

GOOD CONDUCT CODE – EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY POLICY - Code No. 503.4

I. PHILOSOPHY

A. **Benefits of Extracurricular Activities:** The Board of Education believes the extracurricular program (grades 7-12) provides the opportunity for significant benefits for participants. The Board actively supports our extracurricular program and encourages as many students as possible to participate.

The Board believes extracurricular activities provide students with the opportunity to:

1. Compete and associate with students from other schools.
2. Develop skills not found in curriculum.
3. Gain contentment from leisure time.
4. Achieve recognition and develop a positive self-image.
5. Develop desirable attributes and good citizenship.
6. Broaden perspectives and outlooks.
7. Participate in group activities and become a part of a team.

Individuals may also benefit in other ways. Emphasis is placed on the word opportunity because the Board believes only students can transform this opportunity into reality. The school can make programs available but only students can take full advantage of these activities.

B. **Extracurriculars are a Privilege, Not a Right:** The Board emphasizes that extracurricular activities are a privilege for students, not a right. The school expects that certain standards of behavior and conduct will be observed. Students earn the privilege to participate, in part, by following the standards of behavior.

Students Represent the School: All participants must recognize they represent the community, school, and their peers, as well as, themselves, and therefore have a wider set of obligations that should be met. Students who participate in extracurricular activities serve as ambassadors of the school district throughout the calendar year whether away from or at school.

In addition, we expect students to demonstrate a positive and respectful demeanor toward fellow participants, sponsors, officials, and the public; a sense of teamwork and respect for the importance of the group; responsibility for meeting the obligations of participation in the various activities; pride in self, school, and peers; and, respect for the property and rights of others. Students who participate in activities serve as role models for peers and younger students; therefore, their attitudes and actions have an important impact on others.

Students who wish to exercise the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities must conduct themselves in accordance with board policy and must refrain from activities that are illegal, immoral, unhealthy, or highly inappropriate.

II. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY -36.15(2) Scholarship rules.

A. a. All contestants must be enrolled and in good standing in a school that is a member or associate member in good standing of the organization sponsoring the event.

b. All contestants must be under 20 years of age.

c. All contestants shall be enrolled students of the school in good standing. They shall receive credit in at least four subjects, each of one period or "hour" or the equivalent thereof, at all times. To qualify under this rule, a "subject" must meet the requirements of 281—Chapter 12. Coursework taken under the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 261C, postsecondary enrollment options, for which a school district or accredited nonpublic school grants academic credit toward high school graduation shall be used in determining eligibility. No student shall be denied eligibility if the student's school program deviates from the traditional two semester school year.

(1) Each contestant shall be passing all coursework for which credit is given and shall be making adequate progress toward graduation requirements at the end of each grading period. Grading period, graduation requirements, and any interim periods of ineligibility are determined by local policy. For purposes of this subrule, "grading period" shall mean the period of time at the end of which a student in grades 9 through 12 receives a final grade and course credit is awarded for passing grades.

(2) Subject to the provision below regarding contestants in interscholastic baseball or softball, if at the end of any grading period a contestant is given a failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded, the contestant is ineligible to dress for and compete in the next occurring interscholastic athletic contests and competitions in which the contestant is a bona fide contestant for 20 consecutive school days. For purposes of this subrule, a "bona fide contestant" means a student who presently is or previously has competed in the interscholastic athletic activity to which the student's period of ineligibility herein applies. This definition shall not apply to a student in the ninth grade.

(3) At the end of a grading period that is the final grading period in a school year, a bona fide contestant in interscholastic baseball or softball who receives a failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded is ineligible to dress for and compete in interscholastic baseball or softball for the four consecutive weeks following the end of the final grading period.

d. A student with a disability who has an individualized education program shall not be denied eligibility on the basis of scholarship if the student is making adequate progress, as determined by school officials, towards the goals and objectives on the student's individualized education program.

e. A student who meets all other qualifications may be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for a maximum of eight consecutive semesters upon entering the ninth grade for the first time. However, a student who engages in athletics during the summer following eighth grade is also eligible to compete during the summer following twelfth grade. Extenuating circumstances, such as health, may be the basis for an appeal to the executive board which may extend the eligibility of a student when the executive board finds that the interests of the student and interscholastic athletics will be benefited.

- f. All member schools shall provide appropriate interventions and necessary academic supports for students who fail or who are at risk to fail, and shall report to the department regarding those interventions on the comprehensive school improvement plan.
- g. A student is academically eligible upon entering the ninth grade. No student shall be eligible to participate in any given interscholastic athletic sport if the student has engaged in that sport professionally.
- h. No student who has been a member of a college squad or who has trained with a college squad or participated in a college contest shall be eligible for any athletic contest.
- i. A student who is eligible at the close of a semester is academically eligible until the beginning of the subsequent semester.
- j. The local superintendent of schools, with the approval of the local board of education, may give permission to a dropout student to participate in athletics upon return to school if the student is otherwise eligible under these rules.
- B.** Academic eligibility shall be based on semester grades. Ineligible students will serve a 20 school day suspension immediately following the semester the student is deemed ineligible. A student deemed ineligible after the second semester (spring) may serve his/her ineligibility during the summer vacation. If a student is then subsequently passing the required number of classes, the student shall then regain eligibility. Students not passing five full credit classes will be ineligible for the remainder of the quarter. Ineligible students shall be allowed to practice during the ineligibility period. However, if the student does not faithfully participate at a level deemed appropriate by the coach/sponsor, the coach/sponsor shall have the authority to suspend the student from the activity involved. The student would subsequently not regain eligibility until the next semester.

III. ACTIVITIES COVERED BY THIS POLICY

- A. Athletics (includes all support staff) and cheerleading.
- B. Music – Jazz Band, Swing Choir (Main Street West), Pep Band, music contests, festivals, etc. If a student is required to perform as part of a grade (e.g. band or chorus), and the student violates the Good Conduct Rule provisions, the student may either be allowed to participate or be withheld from participation at the discretion of the activity sponsor but without any impact on the student's grade for the course.
- C. Speech and Drama
- D. School Organizations/Clubs/Honorary and Elected Offices (in which the student may represent the school) – Student Senate, class officers, National Honor Society, F.F.A., Lettermen, Letterettes, Chieftain, Yearbook, BAC, AFS, SADD, Homecoming King/Queen court, etc.
- E. Flag and Dance Teams.
- F. Academic Decathlons, Odyssey of the Mind Competitions, and Destination Imagination (any activity where the student represents the school district outside the classroom – history day competitions,

etc.). If a student is required to perform as part of a grade, and the student violates the Good Conduct Rule provisions, the student may either be allowed to participate or be withheld from participation at the discretion of the activity sponsor but without any impact on the student's grade for the course.

IV. STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR

- A. The extracurricular program will not tolerate at school, school-related events, on school property or property maintained by the school, or elsewhere, during or outside of the school year, any behavior, which violates the Standards of Behavior, outlined below. The student shall not:
 1. possess (see item D below), use, or distribute tobacco products (or "look alike" substances that appear to be tobacco);
 2. sell, distribute, dispense, acquire, possess (see item D below), use, consume or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage, fortified wine, or any other intoxicating liquor, or any "look alike" substance that appears to be alcohol (non-alcoholic beer, etc.) – "use" includes having the odor of alcohol on one's breath; (Note: The minimal ingestion of alcohol in connection with a religious ceremony is exempt from the "use/consume" provision). Students who are served at home with parent/guardian consent will also fall under the provisions of this policy.
 3. unlawfully manufacture, sell, distribute, dispense, acquire, possess, consume or use or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid, or any other controlled substance as defined in schedule I through V of Section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and as further defined by regulation at 21 C.F.R. 1300.11 through 1300.15, and/or any "look alike" substances, and any drug paraphernalia. (Use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a registered physician for the individual in possession shall not be considered a violation of this rule.);
 4. engage in any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system (excluding minor traffic offenses, hunting, and fishing violations) regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted, or adjudicated for the act(s);
 5. inappropriate or offensive conduct such as fighting, insubordination (talking back or refusing to cooperate with authorities, hate crimes, hazing or harassment of others;
 6. commit any act, which is a suspendable offense under the current guidelines for student conduct.
- B. Violation of any of the above may result in loss of eligibility.
- C. This policy is in effect 24 hours per day – all year long.
- D. Possession. A student shall be deemed to be in "possession" in accordance with legal definitions and also, will be widely interpreted to include attendance at a function or party where the student is aware that drugs or alcohol are being illegally consumed by minors and the student does not immediately leave the function.
- E. Violations of Local, State, or Federal Law may result in more serious penalties as follows:
 1. Aggravated misdemeanor offenses may cause the student to be treated as a second violation even if this is the student's first violation of the good conduct code.

2. Felony offenses may cause the student to be treated as a third violation even if this is the student's first violation of the good conduct code.

V. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

- A. A finding that a violation has occurred is not dependent upon the outcome of any juvenile or criminal proceedings. Indication that a violation has occurred will be governed by a "preponderance of evidence": (1) a "preponderance of evidence" requires less substantiation than either "substantial evidence that a violation has occurred" or "proof beyond a reasonable doubt that a violation has occurred", and (2) a "preponderance of evidence" also means over 50% of the believable evidence.
- B. Violations of the Standards of Behavior as described in Section IV above will result in suspension of the privilege to participate for a period of time or number of events as prescribed below.
 - (a) 1st Violation – the student will be declared ineligible for 2/3 of the regular season competition for students involved in athletics and cheerleading and/or 3 events for all other categories. Counseling is recommended but not required.
 - (b) 2nd Violation within a 24-month period from the date of the first violation – the student will be declared ineligible for 12 months from the date of the second violation, OR, after a one-month period, the student may make application to the administrator to consider possible reinstatement to eligibility. If the administrator rejects the first application for eligibility reinstatement, the student may reapply a month later and his/her application may be reevaluated by the administrator. Any reinstatement could not occur sooner than would under a second violation. Counseling is recommended but not required.
 - (c) 3rd Violation – within a 24-month period from the date of the first violation – the student will be declared ineligible for the remainder of their high school career.

Events that move immediately to 3rd offense—drug paraphilia and drug possession.

- C. Volunteer Provision (Self-Report). A student who violated the good conduct code and both reports the specific conduct and admits that the conduct is in fact a violation of this policy, before an administrator becomes aware of or begins an investigation regarding information obtained in any manner, to a school official (sponsor, coach, etc.) may take advantage of this provision. To do so, he/she must additionally follow up with a written statement of confirmation submitted to the activities director.
 - (a) 1st Violation – the student will be declared ineligible for 1/3 of the regular season competition for students involved in athletics and cheerleading and/or 2 events for all other categories. Counseling is recommended but not required.
 - (b) 2nd Violation within a 24-month period from the date of the first violation – the student will be declared ineligible for 2/3 of the regular season competition for students involved in athletics and cheerleading and/or 3 events for all other categories. Counseling is recommended but not required.
 - (c) 3rd Violation within a 24-month period from the date of the first violation – the student will be declared ineligible for 12 months from the date of the third violation, OR, after a one-month period, the student may make application to the administrator to consider possible reinstatement to eligibility. If the administrator rejects the first application for eligibility reinstatement, the student may reapply a month later and his/her application may be reevaluated by the administrator. Any reinstatement could not occur sooner than would under a second violation. Counseling is required to be reinstated.

Any student who appeals an administrator's decision related to this policy loses his/her right to participate in the volunteer provision and the reduced penalty associated with it.

PENALTIES

- A. The appropriate administrator can become aware of violations by:
 1. student self-report (within 120 days of the alleged violation);
 2. report by school district personnel or students (within 120 days of the alleged violation);
 3. notification from law enforcement officials, juvenile court services, or any other court processes (within 12 months of the alleged violation);
 4. signed and sworn testimony of one or more citizens of the community prepared (within 30 days of the alleged violation);
 5. as a result of other investigations (including second hand reports) conducted by school administrators (within 120 days of the alleged violation).
- B. Students who are charged with violation of Standards of Behavior will be informed of the alleged violation. The student will be given an opportunity to present any defense he/she thinks relevant.
- C. The appropriate administrator will assign the penalties in the event of a violation.
- D. If the student is not currently participating in an activity within any category, the student will be ineligible in the next related activity in which he/she participates. Any student not involved for twelve months in a category would be eligible. If a student enters an activity in which he/she has not previously participated and begins and/or continues a period of ineligibility, the student must participate at a level expected of all other participants. If the student does not faithfully participate at a level deemed appropriate by the coach/sponsor, the coach/sponsor shall have the authority to suspend the student from the activity involved. If a student does not satisfactorily complete the activity, he/she will be deemed to be ineligible with the same penalty applied to the next activity in which the student chooses to participate.

- E. A student who is declared ineligible will not be allowed to enter an activity already in progress, if the first activity or interscholastic event has been held.
- F. If a student is involved in one athletic/cheerleading activity and one non-athletic activity, the penalty will be applied to both activities in which the student is participating. If a student is in more than one non-athletic activity, the directors/sponsors of those activities and the administration shall meet to combine consequences for those activities. Generally, in combining consequences, the directors/sponsors and the administration will consider the option under which the student would be ineligible in determining the number of events missed, and unless it is otherwise determined, students will suffer a period of ineligibility in each non-athletic activity in which the student participates. The directors/sponsors may consider the amount of time between the offense and when the period of ineligibility would be completed when making these determinations.
- G. If a violation occurs while one penalty is being served, the next sanction will be imposed upon completion of the first sanction.
- H. Violations that occur in the seventh and eighth grade will not accrue to the high school. High school violations will begin occurring in the summer before entering the ninth grade and shall include the summer following graduation for seniors.
- I. Students who are not eligible for activities must continue to practice and complete the season in good standing in order to fulfill the period of ineligibility.
- J. When determining the number of competitions or events to be missed, the administrator will round off fractions to the nearest whole number using the standard rules for rounding numbers. If a period of ineligibility extends beyond the regular season, ineligibility will extend to include tournament games.
- K. Regaining 1st Violation Status. If a violation of the extracurricular policy occurs, students regain eligibility by serving the consequence(s) assigned. However, students who do not seek to reduce the period of ineligibility by completing activities or projects as assigned by the administrator will not be able to regain 1st violation status by merely remaining outside of the extracurricular program for a twelve month period. The next violation would be treated as the second or third violation even if the violation occurred after a twelve-month violation-free period.

VII. APPEALS

A student who is dissatisfied with the penalties assigned for a violation of this policy may appeal the decision. To appeal, the student must submit a written request to the superintendent within five days of the assignment of the penalty. The penalty will be in effect pending the superintendent's decision. The request for the hearing must include the student's basis for his/her objection(s) to the decision. A conference shall be held for each appeal. The student shall be allowed to present any defense he/she thinks relevant. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may be present during the appeal hearing. Students and parents may be represented by legal counsel. The superintendent shall state his/her decision in writing. Following the decision, the student and/or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s), if dissatisfied, must file with the superintendent a written request for a Board of Education hearing within five days of notification of the superintendent's decision. The request for a hearing must include a statement of the basis for the objection to the superintendent's decisions. The penalty will remain in effect pending the outcome of the meeting with the Board.

VIII. ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL ON DAY OF ACTIVITY OR PRACTICE SESSION

Each student must be in school the last half of the day in order to participate in an activity or practice session. Any exceptions to this regulation are at the discretion of the principal.

IX. TRANSFERS

Students who transfer to the New Hampton Community School District and are in good standing with their previous school district shall be eligible for all activities within the guidelines of the state associations (e.g. athletics, music, speech, etc.). Any student declared ineligible under the prior school's Good Conduct Rule, and then without having completed the full period of ineligibility at that school transfers to New Hampton High School, will not be eligible for interscholastic competition or any other extracurricular activity/performance at New Hampton High School, until the period of ineligibility has been completed. Once that time period of ineligibility has been completed, the student is then immediately eligible for interscholastic competition at New Hampton High School as far as any Good Conduct Rule is concerned.