

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BLOCK ISLAND SCHOOL

**Purpose and Scope**

The school community seeks to ensure the continued well-being of all students – physically, socially, and academically. It should be clearly understood that full participation on athletic teams that represent the Block Island School is a privilege that is earned. This policy refers to all students in grades 6-12 for both varsity (grades 9-12) and middle grades (grades 6-8) athletic teams, and is subject to restrictions provided by law. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the Athletic Director or the coach from setting reasonable goals or standards that exceed the scope of this policy. The Superintendent may extend applicable portions of this policy to other non-athletic, extra-curricular activities at his or her discretion.

**Physical Examination**

All students who participate on school-sponsored athletic teams will be required to provide written evidence from a physician that the student has undergone a physical examination within the preceding 12 months, and that the student's physical condition is appropriate to participate in competitive physical activities. Such documentation shall be submitted before the student is allowed to practice, try out, or participate in interscholastic athletic activities. All students who participate in athletics must submit a signed and notarized sports participation permission slip.

**Academic Eligibility Requirements**

Students may not participate on any school-sponsored athletic team if they are academically ineligible at that time. Participation includes being an official member of the team, wearing the team uniform, traveling with the team, or participating in any team activities during school hours. However, lack of eligibility shall not infringe upon a student's right to practice with a team after school hours to the degree specified by the coach. Students in grades 6-12 earn academic eligibility during the first quarter of the school year by having passed all courses during the previous academic year. For subsequent quarters of the school year, academic eligibility is earned by making passing grades in all subjects on the student's previous report card. Sixth and seventh graders must maintain a 70 percent grade point average per half quarter to remain on the team. Transfer and home-schooled students are an exception, and a decision on their academic eligibility will rest with the Superintendent. The Superintendent will establish a procedure to notify the Athletic Director of all students ineligible to participate for the subsequent quarter. The Athletic Director will notify the coach and parent(s) of any current student athletes who become ineligible.

**Missing Class**

When a student misses class due to athletic participation, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain and complete all missing assignments within the timeframe outlined in Policy IA-1: Attendance. If an assignment is not completed, the teacher may notify the Athletic Director who will pass the information on to the coach.

1. Failure to turn in assigned work will result in a warning for the first offense and ineligibility for the next scheduled game for each subsequent offense.

2. While attendance is fundamental to success in all subject areas, it is particularly crucial for performance-based classes (e.g. music, art, physical education). When a student misses class in these areas, s/he is denied the benefit of a distinct group learning experience, which cannot be duplicated in an assignment. Teachers of these subjects will expect that a student will make arrangements to make up for missed class time in a variety of ways, including intensive work after school and specially designed projects. Exceptions may be made for excused medical appointments.
3. In all subject areas, teachers will expect that a student will arrange to make up for missed class time in a variety of ways, including makeup work with support after school. Exceptions may be made for excused medical appointments.

### **Discipline**

A coach, advisor, or administrator may suspend or remove any student from an athletic activity or team if the student has behaved in an unbecoming manner. Actions and decisions will be reviewed by the administration. The student, coach, or parent may request a meeting with the administration to discuss any disciplinary actions taken. The student shall be allowed to resume participation when the situation has been rectified.

### **Scheduling Athletic Contests**

As a matter of principle, academics are the core of why the school exists and must never play second fiddle to athletics. To that end, time in class must be viewed as essential to student learning and must be held in the highest regard. The following standards will apply to the scheduling of athletic contests.

1. Every effort will be made to avoid scheduling athletic contests on Monday-Thursday school days, home or away. When it is absolutely necessary to schedule games on Monday-Thursday school days the following limits will apply.
  - a. When scheduling Monday-Thursday school day games, strong preference will be given to home games.
  - b. When Scheduling away games, strong preference will be given to Friday, Saturday, Sunday and days when student attendance at school is not required.