

## **FHSAA Grade Eligibility Policy**

A player's level of eligibility with FHSAA is determined by both their age and grade. A player's age is based on the birth date supplied to FHSAA by the parents. A player who turns 19 years of age prior to August 1 of the upcoming school year is not eligible to play on an FHSAA team. Additionally, a player who turns 15 years of age prior to August 1 of the upcoming school year is not eligible to play on a middle school team. Additionally, a player in ninth grade or above is not eligible to play on a middle school team and a player in twelfth grade is not eligible to play on a junior varsity team.

Once a player is registered in FHSAA's website database, the system keeps track of a player's grade level. Each year a player's grade is incrementally raised by one grade per year by FHSAA's system, and **cannot be changed**. This means if a player is initially registered as an eighth grader, the next year they will be considered a ninth grader and will be ineligible to participate on a middle school team, even though by age they might still be qualified for a middle school team.

On the other hand, with a parent's and a coach's approval, a player in seventh or eighth grade, is eligible to "play up" on an FHSAA junior varsity or varsity team.

### **Request for Appeals**

1. Appeals will be reviewed by the FHSAA board of directors.
2. A written request from a parent must be submitted to the President of FHSAA.
3. The President will bring the request to the Board who will adjudicate based on a majority vote of the Board members.

### **Waiver may be considered**

For the student who experienced a delayed start or interruption in his/her educational progression due to a **significant** disability. Disabled persons shall be defined as those who, by reason of one or more of the following conditions, are unable to receive reasonable benefit from ordinary education: long-term physical impairment or illness, significant limited intellectual capacity, significant identifiable emotional disorder, identifiable perceptual or communicative disorder, or speech disorders.

### **Even in those cases above, waiver will be considered only –**

1. If a qualified physician certifies that he/she has examined the student and found that the student's physical maturity will not jeopardize the health and safety of other participants; and

2. If the FHSAA board agrees that the student's physical maturity will not jeopardize the health and safety of other participants.

**Waiver may NOT be considered**

1. If the student repeats a grade after making grades satisfactory for promotion to the next level; or
2. For loss of eligibility in itself or an injury in itself which prevents the student from exercising an opportunity to participate; or
3. If there is sufficient evidence to make it reasonable to believe that the non-compliance to the Age Rule was motivated by the student's or parent's efforts to gain a desired athletic outcome or to intentionally circumvent this rule: or
4. For any student who exceeds the age limit by more than one year.