

**Please read both pages of this form before returning it to your school or coach.**

**\*\*\*\*\* NOTICE\*\*\*\*\***

Participation in competitive athletics, including cheerleading may result in severe injury, including paralysis, or even death! Improvements in equipment, medical treatment and physical conditioning, as well as rule changes, have reduced these risks, but it is impossible to totally eliminate such occurrences from athletics.

Failure to purchase the appropriate student accident insurance policy, or, failure by the Pinellas County School Board to verify that this requirement has been met, does not transfer responsibility for payment of any and all injury related claims and expenses from the student/parent/guardian to the Pinellas County School Board.

Parents and/or Guardians of Prospective Interscholastic Athletes:

Before trying out for an interscholastic sport a student must be certified as eligible, in accordance with the Florida High School Athletic Association rules and the policies of the School Board of Pinellas County.

Parents or Guardians must complete the following sections on the reverse side: Certification of Residency, Permission to Participate/Permission for Emergency Medical Treatment, and Certification of Insurance. Your student will not be allowed to practice until this form is completed and is on file at the school.

The Pinellas County School Board requires students participating in extracurricular activities to purchase the Mandatory Student Accident Insurance (School Board Policy 8760) regardless of your existing insurance coverage.

The following are excerpts of the athletic eligibility rules required by the Florida High School Athletic Association and the School Board of Pinellas County. If further clarification of these rules is required, contact the Assistant Principal at your school. This form is no longer available in three (3) part carbonless sheets; therefore it must be duplicated when completed. The school must keep the original and the parent and coach must have a copy.

**PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD POLICY IN BRIEF**

Students must attend the school they are assigned.

Students whose residences are outside the zone may enroll in a school through the open enrollment process.

Students who change school assignment between the end of one school year and the beginning of the next school year, are eligible to participate at the newly assigned school provided they are enrolled and attending at the newly assigned school as of the first day of the school year.

Home educated students must be assigned to a school through the Student Reservation System at any school.

Students administratively transferred to another regular school for disciplinary reasons shall be ineligible for athletic participation for a period of the remaining of the school year.

Students returning to any regular school from a successful reassignment/expulsion shall be eligible upon return to any regular school.

Students ejected from an athletic contest for unsportsmanlike conduct are subject to a fine to be paid to his/her school. The fine is \$50 or \$250 for gross unsportsmanlike conduct.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**Academic Eligibility**

Beginning for the 2024-25 school year middle School students must have a 2.0 or above cumulative GPA at the end of each semester to play middle school sports. The student's GPA will be calculated after each semester. An appeal can be submitted for students who have below a cumulative 2.0 GPA but earned a 2.0 or above for the semester. **PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC CONTACT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.**

- Seven calendar days after the end of the grading period is when a student becomes eligible or ineligible.
- A student may participate one (1) year as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, one (1) year as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, and one (1) year as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader for a maximum of 3 years.
- A student is ineligible if they turn 15 before July 1<sup>st</sup> – as of last year.
- Physicals are good for 365 days from the date they are given. Once the date has passed the student becomes ineligible.