

## **STUDENT EXTRACURRICULAR EXPECTATIONS**

### **Introduction**

This policy is adopted to enable every student involved in extracurricular activities to acquire and demonstrate the essential skills, knowledge and attitudes of a responsible citizen.

Extracurricular activities in the Nashua School District include the following middle school and high school programs:

- All interscholastic athletic teams;
- The performing arts program (non-credit bearing);
- Student government bodies, organizations, and the Senate;
- All clubs supervised by paid advisors;
- All clubs that are involved in any form of interscholastic competition or interaction; and
- All clubs engaged in activities involving regular and frequent travel off school grounds.

The behavioral expectations set forth in this document are designed to:

1. Reinforce the educational value of extracurricular activities in which each individual contributes to the whole for the success of the group;
2. Ensure that students perform to their potential, developing both self and group discipline;
3. Prepare students for adult life (abiding by the law, serving as role models, and contributing to their community);
4. Reflect the Nashua School District's high standards; and
5. Ensure that the City of Nashua and the Nashua School District are well represented in the community, at other schools, and at scholastic and interscholastic events.

Coaches, advisors, and other supervisors of extracurricular activities may adopt and enforce additional behavioral expectations that are not addressed in this policy to meet the goals and purpose of those particular extracurricular activities. Such additional expectations and discretionary discipline may depart from the provisions of this policy subject to the written approval of the principal or designee and must be distributed in writing to participants and parents. Violating the rules associated with the extracurricular activity may result in consequences for the student; for example, not being allowed to participate in a practice or game, etc.

Teaching, advising, guiding, disciplining, and coaching students to meet these expectations will contribute to the Nashua School District's goal of building citizens who understand the democratic traditions and values of our community, recognize and respect lawful authority, and accept the consequences of their actions.

For the purposes of this policy, "school year" is defined as the first day of sanctioned school extracurricular activities, as set forth under the adopted Nashua School District calendar, through the last day of school of the academic year, or, if later, through the last sanctioned school extracurricular activity of the academic year in which the student in question participates (e.g., the NHIAA Decathlon, Heptathlon or similar sanctioned school extracurricular activity held after the last day of school).

## **Behavioral Expectations**

Students who participate in Nashua High School extracurricular programs are expected to adhere to high standards of conduct. The following behaviors constitute serious violations of these expectations:

- a. Illegal use or possession of tobacco in any form, regardless of where such use or possession occurs, will be considered a Class II offense under POPPS 3244 Student Behavior Standards.
- b. Illegal use or possession of alcoholic beverages, regardless of where such use or possession occurs;
- c. Illegal use, manufacture, possession, having under control, sale, purchase, prescription, administering, transportation, dispensation, or compounding of any controlled drug, controlled drug analog, or any preparation containing a controlled drug, as any of the above terms are defined in N. H. RSA 318-B:1, regardless of where such behavior occurs;
- d. A finding of guilt, delinquency, probable cause, or indictment for violation of a criminal statute in any jurisdiction.
- e. Student Hazing as defined in N.H. RSA 631:7(d), and in POPPS 3244.2, regardless of where such student hazing occurs;
- f. No illegal gambling, assaultive or threatening conduct, stealing, vandalism, and destruction of property, if any of these behaviors occurs while on school grounds, or otherwise while participating or attending a scholastic or interscholastic event;
- g. Gross misconduct, including but not limited to assault on an advisor, coach, judge, official, participant, opponent or spectator; inappropriate behavior and/or obscene language; cheating; directing threats or obscene gestures at an advisor, coach, judge, official participant, opponent or spectator—if any of these behaviors occur while participating in or attending a scholastic interscholastic event; and
- h. Class I violations as outlined in POPPS 3244 Student Behavior Standards found in the Student Handbook may result in consequences.

Suspensions from school, other than for Class I offenses, do not count as violations of behavioral expectations listed in this policy.

“Possession” is defined as the exercise of authority or control over something, and includes:

- direct physical control; and/or
- having both the power and the intention to exercise control over something.

“Possession” also includes joint possession, where two or more persons share possession as defined above.

The principal or designee has the authority to suspend a student from extracurricular activities for up to a calendar year from the date of the infraction or a Class I offense identified in POPPS 3244 Student Behavior Standards.

For the purposes of subparagraphs *b* and *c*, if a student is found in the presence of alcohol or illegal drugs, a rebuttable presumption is created that the student possessed the alcohol or illegal drugs.

Participation in scholastic and interscholastic events includes travel to and from such events.

Any student who needs assistance or support in compliance with the above may contact the Guidance Department, which will arrange for such assistance or support. The request for or receipt of such assistance shall not constitute grounds for relief or exemption from, or modification of, the consequences set forth in this policy. Guidance counselors shall instruct students that communications concerning this policy are not privileged.

The imposition of consequences, as set forth in this document under Consequences and Corrective Action, for violations of behavioral expectations that occur off school grounds or which are unrelated to scholastic or interscholastic events, including travel, must be based on an admission by the student of a violation to law enforcement personnel or School District officials or employees, or a finding of guilt, delinquency, probable cause, or an indictment obtained by or made available to School District officials or employees.

For the purposes of this section, an event is related to a scholastic or interscholastic activity if the event in question occurs as a direct result of the scholastic or interscholastic activity.

### **Consequences and Corrective Action**

Violations of the behavioral expectations set forth in this policy will result in the following consequences:

#### **First Violation**

Upon a first violation, the student shall be suspended from all extracurricular programs for not less than seven (7) calendar days. The building principal or his/her designee shall provide written notice of any such suspension to the student. The student will regain full eligibility to participate in extracurricular programs by presenting to the building principal, and receiving approval of, a written corrective action plan, cooperatively developed by both the student and his or her coach or advisor, that includes:

- a. The specific modifications of the student's conduct that will prevent the recurrence of the infraction; and
- b. A commitment to complete a specified community service activity of not less than ten (10) hours.

### **Second Violation**

Upon a second violation, the student shall be suspended from all extracurricular programs for not less than thirty (30) calendar days. The building principal or his/her designee shall provide written notice of any such suspension to the student. The student will regain full eligibility to participate in extracurricular programs by presenting to the building principal, and receiving approval of, a written corrective action plan, cooperatively developed by both the student and his or her coach or advisor that includes:

- a. The specific modifications of the student's conduct that will prevent the recurrence of the infraction; and
- b. A commitment to complete a specified community service activity of not less than twenty-five (25) hours.

While on suspension for a first or second violation and while actively engaged in a corrective action plan, students must practice and/or attend meetings, but will not participate in games, scrimmages, competitions, performances, votes, etc., in the extracurricular program.

This provision does not apply if the student is on a school suspension under the provision of POPPS 3244. A student suspended from school, for example, would be ineligible to participate in any manner.

Any corrective action plan submitted to regain extracurricular eligibility must be reviewed and approved by the building principal or his/her designee.

### **Third Violation**

Upon a third violation, the student shall be suspended from all extracurricular programs for one calendar year from the date of the infraction. The building principal or his/her designee shall provide written notice of any such suspension to the student.

Any student suspended for a year or who has received three strikes can be given consideration to return if, in the opinion of the principal or designee, the student can demonstrate a significant change in behavior or show that steps have been taken to address the matter.

NOTE: As is set forth above, the seven- (7) and thirty- (30) day periods specified in this section are minimum periods of suspension.

## **Review**

Any finding of a violation may be appealed by the student in writing within five (5) days at all levels.

First violations – These may be appealed in writing to the Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services who will respond within three (3) business days of the notice of appeal.

Second violations – These may be appealed in writing to the Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services who will respond within three (3) days of the appeal. The decision of the Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services can be appealed to a review panel comprised of three faculty members and/or administrators of the School District appointed by the Superintendent of Schools no later than August 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. The review panel shall hear the appeal within five (5) business days of the notice of appeal and issue a recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent will issue the final decision with seven (7) days of the review panel's recommendation.

Third violations – Any student who is sanctioned for a third violation may appeal the action to the Board of Education after exhausting the appeals process at the administrative level. The Board of Education shall hear such appeals within fifteen (15) days of a written request for a hearing.

Any violation which results in a suspension that exceeds thirty (30) days or third violation can be appealed to the Board of Education.

The appealing student shall carry the burden of showing that the suspension and/or the administration's decision was unreasonable, unlawful, or in violation of this policy.

The Board of Education has the authority to affirm, reverse, or modify any discipline imposed which results in a suspension that exceeds thirty (30) days or third-level violation.

## **Academic Eligibility Expectations**

A student who receives a failing grade in any academic subject or who fails to achieve a "C-" overall average or better in the marking period immediately preceding the start of a listed extracurricular activity, shall be ineligible to participate in such extracurricular activity.

- It is each student's responsibility to take advantage of the resources available to help him/her maintain his/her eligibility for participation.
- A student must meet these standards for each marking period throughout his/her participation in the extracurricular activity.
- All coaches and advisors shall monitor their students' academic performance and urge them to take advantage of existing opportunities for extra help if they are not maintaining the eligibility standard.

A student may appeal to the principal for a waiver of these requirements, which shall be granted if the principal determines that serious extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control contributed to the academic difficulties, and that participation in the desired extracurricular activity is not likely to result in continued academic deficiencies.

### **Applicability**

The policy applies to all students at the secondary level (Grades 6-12) regardless of active participation in an extracurricular program at the time of the infraction/violation. Consequently, the provisions of this policy may be instituted retroactively in such cases that would result in a third violation or a Class I offense. Consequences imposed during one school year may be carried over to the beginning of the next school year, with the exception of the transition from middle school to high school.

### **Implementation Guideline**

As of the effective date of this policy, students currently carrying strikes on their record may be given relief by the principal or designee based on the intent of the changes in this policy.

Board Approved 8/20/01  
R/Bd Approved 6/28/04

**STUDENT EXTRACURRICULAR EXPECTATIONS  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

*Please complete the acknowledgment form below, and return it to your coach or advisor. No student may participate in extracurricular programs until this form and any addendum are signed and returned to his/her coach/advisor.*

The Nashua School District's Policy on Extracurricular Activities requires students participating in extracurricular activities to adhere to the following behavioral expectations:

- a. NO use or possession of tobacco;
- b. NO use or possession of alcohol\*;
- c. NO use or possession or any other involvement with illegal drugs\*;
- d. NO commission of misdemeanors or felonies;
- e. NO hazing;
- f. NO gambling, NO violence, NO threatening, NO stealing, NO vandalism (including "prank" vandalism of other schools or other schools' property), NO destruction of property;
- g. NO disrespectful, violent, or threatening conduct, including obscene gestures toward any advisor, coach, judge, official, participant, opponent or spectator involved in any scholastic or interscholastic event; NO inappropriate behavior and/or obscene language in relation to any scholastic or interscholastic event; NO cheating in relation to any scholastic or interscholastic event;
- h. Class I violations as outlined in POPPS 3244 Student Behavior Standards found in the Student Handbook may result in consequences.

\*Note: I understand that if I am found in the presence of illegal alcohol or drugs, it is presumed that I am in possession of illegal drugs or alcohol.

I have read the above behavioral expectations. I understand that if I violate these behavioral expectations, I will be disciplined by the school administration. This discipline will include suspension from, and possible termination of, participation in extracurricular activities, as well as other penalties.

Extracurricular Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the above behavioral expectations. I understand that if the student named above violates these behavioral expectations, he or she will be disciplined by the school administration. This discipline will include suspension from, and possible complete termination of, participation in extracurricular activities, as well as other penalties.

I also attest that my child is a legal resident of Nashua. I further understand that should I supply false information, I may be subject to certain civil and criminal penalties, including but not limited to theft of services.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_