

**STUDENT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY –
BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**Introduction

The Board supports extracurricular 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.

Extracurricular activities include intramural and interscholastic athletics, performing groups, academic clubs and societies, as well as student government. A complete list of extracurricular activities shall be maintained by the Superintendent or designee and shall be included as part of the procedures for this policy as well as 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 as stated in Policy JJA and the behavior standards set by this policy is eligible for extracurricular activities. Individual extracurricular activities may require higher standards of academic performance in addition to any specific qualifications for the activity. A written copy of these additional requirements or rules shall be distributed to both the student participants and to the students' parents or guardians. 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 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.

Behavioral Expectations

Students who participate in Nashua High School or Middle School extracurricular programs are expected to adhere to high standards of conduct. Any Class I, Class II or Class III violation of the Student Behavior Standards policy may cause a student to be suspended from extracurricular activities. The following behaviors are examples of Class I, Class II, or Class III violations:

- Illegal use or possession of alcoholic beverages, regardless of where such use or possession occurs;
- 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;
- A finding of guilt, delinquency, probable cause, or indictment for violation of a criminal statute in any jurisdiction.
- Student Hazing as defined in N.H. RSA 631:7(d), and in POPPS 3244.2, regardless of where such student hazing occurs;
- 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;
- Gross misconduct, including but not limited to assault or on 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.

Consequences

Any student suspended from school, in or out of school, will also be suspended from participating in and/or attending any school extracurricular activities or functions. At minimum the length of the extracurricular suspension is equal to the number of days of the school suspension (in or out of school).

The suspension from extracurricular activities begins on the date of notice of suspension and concludes no earlier than the first day the student returns to his/her regular class schedule.

NOTE: If a student is on suspension during a try-out period of an extracurricular activity, it will be at the discretion of administration if the student may participate in a try-out period. This exception may only be made on a student's first violation.

Additional Extracurricular Consequences

- **First out-of-school suspension or accumulation of five (5) total days suspension (in or out of school) in a school year:** The student shall be suspended from all extracurricular programs for up to two calendar weeks (14 days). The building principal or his/her designee shall provide written notice of any such suspension to the student and to the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).
- **Second out-of-school suspension or accumulation of ten (10) total days suspension (in or out of school) in a school year:** The student shall be suspended from all extracurricular programs for not less than three calendar weeks (21 days). The building principal or his/her designee shall provide written notice of any such suspension to the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).
- **Third out-of-school suspension or accumulation of fifteen (15) total days suspension (in or out of school) in a school year:** The student shall be suspended from all extracurricular programs for the remainder of the school year. The building principal or his/her designee shall provide written notice of any such suspension to the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).

NOTE: A principal may remove a student from extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year for any single egregious act.

Appeal of Behavioral Violations

A student may appeal a suspension from extracurricular activities by submitting the appeal form provided in JJB-R to the Director of Student Services. The Director of Student Services will respond within three business days of the notice of appeal.

The decision of the Director of Student Services may be further appealed to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will issue a final decision within seven (7) business days.

Any violation which results in a suspension that exceeds five weeks (35 days) or is a third violation can be appealed to the Board of Education.

Definitions

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.

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

Standard of Proof: The imposition of consequences, as set forth in this policy and these procedures, for violations of behavioral expectations that occur off school grounds and 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 a court's finding of guilt, delinquency, probable cause, or an indictment obtained by or made available by authorities to School District officials.

School Year: 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).

Additional Requirements for the Accompanying Procedures

In addition to any previous requirements, the procedures accompanying this policy will:

- Provide a form for appeal of a violation.
- Provide a form for acknowledgement of extracurricular expectations.

Review

Procedures accompanying this policy will be reviewed by administration prior to the start of the school year and, if changed, an updated copy will be provided to the Board.

Board Approved: 08/31/2015 [Replaces POPPS JJJ]

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