

Minimum Requirements for Participation in Athletics and Other Extra-Curricular Activities

Board Policy: SA-8
Adopted: September 13, 1993
Revised: November 28, 2011
Revised: August 12, 2013
Revised: July 14, 2014

I. General Policy Statement

Interscholastic athletics and extra-curricular activities have a vital place in the total educational program. Through school athletics and extra-curricular activities, many of the interests and needs of young people can be served. The extra-curricular activities governed by this policy include, but are not limited to athletics, band, chorus, drama and clubs with after school activities. Participation in extra-curricular activities shall be restricted to students who are enrolled full-time in the Haywood County School System. Exceptions apply for students approved for early release during their senior year.

II. Athletics (including cheerleading)

Interscholastic athletics shall be conducted in accordance with rules and regulations set forth by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, The North Carolina High School Athletics Association, and the Haywood County Board of Education.

III. Other Extra-Curricular Activities

The program of extra-curricular activities shall be vested with the principal of the school.

IV. Regulations:

- A. Students can only participate in activities offered by the school they attend. The only exception is when middle schools have difficulty organizing athletic teams they may form composite teams with students from multiple schools within the system.
- B. The conduct of students participating in any school-sponsored activity on or off school grounds must be in keeping with the codes of conduct that apply to normal school activities. Conduct that violates school rules or policies shall be dealt with as though it occurred during the regular school day.
- C. The principal of any school shall have the authority to take action he or she may deem wise against any student found guilty of violating regulations.
- D. A student must be counted present at school the day of a planned event in order to participate. Exceptions must have prior approval from the principal or designee.
- E. Students in Middle school and High school must be present a minimum of 85% of the days in the previous semester to be eligible to play interscholastic sports. Time made up in Summer school, make up sessions, and Saturday school sessions that are implemented to allow students to earn or recover credit will count toward this 85%.
The Superintendent or Designee only may make exceptions to this attendance policy, based on extraordinary health circumstances stemming from illness or accidents.
- F. A student athlete transferring from one North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) member school in one school district to another NCHSAA member school in another school district must sit out 365 days for athletic participation. Exemptions for immediate athletic eligibility for such students must be heard and approved by a special NCHSAA transfer committee using NCHSAA regulations and procedures.
- G. A student athlete transferring from NCHSAA member school to another NCHSAA school within Haywood County Schools shall follow the transfer procedures established in School Board Policy A-4, Pupil Assignment or Transfer. Student athletes approved for transfer under School Board Policy A-4, do not lose eligibility due to the transfer. To be eligible at the new school, all eligibility requirements must be achieved.
- H. Any high school student who participates in athletics, including cheerleading, and/or competitive extra-curricular activities (voluntary activities) who has possessed, consumed, or distributed an alcoholic beverage or a controlled substance through (1) the violation of school board policy SA-1, or (2) who has been charged by law enforcement, except minor traffic violations, and the offense is verifiable by appropriate documentation to the satisfaction of the superintendent, shall be suspended from participating in the covered voluntary activities as set forth below.
 1. Consequences for Violations under this Section:

The following consequences apply to any student that is found to violate this policy.

1st Offense:

- The student will be suspended from 20% of total regular season contests or competitive performances calculated on the total number of regular season contests and performances if the student is currently participating in one or more voluntary activities. If the student is not participating in any voluntary activity at the time of the violation, the student will be suspended from 20% of contests or competitive performances of the next voluntary activity(s) in which the student intends to participate.
- The student must complete 25 hours of community service, approved by the school administration, before participating again in any sport or activity. The student is responsible for obtaining verification of their community service hours by turning in a specific form obtained from the appropriate school administrator.
- The student may continue to participate in practice/rehearsals during the suspension.

Off Season Offense:

- In addition to the suspension listed above a student may not participate in any off-season workouts, camps, etc., until community service hours are completed.

In Season Offense:

- Unless the athletic director or activity sponsor determines otherwise, a student may practice and/or try out for an upcoming sport or activity while completing community service, but may not compete in a scrimmage, contest or performance until community service is complete.

2nd Offense:

- If the student is not participating in any voluntary activity at the time of the violation, the student will be suspended from 100% of contests or competitive performances of the next one or more voluntary activities in which the student intends to participate. If the student is participating in any voluntary activity at the time of the violation, the student will be suspended from the remaining contests or competitive performances of that season and will also be suspended from a portion of the next voluntary activity(s) in which the student intends to participate calculated on the total number of regular season contests and performances.
- The student must complete 35 hours of community service, approved by the school administration, before participating again in any sport or activity. The student is responsible for obtaining verification of their community service hours by turning in a specific form obtained from the appropriate school administrator.
- The student may not participate in any practices, games, performances, etc. during the term of the suspension.
- The student will not be allowed to participate in an upcoming sport or activity until previous season is complete. A student may practice and/or try out for an upcoming sport or activity during the suspension period at the coach or sponsor's discretion.

Off Season:

If a student commits his or her second offense during the off-season, the student will be prohibited from participating in the next sport or activity in which he or she intended to participate. The principal, in consultation with the athletic director and/or activity sponsor, shall determine which sport or activity the student shall be prohibited from participating in during the next season. The student will not be allowed to participate in any activity, including practices or rehearsals until all community service is completed.

3rd Offense:

- The students will be prohibited from participating in athletics and competitive extra curricular activities in the Haywood County School System.

2. Special Provisions

- a. Participation in sports and extra curricular activities is a privilege, not a legal right. However, if a student wishes to appeal a 3rd offense issue, they may appear before an appeals Committee 365 days after the third offense occurred. The committee will be composed of two staff members from the student's school and one member from another high school. Committee members shall be principals, assistant principals or athletic directors/activity sponsors. The decision of the committee is final.
- b. Upon entering 9th grade (high school), students have eight (8) semesters of eligibility in which to

participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities. Cumulative offenses in this policy carry over from year to year.

- c. There will be no demotion or promotion between varsity and junior varsity sports during the suspension.
- d. If a student is participating in more than one voluntary activity at the time of an offense, the school administration and the activity sponsor/coach will determine the events used to reach the 20% or 100% of the suspension.
- e. Students participating in multiple voluntary activities must complete the total suspension and community service before participating in any activity.

References:
Handbook

GS 115C-47(4), NC Bd. Of Ed. Policies SS-D-001 and SS-D-002, NC High School Athletic Association