

PE waiver Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Starting in the fall of 2019, Saint Ignatius students who participate in interscholastic sports, and/or marching band will be eligible to waive their physical education requirement for graduation. Saint Ignatius will follow the guidelines of the State of Ohio. In order to earn the PE waiver, a student must complete two full seasons of a sport, or two full years of marching band.

Do I have to earn a waiver? No, you can fulfill the graduation requirement by taking two semesters of PE. Earning the PE waiver is an option, not an expectation.

Does the start date, fall 2019, matter? Yes, only participation in sports or marching band **after** the start date counts for earning a waiver. The state does not allow record-keeping or participation to be retroactive.

How does this affect members of the class of 2019? It doesn't; those students will graduate before the PE waiver program begins.

How does this affect members of the class of 2020? It doesn't; almost all members of this class have completed their PE. (Those few who haven't will not have time to take two years of marching band or two seasons of sports before Jan 2020. Students in the class of 2020 who have not completed their PE requirement should register for a PE class or classes in the 2019-2020 school year.)

Why can't spring sports in senior year count? Saint Ignatius wants every student to graduate. We have to ensure you meet graduation requirements. If you haven't earned a PE waiver by then, you need to be signed up for your PE classes at the start of the semester.

How does this affect members of the class of 2021? Most members of this class have completed their PE graduation requirement already. Those who have not can take two years of marching band or can participate in two seasons of sports before the start of their final semester (Jan. 2021). Students in the class of 2021 may also take PE as part of their regular curriculum at Saint Ignatius.

How does this affect members of the class of 2022? Most members of this class have completed one of their two PE classes. They may complete the graduation requirement by simply taking PE II in their sophomore year. They may also opt out of that class and start working on earning a PE waiver. They still must complete two seasons of sports or two full years of marching band to earn the PE waiver. The state of Ohio does not offer a provision to do half-and-half. It is advised that students take PE II next year.

How does this affect members of the class of 2023? Incoming students will not take PE during their freshman year. Many will earn a PE waiver. The rest will take two semesters of PE classes before their graduation.

Do PE classes in summer count? Yes, some students with full schedules (especially Band and Chorus students) choose to take a PE course through their local school board. A student may continue to take two (2) summer PE courses to satisfy the graduation requirement. Summer classes may also be combined with PE courses taken during the school year to meet the PE graduation requirement.

Which sports qualify for the waiver? Sports offered by Saint Ignatius High School that meet the OHSAA guidelines for interscholastic competition. Currently, these include: (fall) cross-country, football, golf, soccer, (winter) basketball, bowling, hockey, swimming & diving, wrestling, (spring) baseball, crew, lacrosse, rugby, tennis, track & field, and volleyball.

Why two full years of band? Actually, it is two full years of band, plus marching band camp. The State of Ohio sets this requirement.

Can I earn the PE waiver by doing marching band and one sports season? No, it must be two seasons of a sport or two years of marching band; you can't mix them. The State of Ohio sets this requirement.

What if I get injured and don't stay on the team? Students who are injured while participating in a season *may still qualify* for credit if a coach or director signs off on their participation. Cases will be decided individually.

I earned a PE waiver, can I still take a PE class? Yes, PE classes can be used as electives. In fact, starting in 2020 the Health/Phys Ed department will offer some exciting new elective courses.

Can I use my PE waiver for health class? No, Ohio only allows waivers for PE. Students that earn a PE waiver will still need to complete a semester of health.