

AHB Player Eligibility Guidelines

The Aggieland Homeschool Basketball program uses the guidelines set forth by the National Christian Homeschool Basketball Championships for eligibility considerations. The Aggieland Homeschool Basketball Program will update this document as appropriate to reflect changes made by the National Christian Homeschool Association Basketball Championships.

Ultimately, "Homeschooling" is defined to mean that a student's education is parent-directed. Each year parents must indicate that their child's education is parent-directed. It is up to the parent to assess whether their child meets the guidelines listed in this document. The membership may call into question the eligibility of a player, but this must be done at an official meeting and follow the same protocol as other business.

Exceptions to the guidelines listed below will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the membership. These exceptions will be considered on an annual basis. These exceptions must be presented at any official meeting and require a majority vote of those voting members present for the exception to be adopted. Exceptions will expire at the close of the National Homeschool Basketball Championship Tournament and must be reconsidered by the voting membership for the next season. When making exceptions the following should be considered:

1. How will this decision impact the child and their family?
2. How will this decision impact the team and the rest of the team members?
3. How will this decision impact other programs or schools?
4. How will this decision impact our participation in the state and national tournament?

NCHC ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES & PROCEDURE

Intro to NCHC Eligibility Guidelines

NCHC Events are for HomeSchool Student-Athletes, unless otherwise noted.

The National Christian HomeSchool Championship (NCHC) Events are designed to provide top-quality tournaments for HomeSchool Student-Athletes. There are a series of eligibility rules that are designed to ensure that every participant is a HomeSchool Student first and an athlete second. As HomeSchool sports continue to grow, it is the NCHC's desire to make sure that the teams that participate in the HomeSchool division of the NCHC tournaments do not have a resemblance of AAU/Club teams &/or all-star teams. These rules are not only meant to keep the playing field level at the National Tournaments but are also designed to protect the reputation of HomeSchool teams on a national and local level.

Note: The following rules apply to the National Championships and NCHC-sanctioned Regional Tournaments.

Definition of a HomeSchool Student-Athlete

"Homeschooling" is defined to mean that a student's education is parent-directed.

As such, the parents shall be involved in their child's education by assuming the role of principal or headmaster, thereby (1) setting the date and requirements for high school graduation; (2) selecting and approving course materials and study schedules; and (3) selecting tutors, correspondence courses, videos, computer courses, and similar resources for their child's education. HomeSchooling would also include the person of legal responsibility* of the student filling the role of a parent (see below)

If a player does not meet all the requirements below they may fill out a [Hardship Exemption Form](#) to request an exemption.

Basic NCHC Eligibility Rules

Academics

Each member team and/or program shall have standards in place to make sure that all participating players maintain at least a 2.0 GPA (on a 4-point scale) during the active season.

Basketball Only: To be eligible for participation in the National Christian HomeSchool Basketball Championships, a player must be homeschooled continuously & begin playing on their team from October 1st to the beginning of this year's tournament.

Age Restrictions

A player's age group is determined by his/her age on September 1, of the current school year. For example, a player who is 16 on September 1, but turns 17 on October 5th is considered eligible to play in the 16-and-under age group at NCHC events. Players may play in a higher age group, if desired. In Basketball we offer 10u, 12u, 14u, 16u, & 18u age groups while in Volleyball we offer 12u, 14u, 16u, & 18u age groups.

Additional Educational Requirements

A player that has participated in a graduation ceremony is not eligible to participate at NCHC events without being approved for a [Hardship Exemption](#).

Basketball Only: To be eligible for participation in the National Christian HomeSchool Basketball Championships, a player must be homeschooled continuously & begin playing on their team before the teams 1st game. Any players joining the team after the 1st game must follow the next step listed below, each unique situation is dealt with on case by case basis.

If a player does not meet the requirements above they must fill out a [Hardship Exemption Form](#).

The NCHC ONLY handles eligibility exemptions or questions in writing, it does NOT handle the questions on the phone. Coaches, Athletic Directors, Parents, & Players if you have questions about an eligibility situation in your program and you have told the player has been granted an exemption ask to see it in writing. We are issuing this clarification statement because the last couple of years we have had 3 situations where coaches have told players that it was approved by Tim or Rob but we had not even heard of the situations. As players, coaches and parents it is your responsibility to make sure your team meets the eligibility requirements. Again, all eligibility issues must be dealt with in writing, no exceptions.

The Role of Outside Institutions

Private and Public Schools

Full-time enrollment in a traditional public or private school is not homeschooling because the child's education in such schools is not parent-directed. A player that attends a private, public, charter, or university-model school full-time is not eligible in HomeSchool divisions. For part-time students at these types of schools, the student must maintain at least 51% of his/her education from classes that meet the homeschooling definition.

Coop and Umbrella Schools

The participation in a cooperative school, and/or an umbrella school can create some questions. In some states, "HomeSchool students" are required by law to attend a private school and, in such cases, cooperative or umbrella schools are formed for this purpose. These schools, whether called cooperative, umbrella, or "private," are characterized by significant and direct parental involvement, often simply representing different forms of homeschooling within a group of like-minded families. In such cases where the student-athlete meets the definition of HomeSchooling and is involved in a coop and umbrellas school, he/she is deemed eligible by the NCHC.

Vocational Classes

In some states, "HomeSchool students" are permitted to take classes at vocational schools. A student may take classes at such schools as long as he/she maintains at least 51% of his education from classes that meet the homeschooling definition.

51% Rule

For clarification purposes, a normal course load for a full-time student is six (6) core courses; therefore, if a student-athlete is taking more than three (3) courses at a public, private, or vocational, he/she is not considered 51% homeschooled. If there are special circumstances, a student may apply for a hardship exemption.

Dual Credit/Enrollment Clause

Freshman, Sophomore, & Junior HomeSchool Student-Athletes that are taking advantage of Dual Credit/Enrollment Programs are required to take a minimum of three (3) High School Courses per semester. Senior HomeSchool Student-Athletes that are taking advantage of Dual Credit/Enrollment Programs are required to take a minimum of two (2) High School Courses per semester. High School Courses can be electives (like Physical Education, etc.) High School Courses can be taken through Co-Ops or any other eligible parent directed definition.

Transfers under Disciplinary action

Any student who transfers from a public school, Christian/private School, or another HomeSchool team and is under disciplinary action(s) must wait one (1) year before he/she is eligible to participate in any NCHC activity or play against other HomeSchool teams.

Additional Non-Educational Requirements

- A player must live at home with his/her parent, legal guardian or NCHC Pre-Approved* legally responsible person (in the case of foster children or other family hardships)* in order to be eligible.
- A player cannot be married.
- A New HomeSchool Player that has played as a Senior (1 game or more) at a school, is not eligible.
- A player must live within a 100-mile radius of the team's practice facility.
- All players attending an NCHC Event must have the NCHC player registration complete by their parents.

*Legal Responsibility Hardships must be PreApproved by NCHC, the 1st step in these situations is to fill out a Hardship Request.

Additional Basketball Only Guidelines & Procedures

NCHBC Invitational & 1st Game Policies

Beginning in 2016 all NCHBC (Basketball) Post Season (Regionals & Nationals) Events will be Invitational's meaning the first eligibility requirement for any team to attend an NCHBC Post Season Event will be to receive an official invitation, to requesting an NCHBC Invitation [Click Here](#).

To be eligible for participation in the National Christian HomeSchool Basketball Championships, a player must be homeschooled continuously & begin playing on their team before the teams 1st game. Any players joining the team after the 1st game must follow the next step listed below, each unique situation is dealt with on case by case basis.

NCHBC Transfer Policies for 2016-17 Season

NCHBC Eligibility: HomeSchool Student before HomeSchool Athlete Policy & Info

HomeSchool Players may transfer to another HomeSchool program during the off-season and be eligible immediately. Off-Season is defined as before a team's first game.

Public and Private School transfer classifications are based on the grade the student was in at the school they are transferring from. What this means is that if they were a Junior at their previous school, they are considered an incoming Senior, if they “reclassify”, they are still treated as an incoming Senior in terms of the following rules.

Incoming Freshman and Sophomores– are eligible immediately if they join a program before their teams first game.

Incoming Juniors– who transfer from a school to a HomeSchool team before the team’s first game, are not eligible to play until they have sat out 30 days, starting with their teams 1st game.

Incoming Seniors– who transfer from a school to a HomeSchool team before the team’s first game, are not eligible to play until they have sat out one full semester.

Definition of “one full semester” October 15th-December 31st.

Any player joining a team after their seasons first game will need to request a Hardship Exemption and there is no guarantee they will receive this hardship.

The goal of these rules is to establish incoming upperclassmen as HomeSchool Students first, before they are eligible for athletics.

A player who has attended private or public school as a senior is still not eligible to participate in the NCHBC.

The transfer rules above are designed for a team that has two public or private school transfers in a year.

If a team had only one transfer in a year they could request that an incoming Junior’s 30 game day waiting period be waived or if there one player was an incoming senior they could request the waiting period be reduced to 30 game days. Each situation would be dealt with on a case by case basis.

If a team has more than 2 transfers then the players would have to be considered as a group and the Regional committee would have the right to include waiting periods for freshman and sophomores transfers and possibly increase a Juniors waiting period. This clause is designed to stop programs from wholesale recruiting players from private and public schools.

A couple other clarifications: If a player is 16 & under they would be able to play on the programs 16u/JV team while they were sitting out. Players would be permitted to practice with their program while “sitting out.”

As in all NCHBC guidelines players have the right to request a hardship exemptions.

NCHBC Program/Team Guidelines

Programs are to use only players that are eligible by NCHBC Eligibility Guideline for all games throughout the year. Failure to do so disqualifies a program to attend NCHBC Events.

All Programs that attend NCHBC Regional and National Tournaments must be a member of the National HomeSchool Basketball Association – [Click here for Details](#)

NCHBC Tebow Rule Guidelines

NCHBC Tebow Rule – Many states have adapted the Tebow Rule that allows homeschool students to play on public school teams. The NCHBC has the following guidelines regarding players under the Tebow Rule Provision:

Players who are HomeSchooled but are playing on a school team through the Tebow Bill, may transfer to a HomeSchool Team through Jan 1st, this is provided they were Home Educated for the entire first semester and join a HomeSchool Team on or before January 1st.