

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: May 11, 2004

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. J. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **RECOMMENDED CHANGE REGARDING ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

ORIGINATOR: Christine Johns, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Phyllis Bailey, Executive Director of Special Programs, PreK-12
Ron Belinko, Coordinator, Office of Athletics

INFORMATION

That a recommended change regarding athletic eligibility is presented to the Board of Education as an information item.

Board Policy 6145.2, Instruction: Extra Class Activities, allows the Interscholastic Legislative Committee to make recommended modifications or changes to the athletic regulations as contained in the BCPS, *Regulations, Policies, and Procedures for Interscholastic Athletics Manual*.

The Interscholastic Legislative Committee, composed of high school principals has recommended that students who fail two subjects during the fourth quarter follow the same standards as students who fail two subjects during the first three marking periods and not have the option to attend summer school to become academically eligible for fall sports. The changes are reflected in Rule 02 Athletic Eligibility as contained in the BCPS *Regulations, Policies, and Procedures for Interscholastic Athletics Manual*. The rationale for this recommended modification to the academic eligibility requirement will encourage student-athletes to continue to strive for academic excellence during the fourth quarter grading period. This emphasis on academic achievement will help student-athletes maintain eligibility for fall sports participation.

Appendix I:
http://www.bcps.org/system/policies_rules/policies/6000Series/POL6145.2.pdf

Appendix II: .02 Athletic Eligibility

.02 ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

A. Scholarship

1. Ninth grade students entering high school for the first time must not have failed two or more subjects from the preceding grading period.
2. Students are ineligible if:
 - a. They have received a failing or incomplete mark in any two or more subjects for the preceding grading period.
 - (1) First, second, third, and fourth grading period will be used for determining scholastic eligibility for winter, spring, and fall.
 - (2) The beginning dates for grading periods shall be designated on the approved school schedule.
 - b. They failed two or three subjects, but may become eligible for fall sports by completing satisfactorily one or two subjects, whichever is necessary in order to become eligible, in the summer school session immediately following the grading period in which the failing grades were made.
 - c. They re-enter school after withdrawing and their work or conduct at the time of withdrawal was such that they would not have been eligible in the grading period.**
 - d. They did not attend school the grading period prior to the intended participation.
 - e. They are failing a class at the time of withdrawal in addition to another failure. The students shall be penalized for the withdrawal failure for one grading period only. Any first semester course or full year course dropped prior to November 15 will not be counted in determining eligibility. The date for dropping a second semester course is prior to April 15.
3. A student who is eligible during a grading period but incurs two or more failures at the close of that grading period becomes ineligible to play on the third school day following distribution of report cards as indicated by the official school calendar.
4. A student who is ineligible in a grading period because of two or more failures for the preceding grading period can become eligible to play no earlier than the third school day following distribution of report cards as indicated by the official school calendar. However, this student can become eligible to practice on the day designated as the end of that grading period in which the ineligibility occurred.

Appendix A: The format of the attached text is that which is prescribed for proposed amendments in Rule 1, E. Materials suggested for deletion from the rules are underlined and new rules or additions to existing rules appear in capital letters.