michigan high school athletic association

# Regulations Summarized:     Failing Classes and the Academic Eligibility Rules

# THIS IS A SUMMARY:     ALWAYS CONSULT THE SCHOOL ATHELTIC DRIECTOR

**Academic Eligibility**: To participate in contests or scrimmages, a high school student must achieve the MHSAA minimum standard of receiving credit in 66% of full credit load potential for a full time student: Passing 4 or 5 of 6 classes or 5 of 7 classes. **Many schools have tougher academic standards in addition to this minimum, such as passing all classes or also achieving a certain GPA**. For junior high/middle school students the standard is 50%; credit in 3 of 5 or 6 classes or 4 of 7 or 8 classes. These rules become active once a student begins the 9th grade for high school, or 7th grade for middle school.

There are **two** MHSAA rules involving Academic Eligibility (the school may have others): The **Previous** Academic Credit Record and the **Current** Academic Credit Record. The minimum standard of passing 66% (HS) or 50% (JRH/MS) is the same under both rules, and applies the same to schools that are semester or trimester schools.

**Previous Academic Credit Record**: A student who does not meet the minimum standard of receiving credit in 66% (HS) or 50% (JRH/MS) of classes at the end of the semester or trimester is not eligible until the next trimester starts (first day of school) or, if a semester school, on the 61st scheduled school day – provided the student is passing the standard when checked on the 60th day. A student who does not meet the standard can also go to summer school or take online classes so long as the school accepts the credit. Once the deficiency is made up and the transcript shows the minimum standard achieved, the student would be eligible.

**Note:** Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the MHSAA Representative Council determined in May 2020 that each school shall determine the eligibility of students under this rule for sports played in the fall of 2020. The MHSAA minimum eligibility requirement is waived for sports played in the fall of 2020. A school has the option to consider a student determined to be ineligible to become eligible when a deficiency of credit is made up and posted to the transcript, or on the 61st school day, as in the past. MHSAA regulations have always accepted pass-fail credit as opposed to a letter grade or GPA, and that has not changed. The previous academic credit record regulation will reactivate at the beginning of the second semester or second trimester of the 2020-21 school year. The current academic credit record regulation (weekly or quarterly grade checks) has not changed and is set by each school, as under Regulation I, Section 8.

**Note**: A term "counts" under this rule if a student played in a game or scrimmage or is enrolled past the fourth Friday after Labor Day for a 1st semester or 1st trimester, the fourth Friday of February for a 2nd semester or the fourth Friday of a 2nd or 3rd trimester. A student is considered enrolled and must have a satisfactory previous academic credit record to participate in athletics in the subsequent term. If a student is marked left, moved or withdrawn before the above date and did not play in a scrimmage or game prior to withdrawal, the period of attendance is not charged as a term of enrollment and the student's immediately preceding term of actual enrollment is used to determine eligibility under the previous academic credit rule.

**Current Academic Credit Record**: The MHSAA minimum standard under this rule is also 66% (HS) or 50% (JRH/MS) of full credit load potential for a full time student. These current grade checks must occur within 7 weeks for trimester schools and within 10 weeks for semester schools. Many schools check more frequently and have a tougher standard; most check weekly. If a student is not meeting the standard when checked that student is not eligible for games or scrimmages until passing the standard, but ineligible for at least the next Monday through Sunday.

The above is a summary review of the rules. Contact the school athletic director for specific situations.