

HSAA Eligibility Requirements

Academic Qualifications

- A player must be homeschooled. "Homeschooled" means that a player must be receiving his or her primary educational direction through the home. See Explanation of How HSAA Interprets Homeschooling.
- A player must be living at home with a parent or guardian.
- A player is ineligible if that player is enrolled in more than 9 hours of dual-credit and/or college courses in a semester.
- A player is ineligible if that player has gone through a homeschool, public school, or private school high school graduation ceremony prior to that season's first game.
- A player must be passing all courses in order to participate in a contest or tournament. In performing the role of administrator for the homeschool, the parent is solely responsible for enforcing this rule.

Athletic Grade Classifications and Designations

HSAA, a grade-based athletic program, is designed for Middle School and High School homeschooled students. Middle School includes grades 6 through 8; High School includes grades 9 through 12.

An athletic grade designation must be declared prior to the tryouts and must conform to HSAA maximum age qualifications.

After or during the tryout of the first year of high school participation (whether participation took place at HSAA or another homeschool, public, or private school team), an athletic grade re-classification is not allowed.

A player shall become ineligible after 4 years of high school participation. Note: An exception is if the HSAA Board approves the participation of an 8th grader on an HSAA high school sub-varsity team, in which case that player is granted 5 years of high school participation.

A high school player is ineligible to play on a middle school team. In other words, a ninth grader is prohibited from playing on a middle school team regardless of his or her age.

A middle school player is ineligible to play on a high school team, unless the middle school player is prevented from playing on a middle school team due to the age requirement, in which case the middle school player is considered a 9th grader for sports eligibility purposes. Note: An exception is if the HSAA Board approves the participation of an 8th grader on an HSAA high school sub-varsity team.

A 12th grader is prohibited from playing on a sub-varsity team regardless of his or her age.

Maximum Age Qualifications

A player is ineligible to play on any team on the next September 1st following that player's 19th birthday.

A player is ineligible to play on a middle school team on the next September 1st following that player's 15th birthday.

Minimum Grade/Age Qualifications

A player must be in at least the 6th grade AND must be at least 11 years old on September 1st of the current school year in order to participate on a middle school team.

Note: Some HSAA sports may require athletes to be in at least the 7th grade and at least 12 years old on September 1st of the current school year.

Transfers and Expulsions

If a player started the season on another homeschool, public, or private school team, no transfer shall be allowed during the season without the approval of the HSAA Board.

If a player was expelled from a public or private school during the academic school year or in the year prior, no transfer shall be allowed without the approval of the HSAA Board.

A player cannot play on another homeschool, public, or private school team in the same sport at the same time as playing on an HSAA-sponsored team. Playing on a parks and rec team or a select team is allowed, but clear communication with coaches is necessary to make sure that HSAA's ability to field a team is not impacted.

Age-Based Participation

Periodically, such as the National Christian Homeschool Basketball Championships, an HSAA team may have the opportunity to participate in a pure, age-based contest or tournament. In those cases, teams may, at the discretion of the Commissioner, be re-configured in such a way as to disregard grade classifications and adhere to only age guidelines.

Exceptions

Exceptions to any eligibility requirement (except age limitations) may be made only by express approval of the HSAA Board. No exceptions will be permitted to the age limitations.

Explanation of How HSAA Interprets Homeschooling (chart):

Sort	Type	Description	Homeschool Status
1	Public ISD (including Homebound Education and Online Courses)	Educational Program dictated by the local ISD, under the State direction and oversight of the UIL.	Ineligible
2	Local Charter School	Educational Program dictated by local Charter School, under the direction of the Charter School Board and oversight of the UIL.	Ineligible
3	Community College (including "Dual Credit Hours")	Educational Program dictated by Community College under direction and oversight of the State.	Use 50% Rule (maximum 9 hours per spring or fall semester)
4	Private School (e.g., Prestonwood, Prince of Peace, ESD, Cistercian, Hockaday, etc.)	Educational Program dictated by School, under the direction and oversight of TAPPS, SPC, etc.	Use 50% Rule (disallow full-time* students)
5	University Model School (e.g., Coram Deo, Lucas, Lakewood, Grace Prep, Dallas Learning Center)	Educational Program dictated by School, under direction and oversight of TAPPS or other extracurricular Organization.	Use 50% Rule (disallow full-time* students)
6	Distance Learning Program (e.g., Bob Jones, Abeka, Texas Tech High School, K12.com, etc.)	Educational Program dictated by non-local Sponsor and classes monitored by Parent at Home. (Public school distance learning programs are not eligible.)	Eligible
7	Hired Instructor or Tutor (at home or another location)	Educational Program dictated by Parent and classes sometimes monitored by Parent at Home.	Eligible
8	Enrichment Coops	Educational Program dictated by Parent.	Eligible
9	Contracted Services / Course-Level Coops (RHSA, THEO, N-Tech, WorldView program)	Educational Program dictated by Parent and conducted by "hired" teachers under the direction of the Parent.	Eligible
10	Parent-Taught Classes (may include CDs, online, video school, etc.)	Educational Program directed wholly by the Parent using purchased or developed curriculums.	Eligible
*Full-time is defined as 4 or more courses taken at a private or university model school.			

What is the 50% Rule?

For a player to be considered "homeschooled," 50% of his/her education must arrive from at least one of the following sources:

- Class taught at home by parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or an older sibling of at least 18 years of age (may include CDs, online courses, video school, etc.)
- Class taught by hired instructor or tutor (designated by the parent) at home or another location (does not include community college)
- Homeschool co-op

- Class at any location where homeschoolers gather to receive contracted educational services from volunteers and/or hired teachers, and where each parent manages the transcript and diploma of the particular student (does not include community college)
- "Distance" learning program, such as Bob Jones, Abeka, Texas Tech High School, K12.com, or other non-local high school-level correspondence program, as long as the classes are overseen by a parent at home (does not include homebound or online courses administered by a local ISD or charter school)
- Participation on an HSAA sport team (constitutes only 1 homeschool class per semester)

Note: If a student is attending "part-time" at a TAPPS or SPC school, and that school deems the student eligible to participate in their sports program(s), then that student is ineligible for the HSAA sports program. This doesn't apply to schools that already allow homeschoolers to participate on their sports teams.

Revised by the HSAA Board of Directors:

January 29, 2012 (added Minimum Grade/Age Qualifications)

May 7, 2010 (dual-credit or college hours increased from 8 hours to 9 hours; added Explanation of How HSAA Interprets Homeschooling chart)

August 11, 2021 (specified that the dual-credit or college hours limit of 9 hours is per semester, clarified that athletes can play on a select or parks and rec team while playing on an HSAA team, removed UIL from the note under the 50% rule, and included the chart in the document)

August 13, 2022 (clarified that public school distance learning programs are not eligible)