

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #33

Academic Eligibility for Activities

All students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by the schools of MSAD #33. Extracurricular activities offer students the opportunity to learn new skills, to compete in a variety of interscholastic and intramural sports, to experience being part of a team, to develop character, positive attitudes, and self-discipline, to demonstrate leadership, and to realize personal accomplishments.

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to self, classmates, school, and community. Participation in these activities is voluntary.

The Board recognizes the importance of extracurricular activities to students, the schools of MSAD #33, and the community. However, it is the Board's intent to ensure that participation in these activities should not interfere with student learning or academic progress. It is the Board's intent to establish eligibility standards that support the well being of the students and the integrity of the schools' extracurricular programs.

For the purposes of this policy, activities will be defined as "ongoing extracurricular and co-curricular activities" at the middle and high school level sponsored by the schools of MSAD #33. Participation in occasional social events such as dances and concerts, or activities in which participation and/or performance is required as part of a course for which academic credit is given, will not be governed by this policy.

Academic Eligibility:

In order to participate in extracurricular activities, (including tryouts, practices, scrimmages, exhibition games, tournaments, competition, or similar activities), students must meet the following requirements:

- A. A student is eligible to compete in interscholastic athletic contests for only eight consecutive semesters from the time he/she enters grade 9.
- B. No student is eligible who has reached the age of 20.
- C. A student must be passing all classes they are enrolled in.
- D. Grades from the last recorded quarter will be used to determine initial eligibility for each sports season or participation in a new extracurricular activity.

Fourth-quarter grades from the prior school year will be used to determine eligibility for extracurricular activities that start the school year. If a student attends summer school and successfully passes the course(s) they are failing, that will be considered when determining their eligibility.

- E. Grades will be checked during the midpoint of each sports season or extracurricular activity. The grade check date will be determined before the start

of each season by the Athletic Administrator, Principal, or designee, and will be shared with students, advisers, and coaches. Membership in state or national organizations, such as the National Honor Society, will have their grade check protocol determined by those groups' individual bylaws and requirements.

- F. If a student failed one class for a quarter, or is failing a class at the midseason grade check, they will be placed on ***academic probation***. Students placed on academic probation *will be allowed* to participate in extracurricular activities for two weeks. At the end of the two-week period, grades will be re-checked for those students by the Athletic Administrator, Principal, or designee. At that time, students on probation must be passing **all classes** in order to maintain their eligibility. If a student is not passing all of their classes at the follow-up grade check, they will be ruled ***ineligible*** for the remainder of that sports season or extracurricular activity.
- G. Any student failing **two or more classes** at any grade reporting or grade check period will become ***ineligible*** for the remainder of that sports season.
- H. Students receiving an *incomplete* during any grade reporting period will be considered on academic probation, and must follow the probation requirements over the two-week period to remain eligible.
- I. Athletic eligibility for students in Grades 5 and 6 participating in middle school sports will be governed by this policy.
- J. Incoming freshman students will be considered eligible until the first grade check or grade reporting period.
- K. Parents/guardians will be notified in writing of any probations, suspensions, or ineligibility concerns due to academics.
- J. All other MPA interscholastic eligibility rules apply in order for a student to participate.

Sports Physicals and Insurance

Because of the relationship between athletics and student health and safety, students who wish to participate in middle school or high school athletics are required to have a physical examination and medical approval before taking part in any physical activity. Physical examinations and their expirations will be tracked by the MSAD #33 nurse, and will be valid for two years. A student whose health status is questionable and has been referred for further examination will not be allowed to participate in practice or competition until the student has been examined and medically approved for participation.

Students who suffer serious illness or injury must obtain a "return to play" clearance from their

health care provider before further participation in athletics or extracurricular activities is allowed.

Students must demonstrate evidence of health insurance coverage before participation in athletic activities is allowed.

Parent Permission for Extracurricular Participation

Before participating in the first practice, tryout, or audition, students must provide their coach or adviser the following items:

- A. A permission form signed by their parent/guardian.
- B. A signed form from the parent/guardian acknowledging and accepting the risk of injury that may occur as a result of participation, as well as permission for students to be treated by medical professionals in the event of an injury.

Attendance Standards

A student who is absent from school, or who arrives to school after the start of the lunch period, or is dismissed from school due to illness, may not participate in any extracurricular activities that day.

Exceptions to this policy will be granted for students on internship for part of the day, who attend school-sponsored field trips, attending funeral services, or who were late or dismissed early for medical or dental appointments. Students arriving late or being dismissed for medical or dental appointments must bring a note from the office of their visit to confirm their appointment. Exceptions for college visits must be pre-approved by the building principal before the day of the visit.

Conduct Standards

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for enforcing eligibility standards prescribed in this policy. The Superintendent or designee may develop and implement other conduct rules for students taking part in extracurricular activities, so long as they are consistent with this and other Board policies.

Students participating in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities shall be subject to all conduct rules, and the consequences for violating them, as well as all other rules affecting the student body.

Notification of Policy

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for notifying students and parents of the eligibility standards articulated in this policy through the student handbook, athletic code, parent

and participant meetings, and/or other means.

Legal Reference: Title 20-A MRSA §4007

History:	Adopted	Meeting #638	July 5, 1993 (as policy IGDJ)
	Revised	Meeting #813	July 11, 2005
	Revised	Meeting #990	July 10, 2017