

BY-LAW ARTICLE XII
Below Grade 9 Athletic Participation

Regulations with regard to below grade nine participation on high school sports teams are as follows:

Sect. 1: No below grade seven participation will be allowed in any NHIAA sport at any level (freshmen, sub-varsity, varsity).

Sect. 2: No below grade nine participation at any level in any sport will be allowed for schools in Class L and I (freshmen, Sub-Varsity, Varsity).

Sect. 3: Class M schools 8th grade students who legally reside in their district on a sub-varsity team provided those students are needed to maintain the school's sub-varsity program and a waiver has been granted by the Below Grade Nine Athletic Participation Committee.

Class M schools may use 8th grade students to participate at the varsity level in the following sports: cross country, golf, gymnastics, indoor track, outdoor track, skiing, and tennis.

Sect. 4: Class S schools 7th and 8th grade students who legally reside in the district provided those students are needed to maintain the school's program and a waiver has been granted by the Below Grade Nine Athletic Participation Committee.

Sect. 5: Below grade nine students who have been granted a BG nine waiver will be expected to maintain the same academic standards set for high school students.

Sect. 6: If a school uses a below grade nine student athlete without the approved waiver, the team will forfeit all contests in which the ineligible contestant participated. In sports which team standings are not kept, the NHIAA will deny any requests for waivers in the ensuing year in that sport. If a second violation occurs, that school will be brought before the Below Grade Nine Committee with the possibility of receiving sanctions.

CRITERIA FOR GRANTING WAIVERS

1. The student athlete must be necessary for the school to field a team in that sport.
2. The student athlete cannot take the place of an athlete in grades 9 through 12.
3. The student athlete must meet all NHIAA eligibility requirements.
4. The student athlete must legally reside in the same school district as the high school.
5. In individual sports, students in grade 9 through 12 shall represent their school in competition at the State Tournament. They cannot, under any circumstances, be displaced by a below grade nine student athlete in a competition.