

No. 122-AR
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

122-AR. ATHLETIC/CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Purpose and Philosophy

In recognition of the importance of the total development of the student, the schools shall provide comprehensive programs of athletic and co-curricular activities. The primary purpose of the athletic and co-curricular programs is to promote the intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being of our students. The success of the programs depend upon each individual developing his/her potential to the fullest extent, while accepting full responsibility for his/her own conduct during the period of participation. Every participant shall observe the rules of the school district as set forth in Board Policy and in the Student Handbook, as well as all of the rules of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and the Suburban One Conference.

The enforcement of all regulations and guidelines shall be the responsibility of the building principal, as stipulated in Board Policy, the Administrative Rules, and the PIAA regulations, under the direction of the Superintendent.

Coaches and Advisors

Every effort shall be made to recruit and employ the most highly qualified coaches and advisors. All coaches and sponsors who work with students on a contracted or voluntary basis must obtain Act 34 clearance and be approved by the Board for employment before commencing their activity. Coaches and sponsors should adhere to the following practices:

1. Understand that the purpose of interscholastic athletics and co-curricular activities should be sound in purpose and designed to further each student's total educational development.
2. Set an example of good conduct for team and activity members as well as to the student body and the general public.
3. Act in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.
4. Refrain from the use of tobacco in any form, the use of alcohol, or the use of profane language while supervising a team or activity.

5. Be courteous to visiting teams, groups, coaches and officials.
6. Strive for a positive relationship with opposing coaches or sponsors.
7. Achieve a thorough knowledge and understanding of rules and regulations of the sport or activity.
8. Properly supervise and direct students in their charge at all times.
9. Prohibit "hazing" or other demeaning practices by team or activity members.
10. Consistently remind students of their academic and social obligations relative to the high school educational program.
11. Respect the decisions of officials, the administration, and the School Directors and accept such decisions and recommendations.
12. Establish written rules for practice and participation. Such rules should be annually reviewed with the appropriate administrators.

Student Code of Conduct

All students involved in athletic and co-curricular activities shall adhere to the following rules governing conduct:

1. Attend school regularly and obey all rules as set forth in the Student Handbook.
2. Achieve satisfactorily in academic schoolwork and adhere to the eligibility rules as set forth in the section on student eligibility, as stated below.
3. Conform to the rules for practice and participation as established by the coach or advisor.
4. Behave and act in a manner which displays a high sense of ethics and fairness toward all other students.
5. Represent the Springfield School Community in a proper and mannerly way when competing and when traveling away from the district.
6. Be neat and well-groomed when representing the school district.
7. Never engage in profanity or display temper, anger, or bad manners.

8. Adhere to healthful training habits and take care to get proper rest, diet and conditioning. Attend all practices unless other wise excused.
9. Respect the rights and property of others at all times.
10. Be courteous, respectful and fair by displaying good sportsman ship at all times toward other participants, sponsors and game and event officials.
11. Care for and return all district equipment.
12. Demonstrate an understanding and knowledge of the rules of the sport or activity.
13. Demonstrate a complete respect for all duly constituted authority, including coaches and advisors as well as for fellow students, inside and outside the school.
14. Report any and all injuries or physical problems to the coach or trainer immediately upon discovery or at the time of first personal knowledge.
15. Obey completely the Board Policies and the rules and regulations regarding drug and alcohol use/abuse, and the use of anabolic steroids, as set forth elsewhere in the Student Handbook. Students shall affirm this decision by signing and returning the Parent and Student Consent Form to the Coach and Athletic Director.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY: ATHLETICS

Academic Subjects

1. In conjunction with PIAA rules, a student must have received passing grades in four (4) full credit subjects or the equivalent during the previous grading period in order to be eligible for interscholastic athletics. This includes ninth grade. A student who fails two (2) full-credit courses shall not be eligible.
2. To be eligible for interscholastic athletic participation, a student must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the principal as a full-time curriculum.
3. Eligibility shall be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period and shall be reported on a weekly basis.
4. Teachers will submit names of students who are failing to the assistant principal's office each Friday. The grades are to be cumulative from the

beginning of the marking period and conclude at the end of each marking period.

5. The assistant principal's secretary, upon his/her approval, will compile co-curricular eligibility reports and distribute them to staff. In the event that a student has failed two (2) or more subjects, s/he is ineligible to participate in contests for a period of one (1) week. This ineligibility begins the first Monday and ends on Sunday, following the issuance of weekly reports to the athletic office.
6. Upon issuance of the regular report cards, coaches must review the grades to see if any student involved in their program is not eligible. Those students with two (2) or more "F's" for the marking period are ineligible for the following week or until they are certified as passing by the principal, following consultation with the teacher.
7. According to the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, those students not passing at least four (4) full credit courses are ineligible for the first four (4) weeks of the next marking period.
8. A transfer student may be eligible to participate in athletics. However, strict guidelines have been established by the PIAA, and these must be followed. The specific questions about transfer rules should be addressed to the Athletic Director and the principal.

Age Guidelines And Amateur Status

Students who reach the age of nineteen (19) on or after September 1 are eligible to compete through the fall sports season. Those who reach age nineteen (19) by November 1 are eligible to compete through the winter sports season. Those who reach age nineteen (19) by March 1 are eligible to complete through the spring sports season.

All students must have amateur status in order to be eligible to participate in any contest.

Attendance

In order to be eligible, a student must have been enrolled and in continuous regular attendance. A student who has been absent from school during a semester for a period of ten (10) or more school days, for any reason whatsoever, shall not be eligible to participate in any athletic contest until the student has been in attendance for a period of sixty (60) days following the tenth day of absence. Students may not participate in a sporting event on a day in which they were absent from school. Furthermore, if a student is chronically or excessively late or absent from school, the principal shall evaluate each situation

and determine the student's eligibility to participate in any extra-curricular activity. The district reserves the right to require a physician's excuse to validate any period of absence. The principal shall have the final decision on eligibility.

Consent of Parents and Physical Examination

No student shall be eligible to represent his/her school in any sport unless a certificate of consent signed by a parent or legal guardian is on file in the school office.

No student shall participate or be eligible to represent his/her school in any athletic contest unless the student has been examined by a physician and the results of such examination are on file in the school office.

Student Accident Insurance

Student accident insurance shall be governed by Policy 211 and 211 AR.

Athletic Letters

Athletic letters are awarded as follows:

1. For completion of a season, unless injured.
2. For participation in at least half the quarters of football and basketball; half the innings played in baseball (one-third for pitcher); one more than half the wrestling meets together with scoring nine points or more; scoring in at least half of the cross country meets; scoring 10 points in dual meets or scoring a place in open or championship meets in track and field; participation in at least half of the periods in hockey, lacrosse and soccer games; or at least half of the tennis or golf matches.
3. For satisfactory attendance in practice.
4. Before the senior year, a student may receive only one varsity letter in each sport. A student who has a varsity letter and who meets varsity letter requirements for the same sport in the senior year receives a senior letter in reverse colors which indicates the number of times the student has qualified for a varsity letter in that sport.
5. The above participation requirements apply to junior varsity letters in sports for which there are complete junior varsity schedules. Requirements for certificates, freshman awards and letters for junior varsity sports with incomplete schedules are based on the extent of scheduled opportunities for participation, together with practice, recommendations and approval requirements for varsity letters.

Post-Season Athletic Competition

Participation in post-season competition is a reward for a successful season. However, post-season competition must be weighed against the valuable class time that may be lost, the overlapping of athletic seasons, and additional costs to the school district.

Accordingly, in order to participate in post-season competition, an athletic team must have won at least 40% of its contests, e.g., 8 wins 12 losses, 10 wins 15 losses, etc. This rule would not prevent athletes from entering post-season competition in individual sports such as swimming, wrestling, tennis, track and cross country since their eligibility is determined by their individual achievements.

The school district transportation service, i.e. school buses, will be used to take teams to post-competition sites up to a distance of 150 miles. Transportation to sites exceeding 150 miles may be made by a common carrier, subject to the approval of the Board, upon recommendation of the principal to the Superintendent.

Care And Return Of Equipment

All individuals are responsible for any equipment or uniforms which have been issued to them. Any equipment not returned at the close of the activity will be paid for by the participant at replacement cost. Students who do not return equipment/uniform or pay for lost equipment/uniform will not be eligible for additional school functions until their obligation has been met.

All participants are responsible for adhering to the guidelines for use of any equipment/uniform issued by the faculty advisor or coach. Damage to school property as a result of misuse will result in the cost of the damage being paid by the participant.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY: CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. The same procedures as set forth in the sections above, under Academic Subject Eligibility and Attendance for athletics, shall apply to all other co-curricular activities.
2. As with athletics, to participate in co-curricular activities, a student cannot fail two (2) courses and must successfully pass at least four (4) full credit academic subjects in order to be eligible.
3. Advisors have the same responsibility as athletic coaches for determining the eligibility of students who participate in their activity.

4. Any student ruled ineligible must report each Friday morning to the Guidance Office to procure a form which they must take to all their teachers for reporting their grades that week. This form must be presented to the advisor before eligibility can resume.
5. If a student received two (2) or more F's at the conclusion of the school year, the scholastic ineligibility carries over the summer; and the student must make up the failed work. If the student attends a summer school, s/he becomes eligible immediately, provided that failed grades have been raised to passing.
6. If a student is ineligible as of August, s/he may participate in summer practices, rehearsals, or activities; however, s/he will not be eligible for participation in competitions or student activities until the completion of the first full week of school in September.

Adopted: 5/3/94