

## NCHEAC New Program Information Guide

Welcome to NCHEAC,

As a new program to NCHEAC (North Carolinians for Home Education Athletic Commission), we would like to say, welcome home. This league was designed for home-schooled athletes who want competitive middle school and high school athletics who are not eligible to play on private or public school teams. Additionally, we want this athletic experience to not be associated with a lot of the negative parental involvement seen in many community based athletic programs. For this reason, we have high standards for parental involvement and discipline as seen in our fan behavior rules. In the guide below, you will see information about how to start and develop your program. Any forms alluded to may be found under RULES and FORMS at [www.ncheac.com](http://www.ncheac.com). Any questions you have may be directed to [sports@nche.com](mailto:sports@nche.com) for an appropriate response.

NCHEAC Commissioner

### DEFINITIONS

1. Program - All of the sports in a particular geographical location which are under the control of a unified homeschool sports administrative person, board, etc., regardless of the age divisions.
2. Team – A group of players and coaches for a particular sport who are associated with a homeschool sports team in a particular location.
3. Divisions – In sports which are large enough, NCHEAC has age divisions as follows: Middle School Boys (MSB); Middle School Girls (MSG); JV Boys (JVB); JV Girls (JVG); Varsity Girls (VG) and Varsity Boys (VB).
4. Regions – Due to geographical constraints, the league is divided into the Eastern Region and the Western Region with teams only being required to play teams in their respective region.
5. Conferences – Regions may be further subdivided into conferences when there are numbers to do so.
5. Games – For simplicity purposes in this guide, the term game refers to all athletic contests even though some sports may refer to these contests as matches or meets.
6. Non-conference games – Any games played against teams not in your region whether they are against an NCHEAC team in another region/conference, non-NCHEAC homeschool teams, private school teams or public school teams.

STEPS TO FORMING A HOMESCHOOL PROGRAM (See document – How to Start a Homeschool Sports Team for more details)

1. Identify at least 2 other families who are interested in starting a particular sports team.
2. Advertise your desire on homeschool e-mail loops in your area, post contact information at churches, libraries, local recreation centers, etc.
3. Hold open gyms for homeschoolers
4. If there appears to be enough interest, contact NCHEAC and schedule an information meeting for homeschoolers

If it appears you may have enough athletes for one age division, but you are not sure you have enough for second age group, you may be able to make use of dual eligibility as outlined below in your first 2 years in the league.

## DUAL ELIGIBILITY

Dual Eligibility (For new programs getting started – allowing them to use for the first two years in NCHEAC or for established teams the first 2 years NCHEAC offers multiple divisions in a sport (whether a tournament or a league).

What is Dual Eligibility? Dual eligibility is a term used to describe a situation in which a player can be on the roster of two teams within a program. This situation comes about as the result of a lack of sufficient players to field a full complement of teams, which would be: \* Middle School \* Junior Varsity \* Varsity

How does it work? As an example, a team might have plenty of JV players but only have 5 players on the Varsity team. Using dual eligibility, two of the JV players could be on the Varsity roster, giving the Varsity 7 players, which would allow the fielding of a Varsity team. These 2 players would also be allowed to play on the JV team. NCHEAC has determined that 7 players (for basketball ) or 7 (players for volleyball, only 1 allowed) are a sufficient number of players to field an effective team under this rule.

Please note that the age requirements for each division remain in force and it is not permissible to play players 'down'. That is to say, it is not permitted to play a Varsity player down on the JV team if he or she does not meet the age requirements for JV.

\*\* What is it for? The Dual Eligibility program is being retained for the express purpose of allowing homeschool programs to be able to field teams. The Committee fully recognizes the difficulties and uncertainties inherent in Homeschool sports. It is hoped and anticipated that as the years pass and programs become more established, that the need for this exemption will fade.

\*\* What is it not for? One of the realities of homeschool sports is that many players play at a level above what would normally be expected. For example, it is not uncommon to find JV age players playing on, and even starting on, a Varsity team. The Committee wishes to make clear that these are not the kind of players that should be considered for dual eligibility. Instead, dually eligible players should be players who are basically JV level players who can fill in on the Varsity team to provide relief for the Varsity players. The Committee will scrutinize all requests carefully to ensure that no players who are fully capable of playing Varsity will be playing in JV games. The purpose of dual eligibility is to be able to field teams, not cause a competitive imbalance. These same guidelines apply to players who are dually eligible on Middle School and JV teams.

How many dually eligible players are allowed? Each program is allowed 1 or 2 dually eligible player(s) (2 in sports with 9 or more positions, and basketball) shared between 2 or 3 age divisions (middle school, junior varsity or varsity). No individual player may play in more than 2 divisions. What is the process for making players dually eligible? All requests for making players dually eligible must come through and be approved by the NCHE Athletic Commission. Please submit all requests to the director at sports@nche.com .