

# SECTION VI ELIGIBILITY (BYLAWS)

**(Please also refer to Section X for additional bylaws regarding  
Charter, Alternative, Home School, and Non-Member Private School Student  
eligibility for participation)**

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## 6.1 STUDENT PARTICIPATION

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Student participation in interscholastic activities plays a significant role in personal and educational development. It is used as a means of developing wholesome attitudes and well-rounded citizens, who are better prepared to face the challenges of adult life as a result of their interscholastic experiences. **Participation is a privilege, not a right.** Students earn the privilege to participate by adhering to high standards of personal conduct and academic performance. Personal conduct and attitude of Student participants must reflect high standards of respect, integrity and responsibility.

**Note:** Participant shall be defined as a Student who represents his/her school for any period of time. A participant is any Student who has an official role with an NMAA sanctioned program, including, but not limited to, managers, statisticians, team videographers, etc. Participating students are required to compete in the gender listed on their original or amended birth certificate.

Students participating in interscholastic activities represent the school, depict its character, and serve as role models to other Students. Accordingly, participants are subject to a standard of academic performance and to higher standards of conduct both in and out of the school setting. Continued participation in interscholastic activities is conditioned upon observing and maintaining such standards. It is the responsibility of the Local School District to ensure that necessary disciplinary measures are strictly enforced.

**Note:** The Student and his or her Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) are responsible for becoming familiar with the rules and regulations of the New Mexico Activities Association and the Student's respective school. If a Student, the Student's Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s) falsify information to the school or the New Mexico Activities Association, the Student shall be declared ineligible for participation for a period of 180 school days/365 calendar days in all sports at all levels from the date of discovery that information has been falsely presented.

### 6.1.1 Purpose

- A. Students who participate in interscholastic activities serve as representatives of the Association, their respective schools/districts, and their communities.
- B. Participants serve as role models and leaders among their peers.
- C. The NMAA's Sportsmanship Mission is: "To develop champions for the future by utilizing athletics and activities to learn and practice the character traits necessary to live a positive, productive and caring lifestyle."
- D. The NMAA defines Sportsmanship as: "The act of treating others in a respectful manner, taking personal responsibility for your actions and responding with integrity while engaged in competition."