



VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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To: Superintendents

From: Billy Haun, Executive Director, Virginia High School League

Date: April 1, 2020

Re: NCAA GPA Calculations – Pass/Fail Grading

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, many school divisions in Virginia are implementing a pass/fail grading system. Superintendents and school divisions are monitoring and evaluating how this may effect student eligibility in the NCAA.

Here is the current NCAA policy on Grade-Point Average.

The NCAA Eligibility Center calculates your grade-point average (GPA) based on the grades you earn in NCAA-approved [core courses](#). Only your best grades from the required number of NCAA core courses will be used. Grades from additional core courses will be used only if they improve your grade-point average.

Your GPA is calculated on a 4.000 scale. Numeric grades such as 92 or 87 are changed to letter grades such as A or B. The NCAA Eligibility Center does not use plus or minus grades when calculating GPA. Weighted honors or advanced courses may improve your core-course GPA but your high school must notify the NCAA Eligibility Center that it weights grades in these classes.

In Pass/Fail grading situations, the NCAA Eligibility Center will assign your high school's lowest passing grade for a course in which you received a Pass grade. For most high schools, the lowest passing grade is a D, so the NCAA Eligibility Center generally assigns a D as a passing grade.

I have been in contact with the NCAA concerning this policy knowing there will be a more wide-spread use of pass/fail grading due to the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures. The NCAA is aware this will be an issue across the nation and will be meeting in coming weeks to address the situation.

I will continue to push them on this issue to provide an answer as soon as possible. If school divisions are considering P/F options, they may want to issue a caveat that traditional grades may have to be issued for students seeking NCAA eligibility unless new guidance from the NCAA is issued.

Sincerely,
Billy Haun