

## STUDENT CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY - ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

### Introduction

The Board supports co-curricular activities that supplement and enrich academic instruction, provide opportunities for social development, and encourage participation in clubs, athletics, performing groups and service to school and community.

Co-curricular activities include intramural and interscholastic athletics, performing groups, academic clubs and societies, as well as student government. A complete list of co-curricular activities shall be maintained by the Superintendent or designee and shall be included in the student handbooks at the high school and middle school levels.

Any middle school and high school student who meets the minimum standards of academic performance set by this policy is eligible for co-curricular activities. Individual co-curricular activities may require higher standards of academic performance in addition to any specific qualifications for the activity. A copy of these additional requirements or rules shall be provided to both the student participants and to the students' parents/guardians either written or electronically. None of these rules or requirements shall contradict or supersede Board policy.

These additional rules or requirements shall be approved by the coach, the advisor or supervisor of the activity, and the district athletic director, school principal, or designee. Violations of these rules may restrict or prohibit a student's participation, such as not being able to participate in a performance, practice or game. Athletic department rules and procedures are contained within the Student-Athlete Parent Handbook for both middle and high school. This handbook is available on each school's athletic website and is agreed to during the online registration process.

### Academic Expectations – High School

#### Eligibility determination for the start of a season/activity:

To be eligible for co-curricular activities a high school student-athlete and/or student participating in an activity with a contract advisor must be enrolled in a minimum of three courses per grading period.

- A student who has earned no more than one non-passing grade (see notes below) during the prior grading period will be declared **academically eligible** to participate.
- A student earning more than one non-passing grade (see notes below) but passing at least 50% of their classes will be declared **conditionally eligible** and be required to submit weekly progress reports throughout the athletic season or duration of the activity. This report must be signed by all current teachers indicating current academic status in each class. This report must also be signed by another adult in the building (Assistant Principal, School Counselor, Monday E-Block teacher, or someone who is not a current teacher or coach of the student). If these reports indicate poor performance in areas such as but not limited to academic, behavior, or attendance, there will be periods of the season/activity that the student is removed from participation until grades, attendance, and/or behavior improve.
- A student passing fewer than 50% of their classes will be declared **academically ineligible** and not able to participate as this is a violation of the NHIAA scholastic standing by-law.

#### NOTES (regarding start of season/activity eligibility):

- First year freshmen students are considered academically eligible for athletics and co-curricular activities that occur in the fall. Academic eligibility will not be verified for first year freshmen students until first quarter grade reports are published.

- An incomplete or NC grade in a course that has concluded will be considered a non-passing grade (equivalent to an F) for the purpose of co-curricular eligibility.
- If an incomplete or NC posted at the end of a quarter in an ongoing (semester or full year) class is recovered to a passing grade before the first day of tryouts or practices, the current new grade in that class will be used to reconsider eligibility for the start of the season. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the Athletic Office that a grade has been recovered.
- Once practices or tryouts have begun in a particular sport, initial eligibility decisions are final.

Eligibility determination during a season/activity:

The above criteria will apply for all reporting periods and could change a student's eligibility status during a season/activity.

- A student who was previously eligible could become conditionally eligible and be required to submit progress reports.
- A student who was previously eligible could become ineligible and removed from a team/activity mid-season based on the most recent report card grades.
- A student declared conditionally eligible could become ineligible and removed from a team/activity mid-season.
- A student declared conditionally eligible and submitting progress reports at the start of the season/activity will continue to submit progress reports for the duration of the season as long as they continue to pass a minimum of 50% of their classes.
- Any student who becomes ineligible at mid-season report cards will be removed from the team/activity effective the day report cards are published.
- A student who was ineligible at the start of the season cannot gain eligibility after practices/tryouts for that sport have begun.

NOTES (regarding eligibility during a season/activity):

- An incomplete or NC grade in a course that has concluded will be considered a non-passing grade (equivalent to an F) for the purpose of co-curricular eligibility.
- If an incomplete or NC posted at the end of a quarter in an ongoing (semester or full year) class is recovered to a passing grade within 10 calendar days of report cards being published, the student may regain eligibility and rejoin their team. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the Athletic Office that a grade has been recovered. This only applies to students who were eligible to start the season.
- The effective date of eligibility is the date report cards are published to students. These dates are determined by the Nashua School District Superintendent's Office.
- Effective beginning with the fall of 2023, there is no longer an academic waiver process for athletic eligibility.

**Academic Expectations – Middle School**

Beginning of each school year/fall sports:

All middle school students will be considered academically eligible to participate in co-curricular activities at the start of each new school year.

Beginning of winter season:

Prior to the start of the winter athletic season, grades will be checked for all students registered. Students not meeting the criteria established will not be permitted to participate in winter interscholastic athletics.

Beginning of spring season:

Trimester 2 report card grades will be used to determine initial eligibility for spring sports. These report cards are released just before or just after the start of the spring season

*During a season/activity:*

All middle school students participating in a co-curricular activity will have their grades monitored at least once during the season/activity.

For student-athletes, grades will be checked each season at the following times:

- Fall season – no later than the last day in September
- Winter season – Trimester 1 report card AND no later than the last school day before the Civil Rights holiday in January
- Spring season – no later than the last day in April.

Similar benchmark dates will be established by each school for other co-curricular activities.

Any student who has more than one F at this time will become temporarily ineligible. During this time of ineligibility, the student may not participate in any team or activity events (no practices, rehearsals, games, performances, etc.).

- If the student recovers the grade(s) within 10 school days, they may return to the team/activity.
- If the grade(s) is/are not recovered within that 10-school day time period, the student will be removed from the team/activity for the remainder of the season/activity.
- Any student who recovers their grade(s) and returns to their team/activity will have weekly grade monitoring for the remainder of the season or length of the activity.

*End of each trimester grading period:*

A middle school student who earns more than one F on their report card at the end of a trimester will be ineligible to participate in co-curricular activities.

- A student will be ineligible to begin any new activity which begins after this report card and before the next report card is published.
- A student currently involved in an athletic season or activity will be removed from the team/activity immediately.

The effective date of eligibility is the date grade reports are to be published as determined by the Nashua School District Superintendent's Office.

**Definitions**

Participation in scholastic, interscholastic events, or co-curricular activities which includes practices, meetings, participation in scrimmages, competitions, performances, etc. It also includes travel to and from such events.

School Year: School year is defined as the first day of sanctioned school co-curricular 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 co-curricular activity of the academic year in which the student in question participates (e.g., the NHIAA Decathlon, Heptathlon or similar sanctioned school co-curricular activity held after the last day of school).

Non-passing Grade: The following grades are all considered non-passing grades at the high school level: F, NC, Incomplete, Fail (refer to NSD Policy ILBAA-R Competency Assessment Regulations and Procedures). Only an F is considered non-passing at the middle school.

## **Review**

Procedures accompanying this policy will be reviewed by Administration prior to the start of the school year. Policy takes effect August 1, 2023.

## **Legal Reference:**

***Legal References Disclaimer:** These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

Board Approved:      08/31/2015 (Replaces JJJ)  
                                 05/09/2016  
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