

# Oregon High School Equestrian Teams Inc.

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## Eligibility

*For the purpose of this document, "team" refers to the entire school team (Barlow High School) NOT a specific event team.*

### **Goals:**

1. To ensure that any high school student, regardless of race, creed, sex, ability or skill level, physical or mental challenge may participate in OHSET.
2. To protect the integrity of competition between schools, as in other more traditional high school athletics.

### **Generally:**

1. Athletes will represent the school which they attend. (Schools without teams must follow co-op guidelines.)
2. A student may participate in OHSET for four (4) consecutive years, 8 semesters, or the equivalent after entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
3. Only students who represent high schools may participate. No unattached individuals may participate.
4. Each athlete must provide their own health/accident insurance.
5. The athlete must meet the scholastic requirements of OSAA athletes at their school.
6. The athlete must attend a minimum number of classes as required of OSAA athletes at their school.
7. Teams may NOT require certain skill level or participation in specific classes as a condition for membership on the team.
8. Team size may NOT be limited.
9. Athletes and their families must sign and abide by OHSET's code of conduct agreement.

Questions of eligibility may arise for various reasons. Included, but not limited to: home schooled athletes, private/charter school athletes, co-ops, requests by athletes, families, or school administrators.

**Process:** Athletes should participate representing the high school which they attend. Exceptions will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

1. Student participation eligibility will be determined utilizing the OSAA guidelines for varsity sports, combined with their high school's criteria for participation in OSAA varsity sports. Exceptions require OHSET State Board Approval.
2. Exception requests will be brought directly to the state board. The state chair or their designee will do as much investigation as possible, if necessary.
  - a. Exceptions will NOT be the norm.
  - b. Decisions will be made with an eye toward competitive integrity.
  - c. Family convenience will NOT be considered a basis for exception.
  - d. General team unhappiness will NOT be considered a basis for exception.
  - e. Exceptions may be made if they are determined to be in the best interest of the OHSET organization, the athlete and their families and teams involved.
3. Decisions will be made following the process as with any other vote of the state board and are considered final.

**Home Schooled Athletes:** A student, who meets the home schooled eligibility standards established by Oregon law, may represent a public or private school, located within the public school's attendance boundaries, in which the student and parents of the student reside (curb address). If that school does not have a team, then they would ask that school to follow the co-op process in order for the home-schooled athlete to participate.

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**Private/Charter School Athletes:** If an athlete attends a private/charter school, an OHSET team may be formed, and athletes would ride representing the private/charter school or their co-op. However, if the private/charter school will not support an OHSET team or a Co-Op, then the athlete would ride with the public school, within whose attendance boundaries the student and parents of the student reside (curb address).

**Investigation:** The state chair or their designee will investigate all alleged violations. A violation of eligibility rules or guidelines will be a code of conduct violation that could result in the loss of individual and/or team points and/or athlete removal from the team and/or other punishment deemed appropriate.

**The Decision** will be delivered by the state chair to all interested/affected parties.