



Book	Board Policies
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EXTRACURRICULAR ATHLETICS

The Shell Lake Board of Education believes that extracurricular athletics are a valuable component of a quality educational program and encourages every student to participate. Though definitely secondary to academics, extracurricular athletics provide opportunities for learning and growth that are not duplicated in other school activities, or even in later life. They are designed to increase physical fitness and health awareness, develop special interests, provide a challenging level of competition, and advance the quality of the overall school program for participants.

Participation in extracurricular athletics is voluntary and is to be regarded as a privilege, not a right. Participants are obliged to abide by all rules and regulations established by school staff, as well as the policies of the Board of Education. Middle School and High School participants are additionally required to abide by the rules and regulations of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA). All students must comply with the eligibility requirements set forth below before beginning practice.

I. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 1. DOCUMENTS and FEE** – Each sport program is required to hold a parent information meeting at the beginning of its season, at which rules are explained and required signatures are obtained. Each participating student must submit the following forms and fee to the district office prior to the first day of practice each school year:
 1. WIAA Athletic Permit Card
 2. WIAA Parent-Athlete Rules of Eligibility Sign-Off Form
 3. Extracurricular athletics participation fee
 4. Concussion Management Program consent form
 5. Danger Awareness Form for the relevant sport(s)
 6. Emergency Information Form
- 2. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT** – Academic eligibility will be determined at mid-trimester and trimester (weeks 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36). If a student fails or is failing a class, he or she forfeits the privilege of participation in extracurricular athletic competition.

The Board of Education firmly believes that every student is capable of earning passing grades. Academically ineligible athletes may regain eligibility by improving their grades, as explained below, along with the penalties.

1. A grade 9-12 student athlete who earns one failing grade is ineligible for one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the interscholastic contests scheduled for the season in that sport. Any fraction resulting from the computation of one-fourth of the contests will be served as a full contest. Any suspension not completed in one sport will carry over to the next sport the student participates in. A student athlete must begin the next sport within the first week of the season and complete the season in good standing for the suspension requirement to be satisfied. If the student is passing all courses at the end of the

ineligibility period, he or she is eligible from that date forward. If the student is failing any course at that time, he or she will be ineligible until the next grade reports are released, at which time eligibility will be re-assessed.

2. A middle school student athlete who earns one failing grade will be ineligible for all contests until the next two-week grade review. After two weeks all grades will be checked. If the student is passing all courses at that time, he or she will be eligible from that date forward. If the student is failing any course at that time, he or she will be ineligible until the next grade reports are released, at which time eligibility will be re-assessed.

3. A student athlete who earns two or more failing grades in a grading period is ineligible for one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the interscholastic contests scheduled for the season in that sport. Any fraction resulting from the computation of one-half of the contests will be served as a full contest. Any suspension not completed in one sport will carry over to the next sport the student participates in. A student athlete must begin the next sport within the first week of the season and complete the season in good standing for the suspension requirement to be satisfied. If the student is passing all courses at the end of the ineligibility period, he or she is eligible from that date forward. If the student is failing any course at that time, he or she will be ineligible until the next grade reports are released, at which time eligibility will be re-assessed.

4. A student who receives a grade of "incomplete" will be ineligible until the class work is finished and a passing grade replaces the Incomplete. The High school principal may consider extenuating circumstances, such as extended illness, in enforcing this requirement.

5. Week 36 (end of the school year) grades determine eligibility for the following fall sports seasons. A student who has earned one or more failing grades in the final term will be ineligible for a period equal to the lesser of:

a. Twenty-one (21) consecutive fall school calendar days beginning with the earliest allowed competition in the subject sport, or

b. One-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the interscholastic contests scheduled for the season in that sport. Any fraction resulting from the computation of one-third of the contests will be served as a full contest. Any suspension not completed in one sport will carry over to the next sport the student participates in. A student athlete must begin the next sport within the first week of the season and complete the season in good standing for the suspension requirement to be satisfied. If the student is passing all courses at the end of the ineligibility period, he or she is eligible from that date forward. If the student is failing any course at that time, he or she will be ineligible until the next grade reports are released, at which time eligibility will be re-assessed.

Alternatively, a student ineligible at the end of the school year may regain eligibility by successfully completing summer school core courses.

3. **ATTENDANCE** – Eligibility to participate in a contest or practice that takes place on a school day is contingent on the athlete's attendance for all periods that day, excluding pre-arranged absences for medical appointments, funerals and college visits. The principal may consider extenuating circumstances in enforcing this requirement. A school suspension for any reason makes a student ineligible to attend practice for the duration of the suspension, and ineligible for the next contest.

4. **CONDUCT** – The "**DO's**"

1. Appearance - Student athletes are responsible for being clean and well groomed when participating in school athletics.
2. Travel and Conduct on Trips - Student athletes must use the mode of transportation approved by the school. Student athletes who travel to a site with a school team must return with the team. The only exception to this rule is that if the student athlete's parent or guardian is present at the site, he or she may request that the student athlete be allowed to return home with them. The parent or guardian must present the coach or school official with a written request. If a student is going to ride home with someone other than their parent or guardian, a form must be completed in advance and filed with the school office. Forms for such requests are available in the high school office. The athletes are responsible for cleaning up any mess they make in school buses.
3. Equipment - Any school owned equipment issued to a student athlete must be returned or paid for before the student athlete may participate in another sport or receive awards in the current sport. Anyone possessing equipment that has not been issued to him or her will face disciplinary action and may be referred to small claims court.
4. Injury - Despite great efforts to prevent them, injuries can and sometimes do occur during athletic practices and contests. Any injury incurred during a practice or contest must be reported to the coach immediately. The student athlete must then complete an injury report form in the school District Office.

5. **CONDUCT** – The "**DON'Ts**". Student athletes are forbidden to:

1. Purchase, possess or use any alcoholic beverage or other drug or look-alike drug or drug paraphernalia in violation of state law.

2. Purchase, possess or use any tobacco or nicotine products, including electronic devices that emulate smoking,
3. Commit insubordination, illegal acts, or conduct contrary to the principles and standards of the Shell Lake School District.
4. Attend activities where illegal activity is taking place. Student athletes should leave immediately if they discover illegal activity.
5. Engage in harassment or bullying. Harassment refers to behavior that is not welcome, is personally offensive, impacts morale, or interferes with the well-being of its victim. Bullying is defined as repetitive, intentional behavior using words or action intended to cause fear, intimidation or harm, that is unprovoked and involves an imbalance of power.
6. Engage in any form of hazing. Hazing is defined as the act of harassment by forcing someone (physically, morally, or mentally) to carry out unnecessary or disagreeable work, to banter, ridicule, criticize someone, or to initiate someone into an organization.

These conduct standards are in force year around, including the summer. Violations of the conduct standards will result in disciplinary action, as follows.

II. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Failure to meet the above conduct requirements may result in temporary withdrawal of the privilege of participation in extracurricular athletics. In addition to those basic conduct requirements, coaches establish practice schedules, practice rules, and other expectations they have of the athletes participating in their sport. Coaches have the authority to discipline an athlete, including barring from participation in an activity, if the coach deems it in the best interest of the individual, the team, or the school. Student athletes who demonstrate improper behavior in school, in the community, or when representing Shell Lake School in an athletic event will be disciplined by the coach under this authority. A student athlete must be given an opportunity to tell their side of the story prior to enforcement of a penalty. Violations that are also violations of law will be reported to the proper authorities.

Incoming 9th grade students begin their freshman year with a clean record. Policy violations that may have occurred in 7th or 8th grade do not carry over into a student's high school records. The 9th grade eligibility period begins upon completion of 8th grade.

Student athletes who are ineligible for any reason must still attend practice and be with the team at home contests, dressed in street clothes. They are not allowed to wear the school uniform for contests during the period of ineligibility. They also are not permitted to miss school time to travel with the team to away games until eligibility has been restored.

A student athlete who commits a violation resulting in suspension from a WIAA-sponsored tournament contest is ineligible for the remainder of the tournament series in that sport.

Disciplinary action for conduct violations will be implemented on a graduated scale, as follows.

1. **FIRST OFFENSE** - A conference will be held with the student athlete, school administrator, and Athletic Director regarding the offense. Parents or guardians will be notified by a school administrator or the Athletic Director. There are three options for first offenses:

1. Option A: If a student athlete reports the incident himself or herself prior to school personnel having knowledge of it, the penalty will be reduced by 50 percent.
2. Option B: Suspension from one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the interscholastic contests scheduled for the season in that sport. Any fraction resulting from the computation of one-third of the contests will be served as a full contest. Any part of the suspension not completed in one sport will carry over to the next sport the student participates in. A student athlete must begin the next sport within the first week of the season and complete the season in good standing for the suspension requirement to be satisfied.
3. Option C: Suspension from one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the interscholastic season, applied as in Option A, plus completion of sixteen (16) hours of community service. The community service is to be arranged and presented by the student to the Athletic Director and administrator for approval. Community service must be completed before the suspension will be lifted.

2. **SECOND OFFENSE** - A conference will be held with the student athlete, school administrator, and Athletic Director regarding the offense. Parents or guardians will be notified by a school administrator or the Athletic Director. The penalty is suspension from one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the interscholastic season. Any part of the suspension not completed in one sport will carry over to the student's next sport season. A student athlete must begin a sport within the first week of the athletic season and complete the season in good standing in order to satisfy the requirement of a suspension in that sport season plus completion of twenty hours of school or community service. School or community service is to be arranged and presented by the student to the Athletic Review Council for approval.

Community service must be completed before the suspension will be lifted. If the offense is a second drug or alcohol violation, the student must also undergo a chemical dependency assessment by an approved non-school AODA counseling agency, at the student's expense. The student must participate cooperatively and complete the treatment program that the agency recommends. The AODA assessment must be completed before the suspension will be lifted.

3. **THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES** - A conference will be held with the student athlete, school administrator, and athletic director regarding the offense. Parents or guardians will be notified by a school administrator or the Athletic Director.

The student athlete will be suspended from interscholastic athletics for twelve (12) consecutive months from the date of the offense. After the 12 months, the student athlete may appeal to the Athletic Review Council (see "Appeals", below) for reinstatement of eligibility. Eligibility may be reinstated only if the student has complied with this policy since the date of the offense and has demonstrated through their attitude and behavior a willingness to adhere to this policy in the future. School academic and behavioral records will be reviewed in determining eligibility. Reinstatement will not be granted until the student athlete has completed the prescribed discipline.

Any suspension not completed in one sport will carry over to the next sport the student participates in. A student athlete must begin a sport within the first week of the athletic season and complete the season in good standing for the suspension requirement to be satisfied. Summer violation suspensions will be served in the next sport season in which the student athlete has applied to participate.

III. APPEALS

A student who wishes to appeal the decision of their coach or the Athletic Director may do so as follows, but remains ineligible during the appeal process.

An ad hoc **Athletic Review Council** consisting of the Athletic Director, one boys' team coach, one girls' team coach, and a school principal acting as a non-voting facilitator, will review alleged violations of this policy as needed. Student athletes may request a meeting with this council to appeal disciplinary actions or allegations of wrongdoing that jeopardize their eligibility.

Step 1: If a student athlete wishes to appeal a decision by their coach or the Athletic Director, he or she may request a hearing before the Athletic Review Council. The request must be made in writing to the Athletic Director within five school days of the initial decision. The hearing will be convened in a timely fashion, and the findings and conclusion will be given to the student in writing within five school days of the hearing.

If a student wishes to appeal the decision of the Athletic Review Council, he or she may request a hearing before the high school principal. The request must be made in writing to the principal within five school days of the Council's decision. The hearing will be convened in a timely fashion, and the student will be informed of the principal's decision within five school days of the hearing.

Step 3: If a student wishes to appeal the decision of the principal, he or she may request a hearing before the District Administrator. The request must be made in writing to the District Administrator within five school days of learning of the principal's decision. The hearing will be convened in a timely fashion, and the student will be informed of the District Administrator's decision within five school days of the hearing.

Cross-references:

Policies: 100 District Mission Statement
310 Instructional Goals
370 Student Extracurricular Activities
377.2 Middle School Athletic Participation
443.4 Student Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse
443.5 Mobile Phones and Personal Electronic Devices
522.2 Tobacco-free Environment

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