

PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Students are required to complete one-half unit of physical education for graduation. One-half unit requires a minimum of 120 hours of course instruction. This requirement is currently addressed by completing two nine-week courses, each worth a quarter credit.

EXEMPTION TO THE P.E. GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Exemption from this requirement is based upon Section 3313.603 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), Letter L.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, students in the Fairfield City School District in grades 9, 10, and 11 who successfully complete two full seasons of **interscholastic athletics**, **marching band**, or **cheerleading** may be excused from the high school physical education requirement. The “two full season” requirement may be completed within a single school year. The “two full season” requirement must be completed by the end of the student’s junior year to eliminate the possibility of seniors being caught in a position of lacking physical education requirements and failing to graduate.

Under the ORC, the board of education may NOT provide for partial completion of the high school physical education requirement. The one-half unit requirement cannot be partially exempted. For example, it is not possible to combine one quarter of physical education and one successful season to meet the physical education requirement.

IMPACT ON OVERALL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Those students excused from the high school physical education requirement are required to complete one-half unit, consisting of at least 60 hours of instruction, in another course of study, as determined by the student.

Those students excused from the high school physical education requirement are still required to meet expectations related to total credits earned for graduation established by the Fairfield City School District.

RECOGNIZED ACTIVITIES

In addition to **cheerleading** and **marching band**, **interscholastic athletic** teams currently recognized by the Ohio High School Athletic Association in Fairfield City Schools include:

Baseball, boys	Football	Swimming, boys and girls
Basketball, boys and girls	Golf, boys and girls	Tennis, boys and girls
Bowling, boys and girls	Gymnastics, girls	Track, boys and girls
Cheerleading	Soccer, boys and girls	Volleyball, boys and girls
Cross country, boys and girls	Softball, girls	Wrestling
Diving, boys and girls		

Under the ORC the board of education may NOT add additional areas of participation beyond **interscholastic athletics, marching band, or cheerleading** which may be used to excuse a student from the high school physical education requirement.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A SEASON

Successful completion of a season shall be defined as “daily participation paralleling the official sport season completed at a 90% attendance level and completing the season as a member of the team or group.”

Formal starting dates for interscholastic athletics are determined by the OHSAA. Starting dates for marching band and cheerleading will be determined by the respective advisors; the starting date may be inclusive of mandatory camps.

The 90% participation criteria is applicable to a student who moves into the district during a season. If 90% of all activities for the entire season can be completed, the season may be counted towards the physical education exemption.

The 90% participation criteria only applies to the physical education exemption process. Other participation expectations may be required per team as determined by the coach / advisor and athletic department.

PROCESS FOR EXEMPTION FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS, MARCHING BAND, AND CHEERLEADING

1. At the end of each season, the athletic department/band department will provide the guidance department with a list of students who have completed the 90% requirement that is necessary to qualify for the PE Credit Exemption.
2. That list will be kept and updated each season and school year in the guidance department.
3. Once a student has completed BOTH SEASONS NECESSARY TO BE EXEMPT FROM P.E., the student will then turn in a PE Exemption Form. YOU SHOULD ONLY TURN IN THE PE EXEMPTION FORM AFTER YOU HAVE COMPLETED **BOTH** SPORTS/BAND SEASONS NECESSARY TO BE EXEMPT FROM P.E.
4. The new P.E. Exemption Form will list the two sports/band seasons completed, the year(s)/season(s), and that form will be turned into the student’s counselor and/or the guidance department.
5. That PE FORM will then be cross-checked with the information provided by the athletic/band departments each season.
6. It is still the responsibility of the student to turn in the form to the guidance department and make any schedule changes necessary. THIS WILL NOT BE DONE AUTOMATICALLY FOR THE STUDENT.

It is ***important*** to note that this exemption may not transfer should a student transfer to a different school district with different policies.

Also *important* to note is that students do not receive a P.E. credit when they turn in the P.E. Exemption Form. They are simply being exempted from the requirement of the credit.

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