

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

Board Policy: SA-8
Adopted: September 13, 1993
Revised: August 8, 2011

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 are but 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.

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, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 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 in organizing athletic teams they may form composite teams with students from different 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 applies to normal school activities. Conduct deemed detrimental to the school shall be dealt with as though it has occurred during the regular school day.
- C. The principal of any school shall have the authority to take whatever action he/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 his/her designee.
- E. Any high school student who participates in athletics, including cheerleading, and/or competitive extra-curricular 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 athletic competitions and extra-curricular performances for a certain period of time depending on first, second or third offense.

1st Offense:

- Suspension from 20% of total regular season contests or competitive performances or for the rest of the season as determined by the athletic director or activity sponsor if the offense occurs during that student's participation. As set forth below, the student may continue to participate in practice/rehearsals.
- Complete 25 hours of community service before participating again in any way in that sport or activity. The student is responsible for getting verification of their community service hours by turning in a specific form obtained from the appropriate school administrator.

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:

- Suspension from 100% of a single sport/activity or combination of sports/activities (example: last 50% of a fall sport/activity plus first 50% of a winter or spring sport/activity) depending on when the offense occurs.
- Complete 35 hours of community service (Verification/Approval through the school administration).
- May not participate in any practices, games, performances, etc. during the term of the suspension.
- 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:

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

*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 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. The decision of the committee is final.

**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.