

Students

Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics

The Board of Education recognizes that involvement in extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics assists in the development of a well-rounded individual and student, and should be encouraged. However, participation in extracurricular activities, such as interscholastic athletics, is a privilege, not a right. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that any student who represents South Windsor Public Schools in interscholastic competition demonstrates at all times the characteristics of a good citizen of both the school and the community.

Participation in interscholastic athletics as an extracurricular activity provides students with important skills and habits such as team building, leadership, self-discipline, healthy competition, integrity and physical fitness. School athletic programs must place the highest priority on academic achievement and character development.

Students participating in interscholastic athletics are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior and high ethical standards at all times. Negative or inappropriate behavior by athletes during the school year, during out-of-school periods and during non-school hours can affect other students' perception of the integrity of an athletic program as well as the public's perception of the ethical standards established by South Windsor Public Schools for all students. Consequently, student athletes shall be subject to athletic sanctions, up to and including dismissal from participation in interscholastic athletics for negative or inappropriate behavior, at any time during a calendar year.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[19a-342](#) (formerly 1-21b) Smoking prohibited in certain places

[10-19](#) Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Training of personnel.

[10-154a](#) Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student. Surrender or physical evidence obtained from students.

[10-220b](#) Policy statement on drugs

[10-221\(d\)](#) Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures re sale or possession of alcohol or controlled drugs

[21a-240](#) Definitions dependency producing drugs.

[21a-243](#) Regulation re schedules of controlled substances.

[21a-408a](#) through 408q Palliative Use of Marijuana

[53-198](#) Smoking in motor buses, railroad cars and school buses

New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985)

Veronia School District 47J v. Acton, 515 U.S. 646 (1995) *Board of Education of Independent School District No 92 of Pottawatomie County v. Earls* 536 U.S. 522 (2002)

Policy Adopted: January 22, 2019

Interscholastic Athletic Suspension

Regulations

Because participation in interscholastic athletic programs is a special privilege distinct from basic academics a student may be subjected to an athletic suspension for violation of any of the following standards of conduct as well as for violations of standards cited under policy 5002.

1. All CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference (“CIAC”) eligibility rules will be strictly adhered to and enforced during the season. CIAC may impose sanctions beyond those imposed by this policy with regard to the use of anabolic steroids, hormones and analogues, diuretics, and other performance enhancing substances by athletes.
2. **Academic requirements:** Students must earn six credits at the end of the school year to be eligible for athletics the next school year.
 - Any student-athlete who has below a 2.0 GPA when quarter report cards are distributed will be placed on academic probation for the next quarter. While on academic probation, a student-athlete will be allowed to participate in practices and games. Student-athletes who are on probation will be given an action plan collaboratively designed by the student-athlete, coach and Athletic Director.
 - All student-athletes on academic probation will be required to attend a study hall a minimum of 3 hours/week across 3 or more sessions. If this attendance is not achievable in a particular week due to rescheduled away games or cancellations an exemption may be granted by the Athletic Director.
 - Student-athletes in their **1st or 2nd year** of high school who are on academic probation will remain on an action plan until they have achieved a quarter-ending GPA of 2.0 or higher.
 - Student-athletes in their **3rd or 4th year** of high school on academic probation for two consecutive quarters will be deemed ineligible to participate in practices and games until they have achieved a quarter-ending GPA of 2.0 or higher.
 - Eligibility is determined by marking period grades. All changes to eligibility status occur on the day report cards are distributed. Progress report grades are not considered in determining eligibility.
3. **Use of alcohol, illegal drugs, controlled substances and/or tobacco products:** The possession, consumption, or use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, controlled substances, substances represented to be a controlled substance, or drug paraphernalia and inappropriate use of non-prescription medication by student-athletes participating in District interscholastic athletics, whether on or off school grounds, will not be tolerated.

Students attending and remaining at any gathering in a vehicle with those who are in possession of, using, selling, or distributing any drugs, drug paraphernalia, and/or alcohol shall be subject to disciplinary action. Upon learning or having reason to believe that others in attendance at an event or in a car are in possession of, using, selling, or distributing drugs, drug paraphernalia, and/or alcohol, a student-athlete is expected to immediately take substantial steps to leave the premises and to leave as soon as it is safe to do so.

Students knowingly hosting at their homes those who are in possession of, using, selling or distributing drugs, drug paraphernalia, and/or alcohol, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Students possessing, purchasing, selling, distributing, using and/or under the influence of alcohol, tobacco and/or other drugs, in any amount, or drug paraphernalia shall be subject to the following actions.

Interscholastic Athletic Suspension Due to Possession and/or Use of Tobacco Products

When a student athlete is found to use or possess tobacco products, he or she will face consequences in accordance with the progressive disciplinary processes set forth below. These consequences relate solely to participation in athletics, and school discipline may otherwise be imposed if the student's conduct so warrants. The policy shall apply each school year from the first day of CIAC practice eligibility in August to the last day of school in June.

Progressive Disciplinary Process for Possession and/or Use of Tobacco

Student athletes are expected to refrain from the possession and/or use of tobacco products on or off campus. The penalty for possessing and/or using tobacco products will be as follows:

First Offense:

The student athlete shall be suspended for two games OR shall enroll in and successfully complete an administration-approved smoking cessation program. If a student athlete elects to enroll in a smoking cessation program, she or he must enroll in the next available class as identified by school administration.

Second Offense:

The athlete shall forfeit eligibility for the rest of the current athletic season.

Third Offense:

The athlete shall forfeit eligibility for one calendar year.

Progressive Disciplinary Process Due to Use and/or Possession of Alcohol, Drugs and/or drug Paraphernalia

When a student athlete is found to use, distribute, sell and/or possess drugs, drug paraphernalia and/or alcohol, he or she will face consequences in accordance with the progressive disciplinary processes set forth below. These consequences relate solely to participation in athletics, and school discipline may otherwise be imposed if the student's conduct so warrants.

When a student athlete is found to use, distribute, sell and/or possess drugs, drug paraphernalia, and/or alcohol, the student will face consequences, as the administration deems appropriate based on the specific circumstances. Generally, such consequences will be determined in accordance with the progressive disciplinary processes described below, provided that the administration reserves

the right to deviate from these progressive disciplinary processes as it deems appropriate. The policy shall apply each school year from the first day of CIAC practice eligibility in August to the last day of school in June.

First Offense: The student-athlete shall be suspended for the number of games equal to 50% of the regular season schedule. The suspension shall be served consecutively, including post season contests. If at the time of his or her hearing, the student athlete agrees to participate in a drug/alcohol education program, the suspension will be reduced to the number of games equal to 25% of the contests, pending certification by the instructor that the student athlete has successfully completed the program. If an athletic season ends before the end of a student's suspension, the athlete will serve the remaining suspension (determined by the remaining percentage) which will resume on the date of the first game in his or her next season of athletics that the student-athlete (grades 10, 11, 12) has previously participated in.

Second Offense: The student-athlete shall be immediately dismissed from his/her team and suspended from participation in all interscholastic athletics for one calendar year. This includes tryouts, practices, contests, games and all facets of the athletic program. A student may not try out for a sport until the season after completing his/her suspension.

Third Offense: The student-athlete shall be ineligible from all participation for the remainder of his/her high school career. This includes practices, contests, games and all facets of the athletic program.

4. **Student Behavior:** All athletes shall conduct themselves as good school and community citizens. Unsatisfactory behavior may result in complete or partial suspension from the team.
5. **Team Conduct:** All team members must show respect to their opponents, officials, coaches and spectators. Abuse of this may result in complete or partial suspension from the team.
6. **Practice:** Each team's attendance policy will be outlined and shared with the athlete and parent at the beginning of each athletic season. Repeated violation of the team's attendance policy may lead to complete or partial suspension.
7. **Equipment:** The athlete must properly care for all issued school equipment and is financially responsible for any missing equipment.
8. **Attendance, Day of Game:** Players must attend school on the day of the game unless special permission from the coach, and/or athletic director, and/or principal has been issued. Violation of this rule will prohibit the player's participation in the athletic contest that day.

9. **Letter Award:** A letter award is given to an athlete upon recommendation of the coach. An athlete who is not a member in good standing of the team at the conclusion of the season will not qualify as a letter winner.

Procedure for Interscholastic Athletic Suspension

1. The administration of each school shall have the authority to invoke an athletic suspension for a period up to the duration of the playing season for one or more of the reasons stated in policy 5002 or the section on Athletic Suspension, above, in accordance with the procedure outlined in this section. The administration shall have the authority to immediately suspend any student when an emergency exists as that term is defined below.
2. Except in the case of an emergency, as defined below, a student shall be given the opportunity to meet with the administration and to deny the stated charges prior to the effectuation of any period of athletic suspension. If at such a meeting the student denies the stated charges, he/she may at that time present his/her version of the incident(s) upon which the proposed athletic suspension is based. The administration shall then determine whether or not an athletic suspension is warranted. In determining the length of the athletic suspension the administration may receive and consider evidence of past academic or disciplinary problems which have led to removal from a classroom, in-school suspension, athletic suspension or expulsion.
3. In the case of an athletic suspension, the administration shall notify the Superintendent of Schools within twenty-four (24) hours of the suspension as to the name of the student who has been suspended and the reason therefore.

Definitions

1. **Athlete:** The athlete is defined as a student who is trying out for or has been selected to participate on an athletic team.
2. **Athletic Suspension:** Athletic suspension shall mean the exclusion from games or official team activities such as banquets, awards meetings, etc. Suspended students are required to participate in all practices during the term of a suspension unless otherwise noted. A suspension under this policy cannot begin until the date of the first athletic contest of the season. If the season ends before the end of a suspension, the suspension will resume on the date of the next athletic contest in which the athlete is otherwise eligible to compete in a subsequent season.
3. **Athletic Team:** Any team or group who competes in a CAS, CIAC or NFHS interscholastic competition.
4. **Athletic Year:** The athletic year will begin on the first practice date as determined by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) and will last until the end of the last day of school for the year.
5. **Drugs:** Drugs are controlled drugs and controlled substances as defined in CGS 21a-240, classifiable as amphetamine-type, barbiturate-type, cannabis-type, cocaine-type, hallucinogenic, morphine-type, and other stimulant and depressant drugs. Notwithstanding the foregoing, drugs shall not include (1) prescription drugs used and/or possessed consistent with a lawfully obtained prescription, or (2) drugs used and/or possessed in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes' 21a-408a through 408q.
6. **"Emergency"** shall be defined as a situation under which the continued presence of the student in the playing arena or school imposes such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption to the activity involved that a hearing may be delayed until a time as soon after the exclusion of such student as possible.

7. **Full Participation:** Full participation is participation that entitles the student to all benefits and privileges accorded all team members in good standing.
8. **Paraphernalia:** Drug paraphernalia includes any material used in the consumption, distribution, weighing, or concealment of a controlled drug or controlled substance.
9. **Smoking Cessation Program:** A smoking cessation program is a program that is licensed to assess and treat tobacco addiction. It may be held on school property or sponsored by the school system. Referral of a student to an appropriate smoking cessation program does not obligate the school to pay for such referral or treatment.
10. **Tobacco Products:** Tobacco products are any products that contain tobacco/nicotine in any form. Examples may include but are not limited to cigarettes, vape pens or facsimiles, snuff, and chewing and smokeless tobacco.
11. **Treatment Program:** A treatment program is a program that is licensed to assess and treat substance abuse. It may also include an alcohol or other drug abuse program that is held on school property or sponsored by the school system. Referral of a student to an appropriate drug counselor/agency does not obligate the school to pay for such referral or treatment.
12. **Week:** A week is a seven-day period that occurs within defined dates of CIAC sponsored athletic seasons. For the purpose of this policy, a suspension week cannot begin until the date of the first athletic contest of the season.

Regulations Adopted: January 22, 2019