

## **AHA Player Eligibility Requirements**

**IMPORTANT:** If we use ineligible players in games throughout the season, we will be disqualified from attending NCHC events.

The Aggieland Homeschool Athletics organization uses the guidelines set forth by the National Christian Homeschool Championship (NCHC) for eligibility considerations. AHA will update the website ([www.aggielandhomeschool.com](http://www.aggielandhomeschool.com)) as appropriate to reflect changes made by the NCHC. The most up-to-date version of eligibility guidelines can be found at [nchclive.com/guidelines](http://nchclive.com/guidelines)

"Homeschooling" is defined to mean that a student's education is parent-directed and done at home. Each year parents must indicate that their child's education is parent-directed. It is up to the parent to assess whether their child meets the guidelines listed in this document. The membership may call into question the eligibility of a player, but this must be done at an official meeting and follow the same protocol as other business.

Exceptions to the guidelines listed below will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the membership. These exceptions will be considered on an annual basis. These exceptions must be presented at any official meeting and require a majority vote of those voting members present for the exception to be adopted. Exceptions will expire at the close of the National Homeschool Championship Tournament and must be reconsidered by the voting membership for the next season.

### **BASIC NCHC ELIGIBILITY RULES**

The parents shall be directly involved in their child's education, playing role of the headmaster thereby (1) selecting curriculum, (2) selecting and/or approving course materials and study schedules, & (3) selecting tutors, coop's, teachers, dual enrollment options, &/or resources for their child's education. HomeSchooling would also include a person of legal responsibility\* of the student filling the role of a parent (\*must be pre-approved by the NCHC)

In September 2020 the EAB Rules Proposal Committee voted over 80% in favor of keeping the NCHC Online At Home policy posted below. As such this entire section has been updated.

**NCHC ONLINE AT HOME** – The #1 eligibility question we had in the Summer of 2018 & 19 was “what is the NCHC stance was with “Online at Home” (Connections Academy, K12, Epic, etc.) The response we have had to this each time has been the same:

“The NCHC does not have an approved or unapproved curriculum.”

The bottom line is the NCHC leaves curriculum choice to the parent's discretion, provided it is done at home and the parents have the ability to change curriculum at their discretion.

**2020 CLARIFICATION:** The Online at Home rule excludes students enrolled in their local school district, who are doing school online due to COVID-19, this was clarified by an 85% vote by the EAB Rules Committee in September.

### **ACADEMICS**

Each member team and/or program shall have standards in place to make sure that all participating players maintain at least a 2.0 GPA (on a 4-point scale) during the active season.

### **AGE & GENDER REQUIREMENTS**

A player's age group is determined by his/her age on September 1 of the current school year. Players may play in a higher age group if desired. Players may play in numerous age groups.

A player is only eligible to play in the gender division that the player was born, as recorded on their original birth certificate. There are no co-ed teams at Nationals &/or NCHC run postseason Events. No exceptions.

All teams/programs that attend an NCHC event are to use only players that are eligible by NCHC Eligibility Guidelines for all games throughout the year. Failure to do so disqualifies a program to attend NCHC Events.

### **ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

A player that has already participated in a graduation ceremony is not eligible to participate at NCHC events.

**Basketball Only:** To be eligible, a player must be homeschooled continuously & begin playing on their team before the team's 1st game. Any players joining the team after the 1st game must follow the next step listed below, each unique situation is dealt with on case by case basis.

### **PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Full-time enrollment in a traditional public or private school is not homeschooling because the child's education in such schools is not parent-directed. A player that attends any type of school full-time is not eligible. Even if the school is small and does not offer sports. For part-time students at these types of schools, the student must maintain at least 51% of his/her education from classes that meet the homeschooling definition.

### **CO-OP AND UMBRELLA SCHOOLS**

The participation in a cooperative school, and/or an umbrella school is permitted in multiple circumstances.

In some states, "HomeSchool students" are required by law to attend a private school and, in such cases, cooperative or umbrella schools are formed for this purpose. These schools, whether called cooperative, umbrella, or "private," are characterized by significant and direct parental involvement, often simply representing different forms of homeschooling within a group of like-minded families. In such cases where the student-athlete meets the definition of HomeSchooling and is involved in a coop and umbrellas school, he/she is deemed eligible by the NCHC.

### **VOCATIONAL CLASSES**

In some states, "HomeSchool students" are permitted to take classes at vocational schools. A student may take classes at such schools as long as he/she maintains at least 51% of his education from classes that meet the homeschooling definition.

**51% RULE** (This does NOT apply to dual credit/enrollment classes.)

For clarification purposes, a normal course load for a full-time student is six (6) core courses; therefore, if a student-athlete is taking more than three (3) courses at a public, private, or vocational, he/she is not considered 51% homeschooled. If there are special circumstances, a student may apply for a hardship exemption.

### **DUAL CREDIT/ENROLLMENT CLAUSE**

Freshman, Sophomore, & Junior HomeSchool Student-Athletes that are taking advantage of Dual Credit/Enrollment Programs are required to take a minimum of three (3) High School Courses per semester. Senior HomeSchool Student-Athletes that are taking advantage of Dual Credit/Enrollment Programs are required to take a minimum of two (2) High School Courses per semester. High School Courses can be electives (like Physical Education, etc.) High School Courses can be taken through Co-Ops or any other eligible parent directed definition.

## **TRANSFERS UNDER DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

Any student who transfers from a public school, Christian/private School, or another HomeSchool team and is under disciplinary action(s) must go through the hardship approval process OR wait one (1) year before he/she is eligible to participate.

## **ADDITIONAL NON-EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

A player must live at home with his/her parent, legal guardian or NCHC Pre-Approved\* legally responsible person (in the case of foster children or other family hardships)\* in order to be eligible.

A player cannot be married.

A New HomeSchool Player that has played as a Senior (1 game or more) at a school, is not eligible.

A player must live within a 100-mile radius of the team's practice facility.

All players attending an NCHC Event must have the NCHC player registration complete by their parents.

\*Legal Responsibility Hardships must be PreApproved by NCHC, the 1st step in these situations is to fill out a Hardship Request.

## **ADDITIONAL BASKETBALL ONLY GUIDELINE & PROCEDURES**

### **1ST GAME POLICIES**

To be eligible for participation in the National Christian HomeSchool Basketball Championships, a player must be homeschooled continuously & begin playing on their team before the teams 1st game. Any players joining the team after the 1st game must follow the next step listed below; each unique situation is dealt with on case by case basis.

### **NCHBC UPPERCLASSMAN TRANSFER POLICIES**

May 17th, 2021 Update: HomeSchool Players transferring to another HomeSchool program during the off-season could have a transfer period instituted by a current EAB vote. Off-Season is defined as before a team's first game.

Public and Private School transfer classifications are based on the grade the student was in at the school they are transferring from. What this means is that if they were a Junior at their previous school, they are considered an incoming Senior, if they "reclassify", they are still treated as an incoming Senior in terms of the following rules.

Incoming Freshman and Sophomores– are eligible immediately if they join a program before their team's first game.

Incoming Juniors– who transfer from a school to a HomeSchool team before the team's first game, are not eligible to play until November 15th or December 1st (an EAB vote is taking place to determine the exact date, this update was made on May 17th, 2021 and is a change from the 30 days after a team's 1st official game.)

Incoming Seniors– who transfer from a school to a HomeSchool team before the team's first game, are not eligible to play until January 1st.

Any player joining a team after their seasons first game will need to request a Hardship Exemption and there is no guarantee they will receive this hardship.

The goal of these rules is to establish incoming upperclassmen as HomeSchool Students first, before they are eligible for athletics.

A player who has attended private or public school as a senior is still not eligible to participate in the NCHC.

The transfer rules above are designed for a team that has two public or private school transfers in a year.

If a team has more than 3 players with upperclassmen transfers who were not HomeSchooled the previous year the players could be considered as a group and the Regional Committee would have the right to include waiting periods for freshman and sophomores transfers and possibly increase a Juniors waiting period. This clause is designed to stop programs from wholesale recruiting players from private and public schools.

A couple of other clarifications: If a player is 16 & under they would be able to play on the program's 16u/JV team while they were sitting out. Players would be permitted to practice with their program while "sitting out."

As in all NCHBC guidelines, players have the right to request a hardship exemption.

### **NCHBC TEBOW GUIDELINES**

NCHBC Tebow Rule – Many states have adopted the Tebow Rule that allows homeschool students to play on public school teams. The NCHC has the following guidelines regarding players under the Tebow Rule Provision:

Players who are HomeSchooled but are playing on a school team through the Tebow Bill, may transfer to a HomeSchool Team through January 1st. Players are not permitted to play on a school team and a homeschool team during the year. Players must have been Home Educated for the entire first semester and join a HomeSchool Team on or before January 1st.

The Tebow bill rules are for all age groups High School through 10u.