

Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Participation Requirements

Philosophy: Privilege Not a Right

The co-curricular programs in the Bismarck Public Schools exist for the development of skills, attitudes, and self-esteem of students, and are intended to enhance the physical, social, emotional, artistic and intellectual growth of our young people. The Board believes that participation in extracurricular activities constitutes a privilege and not a right. Students who participate in extracurricular activities represent the student body, school district, and community on the state and national level. As such, behavior of these students is a reflection on the entire community.

The District will enforce the requirements placed on extracurricular participants by the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA), which govern both on- and off- campus behavior. In addition, the Board has established the following extracurricular participation requirements.

Activities Affected by this Policy

Activities affected by this policy shall include co-curricular, intermural, and interscholastic activities approved by the Board including those sponsored and not sponsored by NDHSAA.

Eligibility

1. **Scholastic:** Students (grades 7-12) shall be doing passing work in at least twenty-five hours per week in order to maintain eligibility. For eligibility purposes, grades are the cumulative average grade from the beginning of a semester and will be computed at the following reporting periods: midterms, quarters, and semesters. Students not meeting said standard will be ineligible for a period of two calendar weeks. If the standard has been met at the conclusion of two calendar weeks, the student will regain eligibility. If the student has not regained eligibility after two weeks, they will remain ineligible until the next reporting period.
 - a. **Summer School:** Summer school can be used to regain eligibility if a student did not pass the minimum of twenty-five hours per week in the previous semester. The summer school course used to regain eligibility must be the same course as the failed course which led to loss of eligibility in the previous semester. If the like course is not offered in summer school, a core summer school class can replace a failed elective class with approval of the building activities director.
 - b. **Middle School:** A student (grades 7-8) that receives a total of four or more Needs Improvement scores in Responsibility + Respect Standards shall be ineligible for participation for two weeks. A 7th or 8th grade student participating on a high school team cannot have any Needs Improvement score in Responsibility + Respect Standards or they will be ineligible. For eligibility purposes, reports will

be run every two weeks. If the standard has been met at the conclusion of two calendar weeks, the student will regain eligibility. A period of ineligibility may be extended by the coach/advisor or administration due to unexcused absences or inappropriate behavior infractions.

2. **Attendance:** Participants must be in attendance for all academic and required activities designated by the school in order to be eligible to participate in co-curricular activities on any given day.
3. **Violation of Conduct Standards, Suspension or Expulsion:** Any participant who receives an out-of-school suspension or expulsion shall be ineligible for participation, including practices, during the period of suspension or expulsion. Participants shall be eligible to participate when they are readmitted to school. Suspension from the activity may be extended by the coach/advisor.

Exceedingly inappropriate or offensive conduct such as assaulting staff or students, gross insubordination (talking back or refusing to cooperate with authorities), hazing or harassment of others is grounds for ineligibility from co-curricular activities. Such conduct could include group conduct. This is not an all-inclusive list of prohibited behaviors. The school reserves the right to discipline a student for violation of the good conduct rule which includes, but is not limited to, the above referenced behaviors.

4. **Tobacco, Alcohol or Controlled Substance Violations:**
Students governed by this policy are required to comply with all prohibitions contained in the district's tobacco policy (ABBA) and drug and alcohol policy (FFA). For students governed by this policy, the prohibitions in ABBA and FFA extend to illegal activities associated with tobacco, drugs, and alcohol off-campus during non-school sponsored time.

In addition to the tobacco, alcohol, and other drug prohibitions contained in NDHSAA bylaws and this policy, the District prohibits student mere presence at a gathering where alcohol, tobacco, or a controlled substance is being illegally used. "Mere Presence" is being in attendance at a function, in a vehicle or at a party where the student knows or has reason to know that alcohol or other drugs are being consumed illegally by minors and failing to leave despite having a reasonable opportunity to do so is a violation. When a student recognizes this situation, he/she must leave immediately or is in violation of the Bismarck Public Schools tobacco, alcohol or any controlled substance rule.

5. **In-Season Penalty:** Penalty shall be 6 weeks for 1st offense and 18 weeks for 2nd offense (NDHSAA Section XII). Period of ineligibility will start at the time the student is notified of the violation by the administration.
6. **Out of Season Penalty (Includes Summer):** Penalty shall be 6 calendar weeks for 1st offense and 18 calendar weeks for 2nd offense and any subsequent offense (NDHSAA

Section XII). Period of ineligibility will start at the time the student is notified of the violation by the administration. In addition, there will be a 2-week period of ineligibility from the first authorized date of competition/performance for the activity in which they will be participating. Participants in activities that do not have a contest/performance in the two week window will be ineligible for their first contest/performance. The 2-week period of ineligibility may run concurrent with the 6-week or 18-week period of ineligibility starting from the first authorized date of competition/performance for the activity they are participating in. To satisfy the 2-week requirement, the student must remain with the program in which the period of ineligibility was served through the completion of the season. This two-week ineligibility period may be served in a similar activity (i.e. sport for another sport; performing arts for performing arts).

7. **Accumulation of consequence for ineligibility** is active for one calendar year. The last day of school for students (as defined by the district calendar) will be the conclusion date of all violations for that academic year and the start for the upcoming academic year. An exception to this would be a student who is deemed ineligible and their activity extends beyond the ending date of school. They would remain ineligible until the conclusion of their activity or their period of ineligibility expires.

Intervention, Education and Evaluation

A student may be reinstated for competition upon completion of an inpatient alcohol or drug treatment program, provided the student or school provided a signed completion report from said treatment center to the NDHSAA office and eligibility is approved by the local school's administration. This program must be pre-approved by the building administration. It is the responsibility of the student to provide certification of completion to the school before being reinstated for activities.

Notification of Ineligibility: Procedure

When the principal, Assistant Superintendent, Athletic Director, or Superintendent, as a result of his/her investigation, concludes that a violation of this policy or NDHSAA bylaws has occurred, s/he shall issue notice to the student of this period of ineligibility.

Anonymous Reports

Anonymous reports (i.e. - phone calls, letters, pictures) regarding alleged violations of this policy are difficult to address because the credibility is easily questioned. When an anonymous complaint is received, it is the administrator's responsibility to attempt to validate the content of the complaint. If the administration finds the content is valid, the administration shall conduct an investigation. If the administration determines a violation has occurred, the administration shall enforce the policy.

Restrictions on Receipt of Leadership Awards, Roles, and/or Recognitions

1. Leadership Role

Any student who has a violation will not be eligible for a leadership role for the remainder of the current school year beginning from the date the school is notified of the violation.

2. Recognition Awards

Any student, who has a violation that occurs during the season or prior to the banquet, will not be awarded a letter or receive any other recognition/awards for that activity.

Complementary Documents

- FF, Student Conduct and Discipline
- FFE-AR, Meals for Students Participating in Extracurricular Activities
- FFE-AR2, Athletic Physicals
- FFK, Suspension and Expulsion
- FFK-BR, Suspension and Expulsion Regulations
- GCBA, Grading

End of Bismarck Public School District Policy FFE

Adopted: 7/1/2015