

OLSD Board Policy Regarding PE Waiver

In accordance to Section 3313.603 of the Ohio Revised Code, students in grades 9-11 may be excused from all physical education course requirements by participating in District-sponsored interscholastic athletics, marching band, cheerleading, or JROTC for at least two seasons (or two full years for JROTC). Students in grade 12 who have not completed the waiver requirements or taken a physical education course, will be automatically enrolled in physical education their senior year. The Olentangy Local School board shall not require the student to participate in a physical education course as a condition to graduate. However, the student shall be required to complete one half-unit, consisting of at least 60 hours of instruction, in another course of study.

Procedure for Documenting Physical Education Course Exemptions:

1. ***Prior to participating in a full season of a sport, marching band, cheerleading, or JROTC***, the student should complete and turn in the Physical Education Waiver Intent Form to the high school Guidance Office. Forms can be picked up at the District Central Office, high school Guidance Office, or downloaded from the district website.
2. Forms will be kept in the district athletic office or band office until the seasons are completed. Forms will then be verified by the athletic director or marching band director and given to the Guidance Office for record keeping.
3. PE Waiver will be added by the guidance counselor on the official transcript comment section.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What constitutes a “full season” in Olentangy Local Schools? Criteria for full participation is determined by Principal/Director. A full season is the first practice until the last event or banquet as per the athletic handbook.

How much Physical Education is required to graduate from Olentangy Local Schools? Students are required to complete one-half unit of Physical Education for graduation. Both elective and traditional Physical Education courses require a minimum of 120 hours of course instruction to earn one-half unit of credit.

For Physical Education (PE) Exemption, will other activities (show choirs, non-school-sponsored athletics, etc.) which involve physical activity on the part of students be counted toward the two semesters of PE? No. The statute specifically limits the participation to interscholastic athletics, marching band, cheerleading, and JROTC. There is no authority granted to a board of education to include any additional participation.

Are there any other requirements students must meet beyond the two full seasons of participation in interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading? Yes. Exempted students also must complete one-half unit in another curricular area. For students in a JROTC program, the credit received for that participation may be used to satisfy the requirement to complete one-half unit in another course of study. This one-half unit in another curricular area keeps the minimum number of credits required for graduation at 22.

For PE, what is the impact of being “cut”, quitting, or having an athletic/activity code violation? The statute requires participation “for at least two full seasons.” JROTC requires participation “for at least two full years.” The season during which a student was “cut,” quit, or had an athletic code violation could not be used to meet the two-season requirement.

If a student participates in only one full season of an approved activity, can the student be excused from .25 units of PE and thus have to take only .25 units of PE to complete his or her PE requirement under the Ohio Core? No. The statute requires participation “for at least two full seasons.” There is no provision in the law that would permit any type of partial excuse.

What happens if a student is injured during the season? Injury will not prevent the completion of one season if the coach/ director concedes that the student actively participated and made contributions in spite of injury.

Can team managers or statisticians complete the waiver? No, Olentangy team managers and statisticians are not eligible for the waiver. Only students physically participating in the activity are eligible.

Olentangy Local Schools
Physical Education Waiver Intent

Please print the following information. Complete and return to the Guidance Office PRIOR to the completion of the athletic, marching band, cheerleading or JROTC season.

Name: _____

Graduation Year: _____ Phone: _____

PE Waiver Season Completion: (Circle One) 1 or 2

Activity: _____ Coach/Advisor _____

*****It is understood that two successful seasons must be completed to waive the Physical Education graduation requirement and that no credit is earned for the waived activity.**

Student's signature: _____

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____

*****Verification that the above named student has successfully completed each season of activity.**

This Portion Should Be Completed By The Activity Director.

Activity: _____ Date of Completion: _____

Athletic Director's/ Head Band Director's signature: _____

Date: _____

Copy to be sent to guidance for student file.