

ELIGIBILITY AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR YORK HIGH SCHOOL EXTRA/CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The York School Committee believes extracurricular and co-curricular activities are an integral part of the total educational process. Participation in these opportunities provide students with experiences and training not ordinarily obtainable in the general curriculum. Participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities is a privilege. In order to participate, students, parents/guardians, and other interested persons must be aware of and comply with all York School Department (YSD) policies, rules and regulations regarding extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, school rules and any additional rules, and/or training guidelines imposed by coaches or advisors. Any additional rules and/or training guidelines must be consistent with School Committee policies and be approved by the Athletic Director or building administration. The following policy is adopted by the School Committee in order to support the social, emotional, and physical well-being of students and promote healthy, enriching, and safe extra/co-curricular opportunities for all students.

I. EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR CATEGORIES

Extracurricular and co-curricular activities for grades 9-12 are divided into these categories:

A. Athletic Teams

Athletic activities that are competitive in nature and are governed by the Maine Principals' Association (MPA). Students may have to participate in a tryout to determine whether participation will be granted and, if so, team placement based on skill-level, age, physical development, and understanding of the sport. Final determinations of each team rosters will be made by the coaching staff.

1. Varsity Athletics (grades 9-12 eligible)

YHS varsity athletic programs prioritize winning - in the right way alongside character development. Playing time can be varied and not equal, playing time/role is not guaranteed from year-to-year, and varsity athletes may be asked to play in junior varsity (JV) contests at times to acquire more playing experience.

2. Junior Varsity Athletics (grades 9- 12 eligible)

YHS junior varsity athletic programs prioritize winning as a secondary goal behind skill and confidence growth. Playing time may not be equal but will be meaningful, there will be opportunities to experiment with roles and positions, and some athletes may be asked to practice and/or play in varsity or first team contests at times to gain experience.

3. First Team Athletics (grades 9-10 eligible)

YHS first team athletics may be offered if numbers, coaching assignments, schedule availability, space, and funds allow and are approved by the York School Committee. First team programs highly prioritize learning over winning. Playing time will be equal whenever possible. There will be opportunities for players to acclimatize to high school sports and to grow in a developmental environment. Some athletes may be asked to practice and/or play in junior varsity contests at times to gain experience.

B. Rostered Teams and Clubs

Non-athletic activities that maintain a consistent roster. Students may have to participate in a tryout or may have to apply to determine if participation will be granted. Attendance may be required and rosters will be maintained through the YHS Athletics and Activities Department. Examples include but may not be limited to Drama Club, One Acts, Robotics, Odyssey of the Mind, Speech and Debate, FBLA and Math Team.

C. Non-Rostered Teams and Clubs

Activities that do not maintain a consistent roster or may not maintain a roster at all. Examples include, but are not limited to: National Honors Society, School Newspaper, Student Council, Yearbook, Art Club, Book Club, Civil Rights Team, Eco Club, Film Club, Fishing Club, Sober Friends, Gay/Straight/Transgender Alliance, and Interact (Rotary).

II. ELIGIBILITY

A. Enrollment

In order to be eligible for participation in extra/co-curricular activities, students must be currently enrolled as a full-time student or have a plan approved by the school principal.

B. External Governing Bodies

Students participating in activities governed by external parties must meet the eligibility requirements dictated by those governing bodies.

C. Good Standing

Students must be in good standing to participate in the extra/co-curricular activities of their school. A student is considered in good standing if they are not the subject of any disciplinary action for violation of any policy or school rule and are currently academically eligible based on ~~MPA~~ and school guidelines (see II. D.).

D. Academic Eligibility Checks

1. Academic Warning

Students may be put on academic warning at any eligibility check in which they are failing one or more classes. Students are still allowed to participate in extra/co-curricular activities when placed on academic warning.

2. Academic Probation

Students who are failing one or more classes for two consecutive eligibility checks may be put on academic probation. When on academic probation, students are not academically eligible to participate in extra/co-curricular activities. Eligibility can be re-established immediately once passing grades are achieved but must be maintained through the next eligibility check in order to maintain eligibility. Final academic eligibility determinations will be made by school administration. The school principal has the right to authorize an eligibility determination beyond the scope of the YHS Student Handbook and the YSD Code of Conduct JICI Policy.

3. Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities will not be denied equal access to interscholastic activities. Students with disabilities are expected to demonstrate satisfactory progress and compliance with an executed individual education plan.

E. School Attendance

Daily attendance checks will be conducted for teams and clubs defined in I.A and I.B. Students are expected to be in school if they plan to participate in after school events. Any student not in attendance for any part of the school day will not be eligible to participate in after-school activities except in the circumstances listed below. An administrator (principal, assistant principal, or Athletics and Activities Director] must approve exceptions to this section in advance. If a student participates despite the attendance requirement, that act will be considered a violation of this code and will result in a category I consequence.

1. In order to participate in an extra/co-curricular activity (e.g. game, practice, activity or event) a student must arrive at school no more than 15 minutes tardy and attend school for the entire day. A student with an approved plan for late arrival (e.g. senior privileges, work study, individualized plan) must arrive at school no more than 15 minutes tardy from their approved arrival time.
2. A student who is facing their first tardy violation of the school year of no more than 30 minutes can regain eligibility to participate by making up time tardy after school on a day to be determined by the school administration.
3. A student who misses any part of the school day for an appointment must return to school directly after the appointment with documentation that verifies the appointment and its start time.

4. A student who misses any part of the school day for non-appointment reasons must have prior written administrator approval.

F. Extra/Co-Curricular Code of Conduct

1. Students participating in activities defined in I. A. and I. B. and their parent(s)/guardian(s) must review policy JICI and sign the Extra/Co-Curricular Code of Conduct Agreement prior to, and as a condition of, participating in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. Students participating in fall sports (and their parents/guardians) must sign the contract at the beginning of pre-season. The Extra/Co-Curricular Code of Conduct applies to any student who is actively participating in a YHS extra-curricular activity and is in effect between the start and end dates of each extra-curricular activity. Start and end dates will be determined by the governing body of each activity.

G. Additional Requirements and Forms

Students participating in activities defined in I. A. and 1.B. must complete the activities participant form and the emergency information form found on the YHS athletics and activities website. Students participating on an athletic team must also complete the preparticipation physical evaluation form(s).

III. BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS, CODE OF CONDUCT STANDARDS, AND DISCIPLINE

A. Expectations

1. Students choosing to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities shall conduct themselves as positive role models and shall represent themselves, their team/group, and YSD in a manner that exhibits the principles of sportsmanship: respect, responsibility, fairness, honesty, integrity and good citizenship.
2. Students are expected to consistently attend practices, meetings, and rehearsals.
3. Students are required to abide by all Committee policies, as well as rules or training guidelines set forth by the YSD schools coaches or advisors, or outside program or activity governing bodies. Any additional rules must be consistent with School Committee policies and be approved by the Athletic and Activities Director or building administration.

B. Prohibited Behavior and Disciplinary Action

1. Conduct in violation of YSC policy, YHS Student Handbook rules, or Code of Conduct (see Table 1) as determined by the YHS Athletics and Activities Director shall result in disciplinary action up to and including removal/suspension from the team or activity. Extra/Co-Curricular consequences, based on the Table 1 guidelines and administered by the Athletics and Activities Director, shall be in addition to any discipline imposed by building administrators under applicable YSC policies or school rules.
2. Repeat or extreme violations will warrant administrative review and additional sanctions.
3. Violations during a student's high school career are cumulative.
4. Upon being suspended for prohibited behavior a student may be expected to continue to attend the activity for observational purposes only and to continue to be a member of the team/activity.
5. All supervisors, including but not limited to the Athletic and Activities Director, coach, activity advisor, and/or administration shall enforce all policies and school rules at all times.

Table 1

Student Behavior and Discipline	
<u>Level I Violations</u>	<u>Level II Violations</u>
<p>Category A: Behavior that is contrary to generally recognized behavioral standards, including but not limited to abusive/vulgar/obscene language, harassment, intimidation, threats, and hazing. To include conduct via electronic mail, text messaging, or social media platforms.</p> <p>Category B: Presence at gatherings where minors consume alcohol, smoke or vape tobacco, nicotine, or other drugs.</p>	<p>Category A: Behavior that could result in legal consequences for students, including but not limited to: theft, vandalism, harassment, fighting, and disorderly conduct.</p> <p>Category B: Consumption, possession, distribution, or sale of alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, or other controlled or uncontrolled substances, including “look-alike drugs”</p>
<u>Participation Consequences</u>	<u>Participation Consequences</u>
<p>1st Violation Category A: 1-10 calendar days as determined by YHS administration.</p> <p>1st Violation Category B: 10 calendar days.</p> <p>Repeat violations: Subsequent violations will be handled by administration on an individual basis.</p>	<p>1st Violation: 20 calendar days</p> <p>Repeat violations: Subsequent violations will be handled by administration on an individual basis.</p>
<p><u>Level III Violation</u></p> <p>If a student is charged with a crime, they may be suspended from participation in co- or extra-curricular activities for a length of time to be determined by the Superintendent based upon the facts of the particular case and the recommendations of the School Principal and Athletic/ Activity Director or activity supervisor. Such suspensions cannot be appealed..</p>	
<p><u>Counseling and/or Restorative Support Requirements:</u> Any level I, level II or level III activities code violation may require a student to undergo in-school counseling and/or participate in restorative support activities as assigned by the building principal(s), in consultation with the Athletic and Activities Director. Sources of counseling may include the school’s wellness counselor or other qualified personnel. The duration of the counseling will be at the discretion of the counselor. The counseling and/or assigned restorative support activities must begin prior to the student-athlete’s return to interscholastic competition.</p>	
<p><u>Self Reporting:</u> A student who violates the category B, level I or II activity code has the opportunity to report their violation to the Athletic and Activities Director or an administrator by noon of the following school day. If the violation occurs during the Fall preseason period, before the first day of school, or during a school break, a student must email the Athletic and Activities Director within 24 hours of the violation and then talk with their coach or activities advisor at or before the next team event. Once these reporting conditions have been met, the disciplinary action specified in the preceding section will be cut in half. This provision cannot be used to avoid discipline under this policy for a violation that has already been reported to the school. This provision only applies to Code of Conduct violations and cannot be used to avoid discipline for violations of other YSD policies such as JICH, Student Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use. This provision may only be used once during a student’s high school career.</p>	
<p><u>Activity/Team Leadership Positions:</u> A student elected to a leadership position for an activity/team forfeits that position for the duration of any suspension from the activity or team. A student’s return or non-return to a leadership position after a suspension will be determined by the school principal and Athletic/ Activity Director.</p>	

IV. APPEAL OF SUSPENSION FROM ACTIVITY/TEAM

A. A student who wishes to appeal a suspension from a team/activity must first discuss the matter with their coach

or activity advisor and the Athletic and Activities Director or an administrator.

- B. Following that discussion, if a student wishes to appeal a suspension, it must be done so in writing to the Athletic and Activities Director or the same administrator within three school days of notice of the suspension decision with a brief overview of the rationale for the appeal.
- C. The appeal will be heard by a panel consisting of the Athletic Director or administrator, a member of the Student Services staff, and a member of the senior Administrative Team (Principal or Assistant Principal).
- D. The Superintendent will review the panel’s decision. Once reviewed, the decision of the panel is final, and not subject to any further appeals.
- E. The student shall remain under suspension during the appeals process.
- F. The appeal process may not be used by students suspended from activities for level III violations (Table 1).

V. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

Students shall be responsible for the care of all equipment and uniforms issued to them by the school. The cost of replacing damaged or lost equipment/uniforms will be the responsibility of the student. Students who have not returned or paid for missing equipment will not be allowed to participate in future activities until that account has been cleared.

- Cross References:
- JICH - Student Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use
 - JIC – Student Code of Conduct
 - JICIA - Weapons, Violence, and School Safety
 - JICK - Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention
 - JJIF - Management of Concussions and Other Head Injuries
 - JKD - Suspension of Students
 - JKE-Expulsion of Students
 - JLCD – Administering Medications to Students
 - JRA – Student Education Records and Information
 - Maine Principals’ Association Handbook
 - YHS Athletic Department Handbook
 - YHS Student Handbook

Administrative Procedures: JICH-R – Student Substance Abuse Rule

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