



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Student Eligibility



## GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- 1. Can a student who is 19 prior to September 1 of the current year participate in TAPPS Extra-Curricular Activities?**
  - a. TAPPS Constitution Article V.1
  - b. Students who have reached 19 before September 1 of the current year are ineligible.
  - c. See Eligibility Chart
  
- 2. Can a student who has repeated a grade in high school participate during their senior, or fifth, year in high school?**
  - a. TAPPS Constitution Article V.2
  - b. Students who enrolled in the ninth grade more than four years prior to the current school year are ineligible.
  - c. See Eligibility Chart
  
- 3. Are there any appeals for over age or fifth year students?**
  - a. There are no appeals for over age or fifth year students.
  - b. These students may not participate in TAPPS Extra-Curricular Activities
  
- 4. What is the penalty for playing an over age or fifth year student?**
  - a. TAPPS Constitution Article VII
  - b. Forfeiture is required for any game in which the student participates.
  
- 5. May students who are not yet in High School play on a Junior Varsity or High School team?**
  - a. TAPPS Constitution Article V
  - b. TAPPS By-Laws Section 85
  - c. Students not yet in high school may not compete with or against high school students.

Schools may determine policies for student eligibility that are stricter than the policies presented in the TAPPS Constitution and By-Laws. Such policies should be in place at the beginning of each school year and apply to all students equally.

## FULL TIME DAY STUDENT

- 1. Are students from other schools allowed to participate in TAPPS Extra-Curricular Activities for the member school?**
  - a. TAPPS By-Laws Section 82.A
  - b. Students must be enrolled and fulltime day students to participate.
  - c. Students from other schools may not participate
  
- 2. Are home schooled students allowed to participate in TAPPS Extra-Curricular Activities for the member school?**
  - a. TAPPS By-Laws Section 82.A
  - b. Students must be enrolled and fulltime day students to participate.
  - c. Home schooled students may not participate.
  
- 3. How many classes must a student be taking at our school to be eligible to participate in TAPPS Extra-Curricular activities?**
  - a. TAPPS By-Laws Section 82
  - b. Four Academic Classes
  
- 4. Do the courses have to be taken at the school?**
  - a. TAPPS By-Laws Section 82.C
  - b. Yes, at least four academic classes must be taken on the campus of the member school.
  - c. On-Line or virtual courses do not count toward minimum if not attended on the campus of the member school. (NOTE: Exception made for 2020-21 due to COVID-19 is no longer applicable.)
  
- 5. Do Dual Credit courses taken at a local college count towards the minimum requirement?**
  - a. TAPPS By-Laws Section 82.D

- b. TAPPS recognizes the value of the courses, however, if they are not held on the member school's campus the school must provide a corresponding study hall or other such period on campus to monitor attendance and progress.

**6. Which courses count towards the minimum requirement?**

- a. TAPPS By-Laws Section 82.B
- b. Academic Courses are those courses that:
  - i. Core Courses – Math, Science, History, English, etc
  - ii. Religion
  - iii. Fine Arts – Art, Music, Speech, Performance Arts, etc
  - iv. Study Hall, Teacher's Aide and similar courses **do not** count towards the requirement
  - v. Athletics, P.E. or similar courses **do not** count towards the minimum of four (4) core classes.

**7. Are students allowed to be enrolled in more than one athletic class?**

- a. TAPPS By-Laws Section 136.D
- b. Only one athletic period is permitted

**8. Are students who graduate at mid-term still eligible for spring sports?**

- a. TAPPS Constitution Article V.3
- b. High school graduates are not eligible to participate in TAPPS Extra-Curricular Activities.

**9. What is the penalty for playing a student who does not meet the definition of a Full Time Day Student?**

- a. TAPPS Constitution Article VII
- b. Forfeiture is required for any game in which the student participates.

## NO PASS – NO PLAY

- 1. Does TAPPS have a minimum number of classes a student must attend on game days?**
  - a. TAPPS does not address this issue
  - b. TAPPS supports the rules in place at each member school as determined appropriate for all of their students.
  
- 2. Does TAPPS have a No Pass – No Play policy?**
  - a. TAPPS Constitution Article V.5
  
- 3. Which students are covered under the No Pass-No Play policy?**
  - a. Students participating in TAPPS Extra-Curricular Activities
  - b. TAPPS By-Laws cover only those activities governed by TAPPS
  
- 4. What if the school policy is stricter than the TAPPS policy?**
  - a. TAPPS By-Laws allow for more strict policies
  - b. School policies may not be more lenient than the TAPPS By-Laws.
  
- 5. How often must a school check grades for eligibility?**
  - a. TAPPS Member schools determine the reporting periods that best suit their educational needs
  - b. Typical reporting periods are 3 weeks, 6 weeks, and 9 weeks, but cannot exceed 9 weeks.
  
- 6. What is the minimum time a student will be ineligible?**
  - a. TAPPS Constitution Article V.5
  - b. Two weeks is the minimum eligibility period
  
- 7. What determines when a student may return to participation?**
  - a. TAPPS Constitution Article V.5
  - b. Must be failing no more than one (1) course at the end of the period of ineligibility

**8. Are ineligible students allowed to practice with the team?**

- a. TAPPS does not restrict practice
- b. TAPPS supports member schools that have a stricter policy in place which prohibits such practice

**9. Are ineligible students allowed to participate in a scrimmage?**

- a. TAPPS does not restrict scrimmages
- b. TAPPS supports member schools that have a stricter policy in place which prohibits such practice

**10. Are ineligible students allowed to “dress out” with the team?**

- a. TAPPS Constitution Article V
- b. Ineligible student may not dress out with the team

**11. Are ineligible students allowed to be on the team bench or in the team area during a game?**

- a. Ineligible students may be present
- b. Ineligible students may not be in uniform, warm-ups, etc.

**12. Are ineligible students allowed to participate in pep rallies, homecoming and other activities?**

- a. TAPPS does not restrict such activities
- b. TAPPS supports member schools that have a stricter policy in place which prohibits such practice

**13. Are ineligible students allowed to be introduced as member of the team?**

- a. The student may be introduced

**14. Are ineligible students allowed to participate in club or organization activities at the school?**

- a. TAPPS does not govern clubs or organizations

- b. TAPPS supports member schools that have a stricter policy in place which prohibits such practice

**15. What is the penalty for playing a student who is ineligible due to grades?**

- a. TAPPS Constitution Article VII
- b. Forfeiture is required for any game in which the student participates.

**STUDENTS NOT LIVING WITH PARENTS**

**1. Does TAPPS regulate the eligibility of those students who do not reside with their parents?**

- a. TAPPS By-Laws Section 80
- b. TAPPS does regulate the eligibility of Students not Living with Parents
- c. Students are not eligible until an application has been completed and approved by TAPPS.

**2. What documentation is required?**

- a. TAPPS By-Laws Section 80
- b. Must complete the following
  - i. Application
  - ii. Guardianship Form
  - iii. Room and Board Agreement – if necessary
  - iv. Copy of Court Decree – If necessary



## **INTERNATIONAL / FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS**

- 1. Are International and Foreign Exchange student eligible to participate in TAPPS Extra-Curricular Activities?**
  - a. TAPPS By-Laws Section 102
  - b. Approval from the TAPPS is required prior to participation
  
- 2. When are International and Foreign Exchange students eligible to participate in TAPPS Extra-Curricular Activities?**
  - a. TAPPS By-Laws Section 102
  - b. Application must be submitted
  - c. Submissions will be reviewed by TAPPS
  - d. TAPPS will notify school of student's eligibility status.
  - e. Students are not eligible to participate in TAPPS Extra-Curricular Activities until approved by TAPPS.
  
- 3. Are there deadlines that affect International / Foreign Exchange students?**
  - a. See TAPPS Calendar
  - b. TRANSFER DEADLINES
    - i. Fall in September
    - ii. Winter in November
    - iii. Spring in January
  
- 4. Is there a fee for International / Foreign Exchange student applications?**
  - a. TAPPS By-Laws Section 102
  - b. A fee of \$30 will be required for each submission
  
- 5. Does the school have to reapply each year for approved students?**
  - a. If no change in status, no additional submissions are necessary
  - b. If a change in guardianship, residence or other status is made a new submission is required

- 6. Are International / Foreign Exchange students allowed to practice with the team?**
  - a. TAPPS does not restrict practice with coaches or teams
  - b. TAPPS supports member schools that have a stricter policy in place which prohibits such practice
  
- 7. What is the penalty for playing an International / Foreign Exchange student who has not been declared eligible by the Foreign Student Committee?**
  - a. TAPPS Constitution Article VII
  - b. Forfeiture is required for any game in which the student participate.

# STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CHART

The following chart offers a quick reference for determining student eligibility. This information does not replace the actual wording of the TAPPS Constitution or By-Laws.

Students who do not meet the criteria for eligibility are not eligible to participate in TAPPS Extra-Curricular activities. There is no appeal available to the member schools nor opportunity for board relief of the provisions in Article V.

These rules apply to both domestic and international students.

These rules apply to all activities offered and governed by TAPPS.

School Year	Student is not Eligible if the Student Date of Birth is Prior to *	Student is not Eligible if the Student Enrolled in Ninth Grade in **
2021-22	9/1/2002	2017
2022-23	9/1/2003	2018
2023-24	9/1/2004	2019
2024-25	9/1/2005	2020
2025-26	9/1/2006	2021
2026-2027	9/1/2007	2022

## Constitution

Article V

\* 19 years old prior to September 1

\*\* Four years from the date of first enrollment in ninth grade

## By – Laws

Section 84

\*\* Four Year Normal Program of High School Courses

Section 88

Burden of Proof for Eligibility





## **TAPPS**

**3575 Lone Star Circle  
Suite 320  
Fort Worth, TX 76177**

**254-947-9268  
[www.tapps.biz](http://www.tapps.biz)**