



SDHSAA ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD

RECOGNIZING Schools, Athletic Teams and Activities Groups for Academic Excellence

Initiated during the 1996-97 school year, the SDHSAA ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD program is designed to recognize varsity athletic teams and activities groups for their academic excellence. The South Dakota High School Activities Association believes that high school students learn in two distinct ways...inside the classroom and outside the classroom (on the stage and/or athletic field). This academic program creates a positive environment for school teams to have its members excel in the classroom is also meant to motivate students toward academic excellence and to promote academic encouragement from teammates.

WHAT This Program Will Accomplish

All varsity athletic teams and activities groups that participate in Association-sponsored activities are eligible for this recognition program. This program provides high school students with the opportunity to prove they can be overwhelmingly successful in both academics, as well as in athletics and activities.

HOW the Program Will Work

All varsity athletic teams and activities groups that achieve a combined GPA of 3.0 or higher are eligible to receive the SDHSAA Academic Achievement Team Award. A complete listing of eligible activities appears on the next page.

1. The SDHSAA asks each **high school principal** to compute the GPA for each VARSITY athletic team and activities group. If the team or group achieves the combined 3.0 GPA, the team/group can receive the award.
2. At the completion of each activity season, the **high school principal** is requested to submit the online *Academic Achievement Team Award* form to the SDHSAA. The form should include each athletic team and activities group in the school that qualifies to receive the award. The form is available within Bound on the SDHSAA website.
3. **FORMS MAY BE SUBMITTED AT ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE COMPLETE OF THE ACTIVITY. Certificates for all submitted activities will be sent on or around the following dates each school year:**
 - a. **1st Mailing Date = February 1**
 - b. **2nd Mailing Date = June 15**
4. Following the submission of the online form, the SDHSAA will mail recognition award certificates for each qualifying team/group to the high school principal.
5. Upon mailing the certificates to each school, the SDHSAA will also send a press release to the state's media recognizing the award recipients. A complete listing of the recipients will also be available on the SDHSAA website at <https://www.sdhsaa.com/academic-achievement/>.

CRITERIA for the school Academic Achievement Team Award

1. Only varsity level teams in athletics and activities are eligible for this award. Teams other than Varsity level (i.e., Junior Varsity, Sophomore, etc.) are not eligible for this award.
2. The GPA for all athletic teams and activities groups shall be calculated using the most recent grading period at the conclusion of a sport or activity. Each school will use its own system for computing the team/group GPA.
3. **COOPERATIVE TEAMS/GROUPS:** In cases where a school is part of a cooperative for an activity, each school shall use only the GPA of its own students to determine eligibility for the award. **DO NOT USE THE COMBINED GPA OF ALL STUDENTS THAT PARTICIPAT IN THE COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY.**

4. **ATHLETIC TEAMS:** The GPR for an athletic team must include all team members that dress and/or participate in the first level of state-qualifying competition. In those sports that do not conduct sub-state competition, the team must include all members who compete at the State Tournament. In order to be eligible for the athletic team award, each school must have sufficient entries to qualify in the team standings.
5. **ACTIVITY GROUPS**
 - a. For Speech activities, the GPA of a Debate team, Oral Interpretation team or One-Act Play cast and crew must include team members that participate in the first level of state-qualifying competition. In those activities that do not conduct sub-state competition, the team must include all members who participate in that activity's state event.
 - b. For Music activities, the GPA shall include all students auditioning for All-State Orchestra, All-State Band, All-State Jazz Band or All-State Show Choir and all students participating in All-State Chorus or in the Region Music Solo/Ensemble or Large Group contests.
 - c. For Student Council, the GPA shall include all student members of the student council on April 1 each school year.
 - d. For Journalism activities, the GPA shall include all students participating as a member of their school newspaper, literary publications or yearbook staff on May 15 each school year.
 - e. For Visual Arts/Art Wars, the GPA shall include all students who participate in regional/state Art Wars and the State Visual Arts competition.

ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD ARE:

All-State Band	Girls Cross Country
All-State Chorus	Girls Golf
All-State Jazz Band	Girls Soccer
All-State Orchestra	Girls Tennis
All-State Show Choir	Girls Track & Field
*Band Solo/Ensemble Group	Girls Wrestling
Boys Basketball	Gymnastics
Boys Basketball Cheerleaders	Large Group Band
Boys Cross Country	Large Group Chorus
Boys Golf	Large Group Orchestra
Boys Soccer	Newspaper
Boys Tennis	One-Act Play
Boys Track & Field	Oral Interpretation
Boys Wrestling	*Orchestra Solo/Ensemble Group
Competitive Cheer	Softball
Competitive Dance	Student Council
Debate & Individual Events	Visual Arts
Esports	*Vocal Solo/Ensemble Group
Football	Volleyball
Football Cheerleaders	Wrestling Cheerleaders
Girls Basketball	Yearbook
Girls Basketball Cheerleaders	

* The "group" consists of ALL the vocal, band or orchestra entries in the Region Music contest.