

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY**

Schodack Central Schools is part of a larger community that wishes to help our students develop life-long, healthy living habits. To be successful, protecting our students must be a community-wide effort. The school district can enhance the efforts in several ways. We can educate our students, provide standards and be ready to recognize and respond to the signs and signals from students who may be experiencing academic, behavioral or substance abuse problems.

The purpose of this document is to establish a clear understanding of the expectations for and responsibilities of the student involved, the student's guardian(s), the coach or advisor and those entrusted with the enforcement of this policy. It is hoped that the standards described and the community's willingness to meet these standards will help to establish a life-long pattern of healthy and responsible behavior in our students.

### Expectations for Students, Families and School

**Students:** Participation in Maple Hill athletics or other extra-curricular activities is a privilege that brings with it a requirement of commitment as well as added responsibilities on the part of the student.

- To yourself to maintain an optimum state of health and do nothing that would compromise your body or mind. It is hoped that you would have the honesty and integrity to come forward and seek help, when necessary.
- To your family to demonstrate respect for their support and dedication to your pursuits and to understand that your actions can have consequences beyond yourself.
- To your school and community to be a role model for excellence for all students, as well as an ambassador of your school in the greater community.

**Families:** You are called to lead by example to demonstrate healthy life-style decisions, to understand that the teen years are ones of challenging and testing, to understand that students fare best when the rules are clear and consistent, and to agree to support the rules that the school promotes.

**School:** It is the mission of our school to promote education, in all its forms, and to do so in an environment of safety and security. As such, it is the responsibility of the school to develop clear guidelines and consequences, taking into account community values, fairness and student development.

### Academics

A student must be in good academic standing in order to be eligible for full participation in extra-curricular activities.

The principal of the Jr./Sr. High School shall annually develop process and procedures to implement eligibility policies in a manner appropriate to the age of the affected students and consistent with the intent of this policy. The principals of the schools will meet annually before

the beginning of the school year to review process and procedures to ensure acceptable consistency between the schools.

**A student must be in good academic standing in order to be eligible for full participation in interscholastic athletics.**

Students in grades 7–12 who are in jeopardy of failing two or more courses as indicated on the interim report:

- May continue to fully participate with a team if the student accepts a remedial plan of weekly supervised study.
- Students who do not accept or follow the remedial plan are deemed ineligible and may not participate until the next report that indicates they are failing less than two classes.

Students who fail two courses as indicated on the report card:

- May continue to fully participate with a team if the student accepts a remedial plan of weekly supervised study.
- If the student is still failing two courses on the next report card, that student is then deemed ineligible to participate. The student will remain ineligible until the next report that indicates they are failing less than two classes.
- Students who do not accept or follow the remedial plan are deemed ineligible and may not participate until the next report that indicates they are failing less than two classes.

Students who fail three or more courses as indicated on the report card:

- Are deemed ineligible to participate.
- The student will remain ineligible until the next report that indicates they are failing less than two classes.

Eligibility for fall sports is contingent upon academic standing from the previous school year.

If the ineligible period falls during a tryout time for a sport season where cuts must be made, a student will be allowed to participate in tryout practices up to a maximum of five if the student follows a remedial plan of supervised study.

Failing grades on report cards are grades that are below 65%. Students are considered “in jeopardy of failing”, based on interim reports if comments on the interim report indicate that the student currently has a failing average.

#### Use of Tobacco, Alcohol or Drugs

The use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs is strictly forbidden.

- Any student who uses tobacco products, alcohol or controlled/uncontrolled substances in any form other than those prescribed by a physician for his or her own use will be removed from all athletic teams and/or all clubs/activities for the remainder of that sport season, duration of activity or 30 consecutive school days,

whichever is longer. If this behavior takes place in school or at any school related activity, the student will be subject to all other penalties which apply in addition to the removal from a team or activity.

- A coach, faculty or staff member, administrator or Board of Education member has a responsibility to report a student observed violating this rule at any time.
- Parents also have a responsibility to notify the coach or advisor when they are aware that their child has violated this rule.
- Any student who violates this rule has a responsibility to remove himself/herself from participation on a team or in an activity.
- If a student finds himself/herself in a situation where tobacco, alcohol or controlled/uncontrolled substances are being illegally used, he/she must immediately remove himself/herself from that situation. A student's failure to do so will result in a meeting between the student, coach and athletic director or student, advisor and principal to determine whether or not any disciplinary action is warranted.
- Students may reduce up to 50% the length of duration of any penalty by participating in a counseling, assessment or cessation program recommended by the athletic director or principal (whichever is appropriate) and approved by the superintendent. The decision may be appealed to the Board of Education.
- For a second offense of using tobacco products, alcohol, or controlled/uncontrolled substances the student will be removed from all athletic programs or clubs/activities for one calendar year from that date.

### Conduct

Participation in extra-curricular activities requires strict adherence to school and community rules. Students who violate such rules will be subject to penalties ranging from a warning to removal from all extra-curricular activities.

- A student who receives at least one day of in-school suspension will not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activities for that day.
- A student who receives out-of-school suspension will not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activities for the duration of the suspension.
- A student in grades 7-12 who accumulates ten discipline referrals or five days of in-school and/or out-of-school suspension during the same school year must meet with the faculty coordinator and/or athletic coach and parents or guardians, principal and, when applicable, the athletic director. The purpose of this meeting will be to gather information about the conduct for a decision regarding the student's eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activity for the remainder of the school year. The principal will make the decision regarding the student's eligibility. The decision of the principal may be appealed by the student to the superintendent of schools and, subsequently, to the Board of Education.

- A student who has been arrested by any local, county and/or state law enforcement agency must meet with the faculty coordinator and/or athletic coach, parents or guardians, principal and, when applicable, the athletic director. The purpose of this meeting will be to gather information about the relationship of the alleged conduct to the intent of this policy for a decision regarding the student's eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activity. The principal will render a decision regarding the student's eligibility. The decision of the principal may be appealed to the superintendent of schools and, subsequently, to the Board of Education.

The Board of Education shall review this policy annually and make such revisions and adjustments as experience and good process may dictate. The policy shall be distributed to students and parents/guardians. Students in grades 7–12 and their parents/guardians must return signed documentation provided by the school that they have read and agree to abide by this policy before the student may participate in any extra-curricular activity.

Adoption date: June 14, 2018