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## PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY POLICY

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<b>Category:</b>	Player	<b>Date Approved:</b>	8/16/2011
<b>Policy Number:</b>	100.1	<b>Date Last Revised:</b>	1/21/2020

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### PURPOSE

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Provides guidelines for participant eligibility in Inter Tribal Sports athletic leagues.

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### POLICY

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It is the goal of Inter Tribal Sports (ITS) to engage and facilitate Native youth participation in athletic leagues and enrichment programs. In an effort to maintain Native youth-centered programs and activities, the following guidelines have been established for that purpose.

#### Ethnicity

ITS does not require proof of tribal enrollment, federal recognition, blood quantum, nor lineal descent as factors for eligibility. ITS' purpose is to serve the Native American communities, including those on reservations and in urban settings.

#### Community

Programs and leagues are open to the communities of each participating tribe/tribal organization. The term "community" is defined as follows for each division:

A & B League: For the purposes of participation in these divisions, "community" is defined as the following:

- Participants must self-identify as Native American or
- Be an immediate family member of a tribal member (child, stepchild, foster child, siblings, step-sibling, half-sibling, etc.) or
- Live on the reservation or
- Attends a school on a reservation. NOTE: In order to participate in the A and B league under the on-reservation school student provision, any non-native youth must have previously participated in at least one sport in two different calendar years.

C & D League: tribe/tribal organization may define the term "community" as they see fit, within reason, and may to set their own criteria for participation in ITS leagues and activities through their community.

Based on the criteria established for A & B League, teams may protest an ineligible player using the following procedure:

1. Notify site supervisor of the protest of a suspected ineligible player
2. Complete protest form within 24-hours of protest
  - Once received, the protest will be investigated by the Program Manager
  - Program Manager will present the findings to the Executive Director, Board of Directors, and teams involved
  - If a violation has occurred the game will be declared a forfeit for the team that committed the infraction.

- Due to the nature of the violation, the forfeiting team's players will not receive credit, contrary to the **600.6** Game Cancellations and Forfeiture Policy.

### Age Requirements

All players must be of the appropriate age on the day of the first official game of the season. **If a player's birthdate falls on opening day, they are considered the older age for that day and rest of the season.** Those turning older during the season will be eligible to continue playing for the team with which they began the season. Players may play up to a higher age division but may not play down to a lower age division.

### Team Eligibility

Only tribes, tribal communities, and tribal organizations that belong to ITS are eligible to enter teams into the leagues. The required documents for membership in ITS include a signed Memorandum of Understanding and a letter of appointment that identifies at least one, but no more than two representatives, to the ITS Board of Directors. Both documents must be signed by an authorized individual. Additionally, appointed board members are required to sign and adhere to a Board Member Code of Conduct in order for the member tribe/tribal organization. to remain in good standing.

### Eligibility for Championship Tournaments

In order to be eligible for play-offs or tournament play, players must play in at least 50% of the regular season scheduled games. **Game forfeiture credit to team players may not exceed 30% of scheduled games. Any team found to be playing with ineligible players will forfeit all games in which the ineligible player participated. A registered player can receive one game day credit for every missed regular season game they are scheduled to play due to participation in ITS sanctioned events. The ITS office must be informed of any players no later than one week after games have been played**

## RELATED INFORMATION

### Inter Tribal Sports Documents:

Participant-~~Protest~~ Form ([Google Form](#)); [League Rules](#) (see Sport Specific)

### Inter Tribal Sports Related Policies:

[100.2](#) Participant **and** Team Registration Policy; [100.3](#) Age Verification & Records Management Policy;  
[600.6](#) Game Cancellations & Forfeiture Policy

### Related Links:

[www.intertribalsports.org](http://www.intertribalsports.org) → Team Central → Coach Corner → Player Forms  
[www.intertribalsports.org](http://www.intertribalsports.org) → Team Central → Coach Corner → ITS Rules and Policies