

Interscholastic Athletic Participation Acknowledgement

Florida law requires students to take one (1) credit in physical education to include the integration of health (Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE) course) as a high school graduation requirement. Effective July 1, 2017, students may meet the one credit in physical education graduation requirement by participating in two complete seasons of an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity and or varsity level.

Please read the following information to see if you meet the requirement.

Interscholastic High School Extracurricular Sports:

Student athletes who have participated in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity or varsity level for **two full seasons** shall satisfy the one credit requirement in physical education. Interscholastic extracurricular sports are interpreted as those sanctioned by the Polk County School Board and/or approved by the Florida High School Activities Association (FHSAA).

Full Season:

A full season (in the FHSAA sport) is defined as attendance and participation in both the practices and competitive events from the allowable first day of practice as designated by the FHSAA to the elimination of a team from the FHSAA tournament competition. Verification of a complete season will be made by the student's name appearing on the final team roster of the sport and year stated on the form. The form must be signed by the school Athletic Director after verifying the student is on the final team roster.

Steps Student Needs to Take In Completing the Process:

1. Read instructions carefully to see if you qualify.
2. Complete Sections I and II.
3. Parent or Guardian Complete Section III.
4. Have Athletic Director complete Section IV. Please note that the Athletic Director cannot complete his/her section unless the first two sections are completed in full.
5. Return the completed form to your school counselor to be reviewed for accuracy and to input codes into academic transcripts.

Attention Parents:

Polk County Public Schools does not endorse the absence of Integrated Comprehensive Health Education or Physical Education for student athletes and encourages all students to participate in electives that build a well-rounded Comprehensive Health and Physical Education experience. Legislation removes the graduation requirement of enrollment in a physical education course for athletes as described above. By signing this form you are acknowledging that your child will have little to no instruction on Comprehensive Health Education. In addition the HOPE course is delivered as a blended virtual course and also meets the Online or Virtual course graduation requirement.

Please note students may still elect to enroll in a Health-integrated Physical Education Course at any time regardless of completion of this form.

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Name: _____ Student ID _____
School: _____ Date: _____
Sport Completed: _____ Date Season 1 Completed: _____
Sport Completed: _____ Date Season 2 Completed: _____

Student Statement of Acknowledgement

I understand that because I have participated for two full seasons in a district sponsored high school sport as a competing athlete at the junior varsity or varsity level, I am not required to take the state required 1 credit of Physical Education, Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE). I understand that I will not receive a grade or course credit for the sport(s) in which I participated. I will simply meet the physical education graduation requirement.

I understand that sports participation does not prevent me from taking HOPE and I may still enroll in HOPE at any time.

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent Acknowledgement

As a parent/guardian, I understand that the above named student will not receive Comprehensive Health Education. Health Education provides students with the knowledge and skills they need to be healthy throughout their lifetime. The intent of a comprehensive health education program is to motivate students to maintain and improve their health, prevent disease, and avoid or reduce health related risk behaviors. I understand that by not taking this course, students may not receive instruction on the following topics:

- Community Health
- Consumer Health
- Environmental Health
- Human Growth and Reproduction
- Injury Prevention and safety
- Internet Safety
- Mental and Emotional Health
- Nutrition
- Personal Health
- Prevention and Control of Disease
- Substance Use and Abuse
- Teen Dating Violence
- CPR Training

I understand that sports participation does not prevent my student from taking HOPE and understand that they can enroll in the HOPE course at any time.

I understand and allow the student to substitute his/her participation in high school sports in lieu of the 1 credit physical education requirement (HOPE) and will not receive a course credit. I also understand that the HOPE course meets the Online course graduation requirement and my student must now acquire this credit outside the school day.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Athletic Director Verification

I have verified that this student has completed two seasons of a Junior Varsity and or Varsity Sport and their name appears on two separate end of season rosters.

Athletic Director Printed Name _____ Signature _____