 5.3.3 Student-athletes in grades 7-12 may compete on a varsity team. A JH student-athlete playing on a varsity team does **NOT** affect the student's high school eligibility.
- 5.3.4 Student-athletes in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or below may not compete on varsity level teams.
- 5.3.5 Once a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student has played in three (3) or more regular season games with the varsity or junior varsity team during the same season, he/she may not return to the junior high team.
- 5.3.6 **JH Players MUST be "rostered" to only 1 team. (i.e. if a school has 2 JH teams, a player can only play on one of those teams). A player rostered on the school's #2 team, may also play up to 4 games with the #1 team (similar to JV – Varsity). Elementary players must only play on the Elementary teams. No players on the JH team(s) can play on the Elementary Team. Likewise, no elementary players may play on any of the JH teams. (2019)**

### 5.4 HOME SCHOOLED STUDENT-ATHLETES

Due to the unique structure of home school curriculum, the grade level of a home school student shall be of no consequence and age will be the sole determining factor.

- 5.4.1 Once a home school student has met the Arizona State Department of Education requirements for graduation, they lose eligibility to continue to compete in the CAA, even if they still meet age requirement.
- 5.4.2 Home school Junior high students cannot be 14 on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 5.4.3 Home school athletes who want to compete at a member school must submit a letter stating that 51 percent of their curriculum is received from home schooling. This letter must be signed by the student's parent or guardian.
- 5.4.4 A home school student who participates on a CAA member school's team, is now considered a student for that school and thus cannot play on another CAA member school's team unless the school does not offer that team/sport. (See By-Law 5.6)

## 5.5 TRANSFER STUDENTS

- 5.5.1 JH Student Transfer Rule. A student-athlete transferring into a school AFTER the official start date of a CAA season (first official day of practice) must sit out that season unless student:
- did not play that particular sport the year before; or
  - changes address or domicile to a location closer to the school the student is transferring to.
- 5.5.2. High School Student Transfer Rule. Any student-athlete who transfers after **August 1**, the athlete would not be eligible for that sport (regardless of season for the first 50% of that teams' Regular Season games unless student: (2019)
- did not play that particular sport the year before; or
  - changes address or domicile to a location closer to the school the student is transferring to

## 5.6 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- ~~5.6.1 International Students (either junior high or high school) must provide a copy of their passport to the League Office BEFORE competing in any CAA sanctioned event.~~
- ~~5.6.2 Team using International Players will automatically be placed in the sport's highest division. (2019)~~

## 5.7 SCHOOL DOES NOT OFFER A SPORT OR COMBINING OF SCHOOLS

5.7.1 Students who attend a CAA member-school (either a CAA member-school that does not offer a particular sport and who request to compete for a current CAA member school must submit the **General Appeal Form or Combining of Schools Petition** prior to the start of that sport season. The student must submit the following items to the school's AD:

- Letter from parent
- Copy of Birth Certificate (2019)
- Letter from non-CAA Administrator verifying school does not offer that sport.
- Current copy of transcripts which will indicate cohort year, birthdate and other important information to help ensure student-athlete is eligible. (2019)

5.7.2 If a CAA member school receives more than 1 student from more than one school, receiving school will be placed in the highest division for that sport.

5.7.3 If a CAA member-school does not offer a sport, and, if 2 or more of their students play for a CAA member school, the Receiving school will be placed in the highest division for that sport.

5.7.4 **ON-LINE SCHOOLS**. Students who attend an on-line school (either a CAA member-school or Non-CAA school) who request to compete for a current CAA member school must submit the **CAA Hardship Form** prior to the start of that sport season. The student must submit the following items to the school's AD:

- Letter from parent
- Letter from the On-Line School Administrator
- Birth Certificate
- Schedule of classes
- Current Grades

5.7.5 If appeal is approved, JH players can only play for the CAA school's JH team (not eligible for Varsity sports).

## 5.8 PHYSICALS AND CONCUSSION REQUIREMENT

- 5.8.1 PHYSICALS. Member schools will ensure that all participants have a medical physical that is current (physicals are valid for 12 months) before participating in any CAA sporting event. All schools must be able to provide documentation, if asked, that all players are medically cleared.
- Student-athlete must have a current physical clearance to compete.
  - Physical is good for 12 months or a student must have a completed one after March 1 for the upcoming year.

5.8.2 CONCUSSIONS. All student athletes must complete and pass (80%) the Barrow Institute Brainbook course via the Barrow Concussion Network.

5.8.2.1 JH Students must complete this course once during their JH participation.

5.8.2.2 HS students must complete this course once during their HS participation.

5.8.2.3 A JH student who has completed the course for eligibility at the JH level, must retake the course once enrolled in HS to participate in HS sports.

## **5.9 SPORTSMANSHIP**

5.9.1 Coaches, Parents, fans are expected to maintain high standards of sportsmanship and behavior at all CAA events. Please refer to Article 12 regarding Sportsmanship

**5.10** Schools failing to comply with the guidelines defined in Article 5 will be held accountable per the guidelines established in Article 10.