

CO-CURRICULAR/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATION POLICY: JJIA

RSU 50 encourages all students to participate in the numerous co-curricular/extracurricular activities that Southern Aroostook Community School has to offer. Any student who wishes to represent Southern Aroostook Community School in a co-curricular or extracurricular activity should realize this is a privilege and not a right. Students should respect this privilege by adhering to the rules as set down by the RSU 50 Board. Students should conduct themselves in such a manner as to bring positive credit to the school and themselves. Co-curricular and extracurricular activities are those school/class sponsored advisor/coach led clubs or organizations conducted primarily outside the regular school day and recognized by the RSU 50 Board.

This policy will be in effect starting the first day of any practice, tryout, audition, or selection of that academic year, and remains in effect at all times, both in and out of school, for the duration of the school year for all students involved. This policy will stop its governance on the last day of schools for the current year or last event, whichever ends last. If a student's violation of this policy happens at a time when the suspension cannot be completed by the end of the school year, the suspension will run into the following year, beginning with the first practice, tryout, audition, and/or selection.

- The following are Southern Aroostook Community School's core values of civic/social expectations; Honesty, Trustworthiness, Kindness, Respect, and Responsibility. These values are expected to be upheld by anyone attending Southern Aroostook Community School.
- Students participating in extracurricular activities are encouraged to refrain from putting themselves in any situation where their integrity may be questioned. If a student is present at a situation where illegal activity takes place, it doesn't show responsibility, which violates the civil/social expectations of Southern Aroostook Community School.
- The Extra-Curricular civic/social expectation indicates that students and parents will commit to the expectations indicated. The RSU 50 Board recognizes that the expectations are only effective when parents, students, coaches, and advisors are working collaboratively to reinforce the core values indicated above. The specificity of the extracurricular civic/social expectations outlined below is to insure that parents, students, coaches, and extracurricular advisors understand the expectations, and consequences of not meeting those expectations.
- The following policies apply from the time a student begins participation in extracurricular activities at Southern Aroostook Community School until he/she graduates. Violations of the substance abuse or tobacco policies will be cumulative and ongoing.
- These policies will apply whether or not the participant is presently in a co-curricular activity or the sport is "in season". The policy will be reinforced at the start of each new activity to remind students of Southern Aroostook Community School's Core Values.

- Students participating in extracurricular activities will refrain from using or having possession of tobacco, alcohol or any other illicit drug.

A. Academics

Student participation in athletics and co-curricular activities is viewed as an integral component of the learning process, and for this reason our eligibility policy is intended to be motivational in design rather than disciplinary. Yet while interscholastic athletics and co-curricular activities complement and enhance the academic program, school attendance must remain focused, first and foremost, on learning the knowledge, skills and habits of work that every graduate needs to succeed in adult life. The district's eligibility policy for interscholastic athletics and co-curricular programs is designed to ensure that academic learning and achievement remain the top priority for every student.

To be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics and co-curricular activities, the student must have completed a minimum of five (5) courses, or an equivalent set of five (5) school-approved learning experiences, leading to graduation during the preceding grading period.

Eligibility for fall athletics and co-curricular activities will be based on demonstrated academic performance during the third trimester of the preceding academic year. In accordance with the Maine Principals Association policy, incoming ninth-grade students are exempt from third trimester eligibility requirements.

All students who have earned a standards-based grade-point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher on both academic and habits-of-work standards during the preceding grading period will be considered eligible to participate in the interscholastic athletics and co-curricular activities offered by RSU #50

For those student who did not achieve a GPA of 2.5 or higher during the preceding grading period, the student must meet at least two (2) of the following criteria in all current courses or learning experiences to be considered academically eligible:

1. The student is demonstrating proficiency on a majority of the academic standards.
2. The student is demonstrating proficiency on a majority of the habits-of-work standards.
3. The student is participating in an intervention program-which includes all applicable in-school, out-of-school, and vacation intervention programs, including summer school-designed to get the student on track to demonstrating proficiency on all expected standards by the end of a course, learning experience, or grade level.

Students who are determined to be ineligible shall be placed on academic probation and offered intervention assistance. The district believes that students on academic probation should be given (1) multiple opportunities to meet academic eligibility requirements in ways that address the student's distinct learning needs and (2) multiple intervention options that allow for an accelerated reinstatement of eligibility if the student is able to demonstrate significant and measurable progress toward proficiency.

All students placed on academic probation will be required to develop, in collaboration with appropriate teachers, advisors, counselors, coaches, and/or parents or guardians, a personalized intervention plan. The intervention plan will be submitted to the athletic administrator and a designated school administrator or intervention coordinator for review and approval when the student is placed on probation.

The ineligible student will be given three weeks to demonstrate progress and satisfy the eligibility criteria described above. During this period, the student will be allowed to participate in practice sessions, team meetings, club gatherings, rehearsals, tryouts, auditions, and other similar activities, but the student will not be allowed to participate in games, competitions, tournaments, scrimmages, performances, debates, and exhibitions during which the student would be officially representing the school. During the initial three-week probationary period, students may attend games or performances, but they are not allowed to dress in official school uniforms (with the exception of any safety equipment that may be required).

If the student satisfies the eligibility criteria during the probationary period, the student will be reinstated for full participation in athletics and co-curricular activities at the end of the three-week period.

If a student continues to be ineligible at the end of the probationary period, the student will continue to follow the designated intervention program. During this extended probationary period, the student will not be allowed to participate in any athletic or co-curricular activities, including any scheduled trips with a school team, club, or group. Academic eligibility status will be evaluated every two weeks by a district or school staff member designated in the intervention plan, which will evaluate academic progress and determine whether eligibility status should be reinstated.

B. Substance Abuse

There will be absolutely NO use, possession, and/or illegal transportation of any illegal/controlled substances, (tobacco, alcohol, illegal substances and/or prescription drugs) by any Southern Aroostook Community School student in grades 5-12 participating in any co-curricular activities regulated by this policy. For the sake of this policy, use also pertains to being under the influence. If the student does not start any co-curricular or extracurricular activities until a later date, the policy still pertains to the student during the time from the start of fall practices until the state of his or her activity. Any student who is witnessed violating this rule, either on or off campus, by an administrator, teacher, staff member, coach, activity advisor, or adult community member is subject to disciplinary action. The witness shall submit a formal, written incident report to Southern Aroostook Community School administration. Every reasonable effort will be made to involve parents/guardians of students involved in such cases.

1. The first violation of this rule will result in a 30 day school suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities. If the first violation is a parent or student self-referral, (seeking help for an existing problem), it will result in a 15 school day suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities. This may mean that suspensions carry over from activity to activity. The student may participate in practices, at the coach's discretion.

We encourage student cooperation and honesty, therefore, if during the investigation the Southern Aroostook Community School administration find the student to be honest and cooperative the suspension may be reduced to 15 school days. The student must also complete a mandatory counseling session with the school's counselor and complete an assessment with a substance abuse counselor is required before participation may be resumed. Recommendations must be followed and monitored by school administrators.

2. The second violation of this rule will result in a suspension from participating in all extracurricular activities for 45 school days from the time of reported violation and a meeting with the principal has taken place. This may mean that suspensions carry over from activity to activity. Such 45 school day suspensions will be carried over to the next school year if necessary. The number of days between the end of school and the beginning of the next activity are not counted as part of the suspension. If the suspension carried into the next season the student will not be eligible for tryouts or selection into the next activity. The student must also complete mandatory substance abuse counseling from an outside agency before participation may be resumed. The school counselor will have the student choose a community service project from a selective list to be carried out by the student before he or she is eligible to return.

3. The third violation of this rule will result in suspension from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's enrollment in Southern Aroostook Community School.

C. Tobacco

Students participating in extracurricular activities will refrain from using or having possession of tobacco, and tobacco product, in any form in school, on school grounds, during practice, events, or at any other time while a student is in RSU 50 schools.

1. The first violation of this rule will result in suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities for 15 school days. If the first violation is a parent or student self-referral, it will result in a two week suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities and, in the case of athletics, at least one countable game. In addition, if the violation of this rule occurs during school hours on school grounds, the participant will be subject to the rules outlined in the student Handbook/Folder. The student may participate in practices

2. The second violation of this rule will result in suspension from any athletic team for the remainder of the season, 30-day suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities and meeting with the substance abuse counselor, an investigation of the American Cancer Society cessation program.

3. The third violation will result in suspension from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's enrollment in Southern Aroostook Community School.

4. After being suspended for any of the above violations and if the violation was self-reported (as opposed to being found in violation of a coach /administrator investigation) one violation will be eliminated for each year he /she able to demonstrate compliance with the spirit and intent of the extracurricular code.

To exercise this option the student and parent will write a narrative explanation of the steps taken to comply with the extracurricular civil /social expectations and will include a statement from a recognized health professional as to the student's commitment to the spirit and intent of the extracurricular civil /social expectations. The application will be considered by a committee of the Athletic Director, School Principal, and School Counselor and an RSU 50 coach.

D. Hazing

Students participating in extracurricular activities are reminded hazing is prohibited. Hazing is defined as harassing by abusive or humiliating acts. No student may participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or other person.

1. A student violating this policy will be suspended from any athletic team for the remainder of the season, indefinite suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities, and will face further disciplinary action as outlined in other policies and procedures.

E. Violation of Civil/Social Expectations

1. No student shall be involved in any activity that might embarrass or discredit the community, school, team, activities, coach, or him /her. For violation of this world, the coach, advisor, and school administration will determine the appropriate disposition on a case by case basis. Examples might include but are not limited to violation of the Civil Code of the state of Maine or federal government, vandalism, theft, assault, etc.

2. Any student who violates these expectations will not be eligible to be named as captain of any team if the violation occurred within the last twelve months. In addition, any current captain who violates the civil/social code will be removed as captain. If it is the student's first violation and if it is a parent or student self-referral, the student will not be eligible to be named as captain of any team if the violation occurred within the last eight months.

First Reading: September 10, 2018
Second Reading/Adoption: October 9, 2018