

Oklahoma Flame Sports Eligibility Requirements

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their athlete meets the definition of “homeschooled” as defined on the NCHBC Eligibility Rules (<https://www.nchclive.com>) and in the following Oklahoma Flame Sports Eligibility Requirements.

Any questions on Oklahoma Flame Sports eligibility need to be addressed with the Athletic Director and/or the Oklahoma Flame Sports Board.

Academic Qualifications

- A player must be homeschooled. "Homeschooled" means that a player must be receiving his or her primary educational direction through the home. See Explanation of How Oklahoma Flame Sports Interprets Homeschooling.
- A player must be living at home with a parent or guardian.
- A player is ineligible if that player is enrolled in more than 9 hours of dual-credit and/or college courses in a semester.
- A player is ineligible if that player has gone through a homeschool, public school, or private school high school graduation ceremony prior to that season's first game. (The only exception to this is if they participate in a graduation style ceremony where they are only receiving a completion of the program certificate -- not a diploma – indicating that they still have more academic requirements to meet before they are eligible to receive their diploma.)
- A player must be passing all courses in order to participate in a contest or tournament. In performing the role of administrator for the homeschool, the parent is solely responsible for enforcing this rule.

Athletic Grade Classifications and Designations

Oklahoma Flame Sports, a grade-based athletic program, is designed for Elementary, Middle School, and High School homeschooled students. Elementary includes grades 3 through 5; Middle School includes grades 6 through 8; High School includes grades 9 through 12.

An athletic grade designation must be declared prior to the tryouts and must conform to Oklahoma Flame Sports maximum age qualifications.

After or during the tryout of the first year of high school participation (whether participation took place at Oklahoma Flame Sports or another homeschool, public, or private school team), an athletic grade re-classification is not allowed unless approved by the Oklahoma Flame Sports Board. Hardship approval by NCHC may need to be granted as well.

A high school player is ineligible to play on a middle school team. In other words, a ninth grader is prohibited from playing on a middle school team regardless of his or her age unless approved by the Oklahoma Flame Sports Board. Hardship approval by NCHC may need to be granted as well.

A middle school player is ineligible to play on a high school team, unless the middle school player is prevented from playing on a middle school team due to the age requirement, in which

case the middle school player is considered a 9th grader for sports eligibility purposes. Note: An exception is if the Oklahoma Flame Sports Board approves the participation of an 8th grader on an Oklahoma Flame Sports high school team.

Maximum Age Qualifications

A player is ineligible to play on any team on the next September 1st following that player's 19th birthday.

A player is ineligible to play on a middle school team on the next September 1st following that player's 15th birthday unless approved by the Oklahoma Flame Sports Board. Hardship approval by NCHC may need to be granted as well.

Minimum Grade/Age Qualifications

A player must be in at least the 3rd grade and/or must be at least 8 years old on September 1st of the current school year in order to participate on an elementary school team.

A player must be in at least the 6th grade and/or must be at least 11 years old on September 1st of the current school year in order to participate on a middle school team.

Transfers and Expulsions

If a player started the season on another homeschool, public, or private school team, no transfer shall be allowed during the season without the approval of the Oklahoma Flame Sports Board.

If a player was expelled from a public or private school during the academic school year or in the year prior, no transfer shall be allowed without the approval of the Oklahoma Flame Sports Board.

A player cannot play on another homeschool, public, or private school team in the same sport at the same time as playing on an Oklahoma Flame Sports team. Playing on a parks and rec team or a select team is allowed, but clear communication with coaches is necessary to make sure that Oklahoma Flame's ability to field a team is not impacted.

Age-Based Participation

Periodically, such as the National Christian Homeschool Basketball Championships, an Oklahoma Flame Sports team may have the opportunity to participate in a pure, age-based contest or tournament. In those cases, teams may, at the discretion of the Athletic Director, be re-configured in such a way as to disregard grade classifications and adhere to only age guidelines.

Exceptions

Exceptions to any eligibility requirement (except age limitations) may be made only by express approval of the Oklahoma Flame Sports Board. No exceptions will be permitted to the age limitations.

Explanation of How Oklahoma Flame Sports Interprets Homeschooling (chart):

Sort	Type	Description	Homeschool Status
1	Public ISD (including Homebound Education and Online Courses)	Educational Program dictated by the local ISD, under State direction and oversight.	Ineligible
2	Local Charter School – in person (e.g. Tulsa Classical Academy, Dove Science Academy, etc.)	Educational Program dictated by local Charter School, under State direction and oversight.	Ineligible
3	Charter School – online at home (EPIC Charter School)	Educational Program dictated by local Charter School, under State direction and oversight, but curriculum is chosen by parent and monitored by Parent at home.	Eligible
4	Community College (including “Dual Credit hours”)	Educational Program dictated by Community College under direction and oversight of the State.	Use 51% rule (maximum 9 hours per fall or spring semester)
5	Private School (e.g. Regent, Metro Christian, etc.)	Educational Program dictated by School, under the direction and oversight of OPSAC.	Use 51% rule (disallow full time* students)
6	University Model School (e.g. South Tulsa Academy, etc.)	Educational Program dictated by School, under the direction and oversight of OPSAC or other extracurricular organization.	Use 51% rule (disallow full time* students)
7	Distance Learning Program (e.g. Bob Jones, Abeka, K12.com, Connections Academy, etc.)	Educational Program dictated by non-local Sponsor and classes monitored by Parent at home. (Public school distance learning programs are not eligible)	Eligible
8	Hired Instructor or Tutor (at home or another location)	Educational Program dictated by Parent and classes sometimes monitored by Parent at home.	Eligible
9	Enrichment Coop	Educational Program dictated by Parent	Eligible
10	Contracted Services / Course-level Coops (e.g. Legacy Alliance, WorldView Program, etc.)	Educational Program dictated by Parent and conducted by “hired” teachers under the direction of the Parent.	Eligible
11	Parent-taught classes (may include CDs, online, video school, etc.)	Educational Program directed wholly by the Parent using purchased or developed curriculums.	Eligible

*Full time is defined as 4 or more courses taken at a private or university model school.

What is the 51% Rule?

For a player to be considered "homeschooled," 51% of his/her education must arrive from at least one of the following sources:

- Class taught at home by parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or an older sibling of at least 18 years of age (may include CDs, online courses, video school, etc.)
- Class taught by hired instructor or tutor (designated by the parent) at home or another location (does not include community college)
- Homeschool co-op
- Class at any location where homeschoolers gather to receive contracted educational services from volunteers and/or hired teachers, and where each parent manages the transcript and diploma of the particular student (does not include community college)
- "Distance" learning program, such as Bob Jones, Abeka, K12.com, or other non-local high school-level correspondence program, as long as the classes are overseen by a parent at home (does not include homebound or online courses administered by a local ISD or charter school)
- Participation on an Oklahoma Flame Sports team (constitutes only 1 homeschool class per semester)

Note: If a student is attending "part-time" at a public or private school, and that school deems the student eligible to participate in their sports program(s), then that student is ineligible for the Oklahoma Flame Sports program. This doesn't apply to schools that already allow homeschoolers to participate on their sports teams.