

WTHS Science Department Statement on Athletic Eligibility

I. BOE Policy (#2431)

ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

The Washington Township Board of Education and staff believe that one of the important goals of education is to provide opportunities to students to develop their full potential. As such, the Washington Township Board of Education and staff recognize the importance of student participation in interscholastic sports.

To be eligible for the first semester of a given school year, a student must pass 30 credits (25% of the total credits required for graduation) during the previous school year. To be eligible for the second semester of a school year, a student must have a passing numerical average in at least 15 credits (12.5% of the total credits required for graduation) of the first semester subjects. Credits are determined as follows:

5 credit course = 2 ½ credits

2 ½ credit course = 1 ¼ credits

1 credit course = ½ credit

If a student is eligible at the start of a season, he/she may complete the season.

II. HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO SCIENCE COURSES, ESPECIALLY FOR THE *SPRING SEMESTER*?

Most science courses have a lab component so they are a 6 credit course (meet 6 times per week) while non-lab science classes are only 5 credit courses. According to the policy above, students who fail a lab science course during the first semester (M1, M2, X1) will lose 3 credits rather than 2 1/2 credits. Believe it or not this ½ credit means that a student who fails a lab science course will be ineligible for a spring sport even if he or she is not failing any other classes.

Which science course are 6 credits? CP Geoscience, CP Biology, Honors Biology, CP Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, CP Physics, Honors Physics, Anatomy & Physiology, All AP science electives

III. FRESHMAN CONCERNS

Freshman who are new to the high school must understand athletic eligibility rules. Year in and year out ninth grade students seem to not fully understand the details of science course credits and athletic eligibility. Freshman are encouraged to ask questions about eligibility with guidance counselors, teacher, and coaches. The most common season for freshman ineligibility is the spring sports season (see above).

IV. DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The science department is committed to assisting in the communication of eligibility rules. When confused, student athletes need to take the responsibility to address questions to teachers, counselors and coaches. Students need to understand that athletic eligibility is a privilege. Students wishing to participate in a sport need to have the foresight and maturity to value the educational experiences leading to eligibility.

V. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION

Incomplete grades due to pending make up work can affect eligibility.