

# Athletic Rules and Policy Amendments

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# Desired Outcomes

**Present** the proposed amendments to athletic rules and related policies.

**Explain** key changes across student participation, health and safety, NIL, penalties, and appeals.

**Outline** the timeline for State Board discussion, public comment, and final adoption.



# ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL **EXCELLENCE**



**Prepare Each Student  
for Their Next Phase  
in Life**

Focus Area 4 | Reimagine the Student Experience

## **ACTION 4**

Promote **whole-child development** and **student engagement** by **expanding access** to arts, **athletics** and student-led leadership opportunities that are aligned to **academic standards** and designed to **cultivate students' strengths, interests and well-being.**

“

**Policy and practice  
must align to support  
learning experiences  
that build social,  
emotional, cognitive,  
and physical  
development.**

”

# Rules & Policy on Interscholastic Athletics

*(16 NCAC 06E and ATHL Policy Series)*



# Background

S.L. 2023-133 required the SBE to adopt new rules for interscholastic athletics.

JANUARY

09  
2025

The SBE adopted permanent rules for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.

FEBRUARY

27  
2025

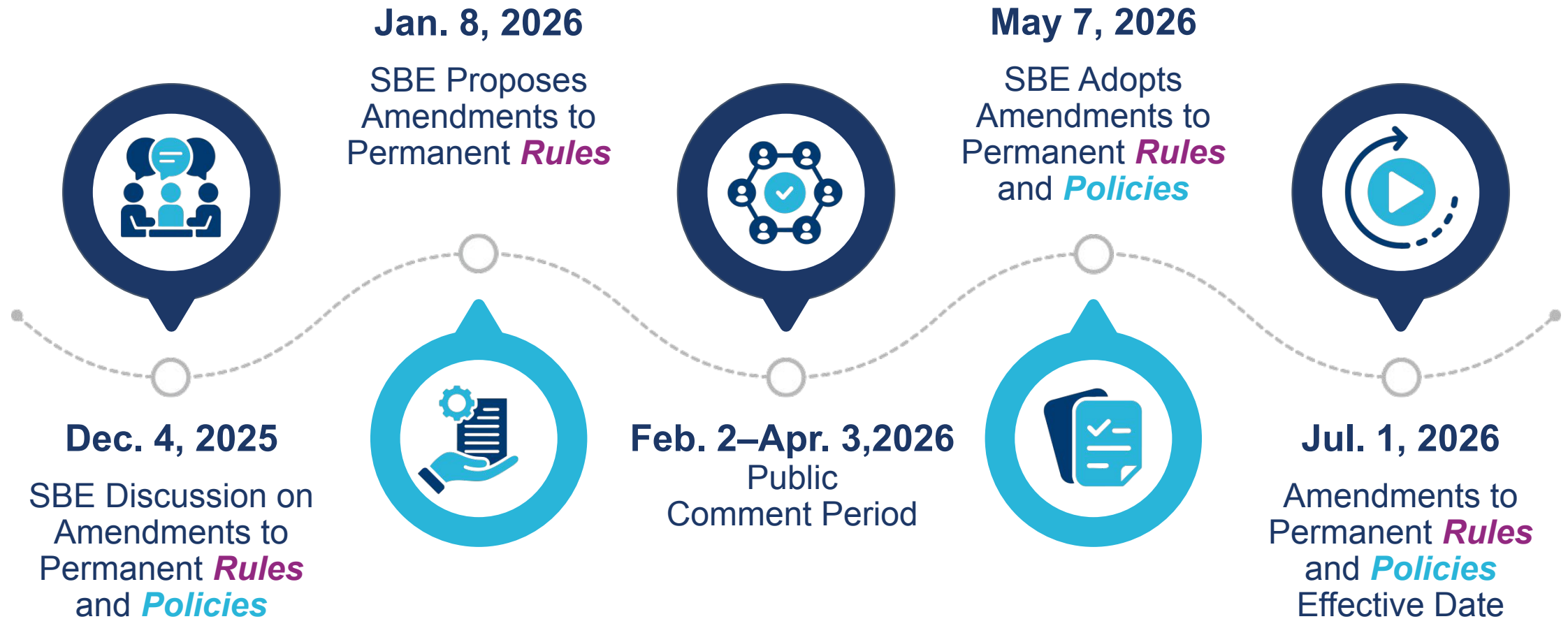
RRC approved the permanent rules.

JULY

01  
2025

The new permanent rules took effect.

# Amendments to Permanent Rules Timeline



# Rules and Corresponding Policies

	Rule		Policy	
Definitions	16 NCAC 06E .0201	>	ATHL-001	Interscholastic Athletics
Administration of Interscholastic Athletics	16 NCAC 06E .0204	>	ATHL-002	Administration of Interscholastic Athletics
Student Health and Safety	16 NCAC 06E .0205	>	ATHL-015	Student Health and Safety
Student Participation Rules	16 NCAC 06E .0207	>	ATHL-005	Student Participation Rules
Penalty Rules	16 NCAC 06E .0209	>	ATHL-012	Penalty Rules
NIL	16 NCAC 06E .0211	>	ATHL-008	NIL
Appeals	16 NCAC 06E .0215	>	ATHL-013	Appeals

# Overview of Amendments



## RULE

# 16 NCAC 06E .0201

Definitions

## POLICY

# ATHL-001

Interscholastic Athletics

### Conforming Changes:

Amendment **adds** the following **definitions** as used throughout the ATHL Policy Series:

- “**Administrative rule**” defined in G.S. 115C-407.55(5).
- “**Gameplay rule**” defined in G.S. 115C-407.55(6).
- “**Penalty rule**” defined in G.S. 115C-407.55(3).
- “**Student health and safety rule**” defined in G.S. 115C-407.55(2).
- “**Student participation rule**” defined in G.S. 115C-407.55(1).

Amendment **clarifies rules** in which an **aggrieved party** may be affected relative to a final decision by a rule administrator:

- **Student Participation Rule,**
- **Penalty Rule, or**
- **Gameplay Rule**

## RULE

# 16 NCAC 06E .0204

Administration of Interscholastic Athletics

## POLICY

# ATHL-002

Administration of Interscholastic Athletics

Amendment **clarifies** the **rule administrator** is not required to issue a **final decision** unless there is a **violation**.

Amendment **clarifies** which **rules** the rule administrator shall **render a final decision** within **10 business days**:

- **Student Participation, or**
- **Penalty Rule**, excluding a ruling by a referee or official enforcing gameplay rules during an athletic competition.

RULE

## 16 NCAC 06E .0205

Student Health and Safety

POLICY

## ATHL-015

Student Health and Safety

### Conforming change required by SL 2025-49 (HB928)

Amendment **adds “A physical therapist, licensed under Chapter 90, Article 18E of the General Statutes”** as a medical professional permitted to return a student that has been removed from play for exhibiting signs and symptoms consistent with concussion.

## RULE

# 16 NCAC 06E .0207

Student Participation Rules

## POLICY

# ATHL-005

Student Participation Rules

Amendment **clarifies** that if the administering organization finds that the **transfer was for a bona fide purpose**, it may **waive the 365-day period of ineligibility** in accordance with Paragraph (k) of this Rule and shall **notify both PSUs** of its decision in writing.

## RULE

# 16 NCAC 06E .0207

Student Participation Rules

## POLICY

# ATHL-005

Student Participation Rules

Amendment **clarifies** that **excused absences** under State Board rules and policies are **not factored in** when calculating the attendance for the previous semester.

Amendment **clarifies** that if a student enters a **deferred prosecution agreement, conditional discharge agreement, or similar diversionary program**, the student shall remain ineligible during the probationary period imposed by the agreement.

## RULE

# 16 NCAC 06E .0211

NIL

## POLICY

# ATHL-008

NIL

Amendment **adds** “**An agency contract, as defined in G.S. 78C-86(1)**” as another NIL agreement **subject to NIL rules and policies**.

Amendment **adds** “**member of a PSU governing body**” as a person that **shall not engage** in any of the following activities:

- Use the promise of an NIL agreement to recruit a student to attend a specific participating school or participate in a specific sport;
- Act as a student's agent or marketing representative or otherwise representative; or
- Otherwise facilitate an NIL agreement between a student and a third party.

### Recruitment and Agency Restrictions:

Amendment **clarifies** that a “**representative**” of an athletic booster club or NIL collective **shall include** an **officer** or any **person authorized** to **conduct business** on behalf of the organization.

## RULE

# 16 NCAC 06E .0215

Appeals

## POLICY

# ATHL-013

Appeals

Amendment **clarifies** that the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall appoint an **independent interscholastic athletics appeals board** ("appeals board") to hear and act upon appeals from the final decision of a rule administrator enforcing a:

- **Student Participation Rule,**
- **Penalty Rule, or**
- **Gameplay Rule**

## RULE

# 16 NCAC 06E .0215

Appeals

## POLICY

# ATHL-013

Appeals

The amendment **restructures** the **procedural sequence** so as to afford the aggrieved party the opportunity to present their appeal prior to any response or explanation of decision by the rule administrator.

# Questions?

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