

Extra-Curricular Activity Participation Regulation

The following rules shall govern student participation in extra-curricular activities. The time parameters are as follows: the beginning of the first day of the student's first season of participation and the end is the last day of the spring season or the end of school, whichever occurs later.

A. Parental Consent/Permission Forms

A student may not participate in any game, practice, rehearsal or performance until a signed parental consent/permission form has been completed and returned to the appropriate school office each school year. This form must indicate permission to participate, verification of adequate and appropriate health/accident insurance (where applicable), and agreement to abide by all RSU #1 District Rules and Regulations.

B. Academic Eligibility Rules

A high school level student must be enrolled in six (6) classes or the credit equivalent in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. Students involved in extra-curricular activities **MAY NOT** drop courses that they are passing after the season ends unless there are extenuating circumstances and have the principal's permission.

Grade checks will be conducted every two weeks throughout the school year, with dates set prior to the start of the school year. If a student receives a failing or incomplete grade during any grade check, then he/she shall be on academic probation. Academic probation works as follows: The student with a failing or incomplete grade has two weeks to bring all grades to passing. During that two week period, the student is still on the team or group, he or she must practice and attend all contests or performances, but **MAY NOT** participate in the contest or performance. If the student is required to miss a practice or event for the purposes of getting extra help or making up work, then he or she must get approval from the administration or coach. If at any time he or she does get all grades to passing during the two week period, that student will return to full participation. If not, the student may remain on the team or group without participating in games or contests in order to remain eligible for the next sport season. If adequate academic improvement is not shown, the athletic director has discretion to remove the student-athlete from all activity during that season.

The student with an incomplete may return to participation as soon as the grade becomes complete and passing. If a student withdraws from a class with a failing grade, he or she will be immediately ineligible for 2-weeks before they return to play. New students moving to RSU #1 who have maintained passing grades in all subjects taken at their previous school will be eligible for extra-curricular participation as soon as they are officially registered for classes in RSU #1 schools, provided they meet the Maine Principals' Association guidelines for transfer eligibility.

Should an exceptional situation exist, a student may appeal the eligibility decision in a written document to the athletic director within twenty four hours. The final decision will be made by the athletic director, principal, assistant principal, and appropriate academic department chairperson.

Students failing courses during the fourth quarter may be able to establish eligibility for the opening of the following school year with the approval of the Principal. This may be accomplished by earning passing grades in an approved extended year program or other options available through the Guidance Office. Ninth grade students entering Morse High School will automatically be eligible at the beginning of the school year. Students entering the district must meet the eligibility requirements of the Maine Principals' Association.

This policy is in effect for middle level students at Woolwich Central School and Bath Middle School participants with the following caveat:

Middle level participants must maintain passing grades in all subjects. The athletic director at each school will perform grade checks weekly with the cooperation of the faculty. If a student has a failing grade, he or she will be ineligible for the following week (seven days beginning on Monday) until the next grade check. If a student is declared ineligible three times during any one sport season, then he or she will be dismissed from the activity for the duration of that sport season.

C. Attendance

In order to participate in a contest, event, or practice students must be in attendance by 10:00am on day of said contest, event, or practice. Exceptions can be made for professional appointments with notification to administration. If the contest, event, or practice is on a non-school day, he or she must be in attendance the school day previous.

D. Travel

Members of teams, groups, or clubs are expected to travel as a group to and from all away events using transportation provided by the school district. Exceptions may be made for students who submit a permission slip signed by their parent/guardian to the building principal/designee prior to the school event. This exception will normally only be made to approve transportation from the away event with the parent/guardian.

E. Violations of Student Conduct Code

Any student participating in an extracurricular activity who receives disciplinary consequences for violations of school rules must complete the consequences before returning to the activity. A student who is suspended from school is also suspended from extracurricular activities during the entire period of the suspension.

F. Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs

Students may not possess, use, be under the influence of, buy or furnish to others any substance which affects the mood or performance of oneself or others. These substances include, but are not limited to, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, prescription drugs (except as prescribed by their physician), look-a-like drugs, over-the-counter drugs, or any substance purported to be any of the aforementioned. Taking medication at school or at a school-sponsored event is prohibited except under the supervision of appropriate school personnel. In addition, students participating in extracurricular activities are not to "knowingly remain present" where these substances are being illegally used. Students may not buy, possess, furnish to others, or use tobacco in any form.

Referral (Self or Concerned-Person) Procedures exist in order for students to safely seek help for themselves or others whom they suspect or know are involved with tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs. On the first report of either type (self or concerned person) of referral, the student receives assistance and is not suspended from extracurricular participation, provided there is not a current incident investigation in progress.

Except for the more severe conduct outlined, any student participating in an extracurricular activity who violates this section will be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity for up to forty-five (45) days. During the suspension, the student must have a counseling session for assessment and must remain as part of the team for practices, but MAY NOT participate in any contests or performances during that time. If a second violation of this section occurs within one year of the first violation, the student will be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for one year from the date of the second occurrence. Before a student may resume participation in activities, satisfactory evidence must be demonstrated to the appropriate school administrator that the individual's behavior has changed and that he/she is no longer involved in the use or abuse of chemical substances. Consequences for violation of this rule remain in effect for one year. If there is a third violation during

the student's academic career, participation in extra- curricular activities will no longer be allowed.

G. General Behavior Guidelines

In order to maintain the integrity of extracurricular activities in RSU #1, the building administration has the right to make disciplinary decisions regarding the actions of a student participant which may or may not rise to the level of a violation of Maine's juvenile crimes or criminal statutes. The student's citizenship and overall school behavior are within the bounds of the school administration to determine eligibility.

H. School Uniforms and Equipment

Extracurricular activity participants are financially responsible for all school uniforms and equipment issued to them. Students will not be allowed to try out for other teams, groups, clubs or activities, nor will they receive any earned awards if they have not returned all school-issued equipment or uniforms (or reimbursed the school for those items). School-issued uniforms are to be worn only for club, group or school-related activities as authorized by the coach or advisor of that activity.

I. Practices

All participants in performance and competitive activities are expected to attend scheduled practice sessions, performances and contests as specified or required by the advisor or coach involved. Any planned extended absence, including but not limited to vacations, must be discussed with the coach or Athletic Administrator beforehand. If a parent does not want his/her student traveling in adverse travel conditions, the parent should notify the coach or advisor prior to the scheduled practice, contest or performance. As stated in the Maine Principals' Association Bona Fide Team Rule, a student-athlete may not miss a scheduled school contest or practice to participate in an outside school event or competition.

J. Injuries/Illnesses Requiring Medical Attention

Participants in extracurricular activities must report all injuries and illnesses requiring medical attention to the school nurse or athletic trainer. Written clearance from the student's physician to return to extracurricular participation must be submitted to the school nurse or athletic trainer before the student will be allowed to practice or compete again.

K. Parent-Coach Communication

Issues okay to communicate with Coach are philosophies, expectations, practice and event times, team requirements, procedures, and any discipline that may results in denial of your students' participation.

Issues that coaches can expect from parents are concerns that were first expressed with the student, advanced notice of schedule conflicts such as vacations, and support for the program

Issues appropriate to discuss with Coach are treatment of the students, ways to help your student improve, and concerns about the students' behavior

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coach are playing time, play calling, team strategy, or other students

L. Additional Rules Governing Extra-Curricular Participation

In addition to all other eligibility requirements, a student participating in athletics must meet the following MPA and RSU #1 requirements:

- A. Is regularly enrolled in RSU #1 schools
- B. Is less than twenty (20) years of age and is only eligible for eight (8) consecutive semesters from the student's initial enrollment as a ninth grader. In the case of extreme illness or extenuating circumstances, the building administration may apply to the MPA for an extension.

- C. At the high school level, is actively enrolled in 6 classes, or the credit equivalency;
- D. Refrains from participating on outside teams unless authorized by school officials;
- E. Has not graduated from a four-year course in a secondary school;
- F. Has not competed under a name not verified by a birth certificate;
- G. Has not transferred to RSU #1 primarily to participate in athletic activities;
- H. Has provided to the administration a record of a physical examination by a licensed physician given within the previous year.
- I. Has completed and turned in "RSU #1 Extra-Curricular Permission Form"
- J. Has been cleared by the administration to participate based on an evaluation of the permission form, physical exam record, and clearance records of any injuries/illnesses.
- K. Has adequate health/accident insurance, if appropriate.

ATHLETIC TEAM MEMBERSHIP

Students who wish to participate on more than one team during a season must make application to the Athletic Administrator and abide by the protocols set forth thereafter.

Students wishing to participate on school teams must try out during the period designated for that purpose, and may not join a team after the tryout period without the approval of the Head Coach and Athletic Administrator following consideration of extenuating circumstances.

Adopted: June 24, 2013

Revised: September 17, 2018