

District 99's Physical Education Athletic Exemption Requirements and Procedures (effective with the 2019-2020 school year)

Illinois School Code requires that students must engage in physical education during the school day. There are several circumstances that allow school districts to excuse students from this requirement, including for a student's ongoing participation in an interscholastic sport.

In order to qualify for a physical education exemption, students must be:

- In 11th or 12th grade,
- an active member of a District 99 junior varsity or varsity athletic team, and
- enrolled in a minimum of 6 academic classes.

PE exemptions are not automatic. Students must apply for a PE exemption; [click here](#) to download the application.

Duration of Exemption

Students whose season spans more than 12 weeks of a semester may waive out of PE class for the entire semester. If a student's season spans less than 12 week of a semester, the student will be enrolled in a physical education course. While in season, students will be placed in study hall during their PE period. When season is over, student will return to PE class.

Grading Options

Students whose season spans less than 12 weeks and are enrolled in a PE course may elect to take the course for a pass/fail grade or a letter grade:

Pass/Fail ("P" or "F") Option (Passing grades do not factor into a student's GPA; failing grades factor into the student's GPA)

PE class Pass/Fail requirements include:

- Student will not be required to make up content during which time the student is exempt.
- Student will be required to attend class daily and complete all coursework when not in-season.
- Student will not be required to take the final exam.
- Student will receive a grade of 100% for the time in which the student is exempt.

Letter Grade Option: (Letter grades factor into a student's GPA)

PE class Letter Grade requirements include:

- Student will not be required to submit written work during the time in which the student was exempt.
- Student will be required to attend class daily and complete all course work when not exempt.
- Student will be required to take the final exam.
- Student will receive a grade of 100% for the time in which the student is exempt.

Key Considerations:

- Seniors who do not fulfill the Athletic PE Exemption requirements during the 2nd semester may be placed in a PE class and may be required to fulfill the PE requirement by other means as determined by the administration.
- Students whose season consists of 12 weeks or more of a semester will not be required to register for a PE course. NOTE: If a student decides not to go out for the team, quits during the season or is removed from the team, depending on when the removal occurs, the student may be placed in a PE Class that semester. However, if there is insufficient time left in the semester to award a PE credit, the student may be placed in a study hall and be required to take 2 PE classes in the next semester. This determination will be made by the student's counselor, PE Teacher, Department Chair of Physical Education, Health and Driver's Education and the Assistant Principal for Counseling and Student Support Services.
- Students whose exemption is for less than 12 weeks will be required to register for a PE course. If the student ceases to participate in the sport, the student is required to stay in or return to PE class.
- Students should confer with their coach before seeking an exemption, since many programs rely on physical education to enhance preparation and condition for their specific sport.

District 99 PE Exemption FAQ

1. Are all students who participate in athletics eligible for a PE exemption?

No. Only 11th and 12th grade students who are active members of a District 99 varsity athletic team and enrolled in a minimum of six academic classes are eligible to participate.

2. Are student athletes who are exempted from Physical Education classes required to return to PE class when the season ends?

If the student's athletic season is more than 12 weeks of a semester, the student will not be required to register for a PE class. If the student's season is 12 weeks or less of a semester, the student will be required to attend PE class when not in season.

3. If a student has a PE exemption for the entire semester (second semester basketball and track, for example), is the student required to register for a PE class or can the student enroll in another academic class?

Since the student season(s) will be more than 12 weeks of a semester (2nd semester in this example) the student will not be required to register for PE class and may register for another class, if interested.

4. If a student wishes to take another class instead of PE, can the student be exempted?

There are certain circumstances in which a student, regardless of participation in an interscholastic sport, can apply for a PE exemption. Students should ask their counselor for information.

5. Can a student be exempt from PE for participating in athletics or dance outside of District 99? No. School code does not allow District 99 to exempt students for participation in activities outside of school.

7. Are there any PE courses for which a student athlete cannot be exempt?

Yes. Students cannot be exempt from PE Trainee, PE Leader, Lifeguard Training, Personal Trainer Certification, and Personal Safety and Wellness classes.

8. How does a student apply for an athletic exemption?

Students should [click here](#) to download the application. It is important that the student follow each step to ensure that the application is considered.

9. Are athletic exemptions automatic for grade 11 and 12 varsity athletes?

No. Students must apply for an athletic exemption. Athletic exemptions are approved on a case-by-case basis.