

**ELIGIBILITY**  
**(From ASBOA Constitution and the AAA Handbook)**

**A. ELIGIBILITY FORMS FOR ASBOA**

1. Each participating school will be required to submit a form certifying the eligibility of all participants. The forms shall be submitted to the Region Chairman once each semester. The Region Chairman shall be responsible for the eligibility of students, for each event in his/her region.
2. Eligibility forms are to be mailed to the Region Chairman by the dates listed as follows:  
First Semester - September 30 or before first scheduled interscholastic event, whichever occurs first. (ABA 2006)  
Second Semester – January 31.

**B. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY IN ASBOA**

1. Any high school, junior high, middle or grade school band/orchestra that is a member of the Arkansas Activities Association shall be eligible for membership in ASBOA upon payment of annual participation fees. (See Constitution, Article III, Section A).
2. A school band, orchestra, soloist, or ensemble may enter a region or state event provided they comply with the following requirements:
  - (a) Must be a member of ASBOA
  - (b) Must have paid participation fees by the specified time
  - (c) Must have paid necessary entry fees by the specified time.
3. Individuals participating in region and/or state events sponsored by the ASBOA MUST BE BONA-FIDE MEMBERS OF A PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION (THIS INCLUDES SOLOS, ENSEMBLES AND CLINICS). BLOCK SCHEDULING: Students earning a full year credit in one semester are considered eligible for participation with the group in activities throughout the school year. (Revised 1997)
4. The SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL division consists of pupils in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades. (NINTH GRADE STUDENTS may participate in all high school activities EXCEPT senior high school clinics and All-State Bands or Orchestras, provided the principals of both schools agree. (Students in the 7th and 8th grades may also participate in the high school band/orchestra, in marching and concert competition ONLY, PROVIDED THEY ARE REGULARLY ENROLLED AS MEMBERS OF THAT ORGANIZATION).
5. The JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL division shall consist of only pupils in the 7th, 8th and 9th grades.
6. Students in the sixth grade, or lower, may neither audition for, nor participate in ASBOA Clinics. They may participate in solo-ensemble contests.

**ASBOA & AAA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (From AAA Handbook)**

**SECTION 2. NON-ATHLETIC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES**

**Rule 1. BONA FIDE STUDENT.** (Same as athletic Rule 4.)

**Rule 2. SCHOLARSHIP.** (Same as athletic Rule 10.)

**Rule 3. SEMESTERS.** (Same as athletic Rule 6.)

**Rule 4. AGE.** (Senior High same as athletic Rule 7, Junior High none.)

**Rule 4. BONA FIDE STUDENT**

A. A student participating in interscholastic activities must be a bona fide student of the school; a bona fide student is one who has not graduated from a high school and who is enrolled in and regularly attending at least four academic courses in the high school. These courses shall be from those identified in the Arkansas Department of Education Standards of Accreditation.

B. Concurrent college courses may be used to meet the bona fide student rule.

C. A local school may make an exception for a student in the last semester of the senior year provided the student is enrolled in and attending regularly at least one academic course and is meeting all requirements for graduation.

D. The Arkansas Activities Association in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Education makes an exception to the bona fide student rule for students in the Arkansas School for Math, Science and Arts. Because the ASMSA is an ADE accredited school, is a boarding school located in the Hot Springs School District, and is a member of the Arkansas Activities Association, students from ASMSA may participate at Hot Springs High School in those sports or activities not offered by the Arkansas School for Math, Science and Arts.

**Rule 5. DROPOUTS.** A student dropping out of or leaving school, suspended with no credit, or expelled from school at any time during a semester must re-establish eligibility by returning to an Arkansas Activities Association member school and meeting the scholarship requirements for one full semester. If, however, the last semester attended was completed, eligibility shall be based on that semester.

## **Rule 10. SCHOLARSHIP (ACADEMICS)**

### **A. Junior High.**

- A student promoted from the **sixth to the seventh** grade automatically meets the academic eligibility (scholarship) requirements.
- A student promoted from the **seventh to the eighth** grade automatically meets the academic eligibility requirements for the first semester.
- The **second semester eighth** grade student and the **first semester ninth** grade student meet the academic eligibility requirements for junior high by successfully passing four (4) academic courses the previous semester, three of which shall be in the core curriculum areas (math, science English, social studies) as specified by the Arkansas Department of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools.
- First semester ninth** grade students must pass four academic classes to be eligible second semester of the ninth grade.
- Ninth grade** students must meet senior high academic eligibility by the end of second semester in order to be eligible to participate the fall of their tenth grade year.

### **B. Senior High.** The requirement for senior high (10-12) eligibility shall include:

- Passing four academic courses; and
- A minimum GPA of 2.0, based on the previous semester. The student must have passed four academic courses in the previous semester. Any of these four courses for which concurrent high school credit is earned may be from an institution of higher learning recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education.

### **1. Supplemental Instruction Program**

- a. To participate in interscholastic competition, students passing four academic courses but failing to meet the 2.0 GPA requirement must be enrolled in and attending 100 minutes per week a Supplemental Instruction Program meeting established criteria and approved by the AAA.
- b. If a student's GPA drops below 2.0 at the end of any semester the student must immediately enroll in and attend the SIP. If a student fails to enroll in the SIP at this time the student must attain a 2.0 GPA to regain eligibility.
- c. In the first semester of SIP the student must meet the stated requirement (2.0) at the end of that semester in order to become fully eligible again OR meet the requirement to remain in the SIP one additional semester.
- d. To maintain eligibility under the Supplemental Instruction Program and be eligible to continue for a second semester, the student must show improvement of at least one tenth of one point in his/her GPA after the first semester of participation in the supplemental program. To continue to participate following the second semester in the SIP, the student must have reached the 2.0 GPA as well as passing four academic courses.
- e. Maximum participation in the SIP is two consecutive semesters. If the student does not achieve a 2.0 GPA within this period, the student will remain ineligible until a 2.0 GPA is achieved. A student who has been in SIP and regained eligibility by achieving a 2.0 GPA would be eligible to enter the SIP again later if passing four courses but not earning a 2.0 GPA.

## **Rule 6. SEMESTERS**

**A. Junior High** – A student has six semesters of opportunity for eligibility. A student repeating either the seventh or eighth grade for any reason shall not have the opportunity for eligibility during the complete year that is repeated.

**B. Senior High** - A student is limited to eight consecutive semesters of opportunity for eligibility beginning with the student's first enrollment in the ninth grade (or earlier as defined in Rule 7. Age, Note).

**Note 1:** *A ninth grade student may compete for the junior high or for the senior high in the same member school district with separate campuses with permission from the involved principals. (Refer to Bylaws, Art. II, Section 7, Rule 1 - Classification of Students.)*

**Note 2:** *A student first entering an AAA member school at the beginning of the tenth grade shall have six consecutive semesters of opportunity for eligibility; at the beginning of the 11th grade shall have four consecutive semesters of eligibility; and, at the beginning of the 12th grade shall have two consecutive semesters of opportunity for eligibility.*

1. If a ninth grade student competes for the junior high, the student may then compete at the senior high level after the completion of that junior high sport season except for Class 7A as stated in Article II, Section 7, Rule 1. A ninth grade student may not compete for the senior high and return later to compete for the junior high in the same sport.

2. Semesters are applied toward the limitations regardless of the following:

- a. if the school doesn't offer a sport; or
- b. if the student doesn't participate, or
- c. if the student isn't eligible; or
- d. if the student's earlier enrollment was in a different school system.

**NOTE:** *The fifth and sixth semesters (normally the 9<sup>th</sup> grade) are applied toward both the junior and senior high limitations. This is due to the rule allowing the school's administration to permit a 9th grade student to participate at either level. (Refer to Bylaws, Art.II, Rule 1 of Section 7 -Classification of Students).*

3. A 7th or 8th grade student who is ineligible for junior high athletics due only to the age rule may be eligible to participate in senior high. (Refer to Bylaws, Art. II, Rule 3 of Section 7 - Classification of Students.) 4. A student is limited to a total of 12 semesters of

opportunity for eligibility upon entering the seventh grade. The final eight semesters shall be consecutive.

#### **Rule 7. AGE**

**A. Junior High.** A junior high student is not eligible for junior high competition if the student's 16th birthday is on or before September 1.

**NOTE:** *In the year a student in junior high school becomes too old for junior high participation, the student may be If, however, the last semester attended was completed, eligibility shall be based on that semester.*