

**Regulation**

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ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION

The Bordentown Regional Board of Education recognizes that the students who participate in athletics accept the challenge to work extra hours in addition to the rigors of their academic program. Student athletes contribute to school spirit and a sense of community.

Athletes represent the total school community. As school representatives, their conduct and behavior must reflect well on Bordentown Regional School District. Personal conduct in and out of school, appearance, classroom behavior, and general conduct in all activities, in athletics and at social functions, should always exemplify good citizenship and sportsmanship. Training and safety guidelines must be followed at all times.

The physical and moral training that participation in athletics provides are district priorities. Nationwide, research shows that students involved in athletics and other activities do well in school and have outstanding attendance records. High standards for behavior and academic achievement are expected of Bordentown Regional School District student athletes.

It is each individual's job to abide by the training and conduct rules. Violation of the rules in this procedure and/or other school policies will result in consequences consistent with the school code of student conduct. The following rules shall apply to all student athletes:

- A. Conduct on busses, in locker rooms, and on the fields should be exemplary. Students shall take responsibility for their actions.
- B. The district substance abuse policies 5131.6 Substance Abuse and 5131.8 Random Drug Testing will be in effect.
  - 1. If a student is suspended for the possession and/or consumption of alcohol or a controlled dangerous substance or tests positive under the random drug screening (policy 5131.8 Random Drug Testing which permits random drug screening for all athletes), he/she will not be permitted to participate for 20 school days;
  - 2. A second offense will result in suspension from athletics for a calendar year;
  - 3. Subsequent violation will result in suspension from participation for the remainder of the student's career.
  - 4. Decision may be appealed to the principal, superintendent and board of education.

***PLEASE NOTE:*** *When a student is tested for being under the influence of drugs and alcohol, the sanctions listed above are in addition to the school suspension sanctions that are outlined in policy and procedure 5131.6 Substance Abuse and the student code of conduct. Suspensions can run concurrently to suspension from activity.*

***PLEASE NOTE:*** *Students who are chosen in the Random Drug Testing Program (5131.8) and test positive for drugs and/or alcohol shall comply with the medical protocols for substance abuse in board policy 5131.6 Substance Abuse (medical examination and physician's authorization to return to school). Disciplinary sanctions shall be restricted to suspension from the sport as detailed above.*

C. Personal Conduct

Students representing the Bordentown Regional School District are expected to exhibit outstanding behavior. When problems are encountered students are directed to speak with teachers and coaches before the problem escalates. Disciplinary problems during the school day may affect the student's ability to participate in athletics.

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Suspension from school is a serious consequence for a serious infraction. Students who are suspended from school are not allowed to participate in athletics or extracurricular activities during the length of the suspension. The following disciplinary actions will result in suspension from athletic participation for a calendar year:

1. Any out-of-school suspensions for a single incident that totals more than five days;
2. Two out-of-school suspensions;
3. A total of four suspensions which includes both in-school suspension and out-of-school suspension.

## D. Behavior Outside of School

Records show that students who are involved in school activities have very few problems outside of school. Student actions outside of school can impact the student's ability to participate in school activities.

1. Admission to or conviction of a crime may result in automatic suspension from participation in the athletics program for a calendar year.
2. A second offense will result in suspension from participation in the athletics program for the entire high school career.

## E. Policy 5113 Attendance, Absences and Excuses must also be followed. If a student is in a non-credit status:

1. Students on non-credit status or who otherwise exceed the allowable number of absences in a semester will not be eligible for participation for the remainder of that semester.
2. Truancy will result in suspension from practice or game for that day.
3. A second truancy will place the student on non-credit status and suspension from participation for remainder of the semester.

## F. Because facilities are shared among different sports and school groups, students are expected to respect the personal belongings of others. Theft and destruction of property are serious offenses that can result in loss of privileges. All personal belongings should be secured and locked in a locker at all times.

## G. Attendance at Practices and Games

Practice sessions are important to the success of teams. Each athlete has an obligation to his/her teammates, the school, the coach, and himself or herself to be at every practice in order to stay in shape and be ready to play. Students shall follow the coaches' rules for practices. Occasional absences from practice may be excused for reasons listed in policy 5113 Attendance, Absences and Excuses. Absences from practice either excused or unexcused may result in restricted participation in games, meets or other athletic events.

## H. Each coach will establish team rules and ensure that the athletes will receive a copy of these rules. Both parent/guardian and student shall review and sign the individual specific sport contract prior to participation in that season. Rules established by coaches shall not be contrary to existing school policies, procedures, or rules established by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA).

## I. Academics

The following rules will apply with regard to academic standards for eligibility to participate in interscholastic sports and extracurricular activities.

## 1. NJSIAA Academic Eligibility Requirements

1. All incoming freshmen are eligible automatically for the first marking period.
2. To be eligible for athletic competition during the first semester (September 1 to January 31) of the 10th grade or higher, or the second year of attendance in the secondary school or beyond, a pupil

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must have passed 25% of the credits (30 credits) required by the State of New Jersey for graduation (120 total credits for graduation), during the immediately preceding academic year.

3. To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester (Feb. 1 to June 30) of the 9th grade or higher, a pupil must have passed the equivalent of 12 ½% of the credits (15 credits) required by New Jersey for graduation at the close of the preceding semester (Jan. 31).
4. Full-year courses shall be equated as one-half of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.
5. A student may correct academic failures by earning a passing grade at an accredited summer school.

## 2. Grades 6 through 12 Academic Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility will be based upon grade averages at the end of the first marking period, from 1<sup>st</sup> semester grades, third marking period, and final grades. A student can become eligible or ineligible at any time except when participating in interscholastic sports during which the student must meet both the local and state requirements:

- a. A student with two (2) or more failures automatically becomes ineligible for participation. Participation ends five (5) school days after the completion of the marking period.
- b. If a student has one (1) failure, he/she shall be placed on academic probation.

## 3. Academic Probation

A student placed on academic probation must meet the following criteria to be reinstated:

1. The coach or activity advisor, parent, student and counselor must agree and execute a contract, which attests to the support and commitment of all parties to bring up the grades. All parties have the responsibility to monitor progress and provide adequate time for school work completion.
2. The coach/advisor or delegated coach/study hall supervisor must provide a supervised study time for homework completion.
3. The student on academic probation will remain eligible as long as neither the next progress report, nor the next report card, reflects two (2) or more failures. If two or more failures are present, participation ends with issuance of the report.
4. A high school student may become ineligible if he/she enters a "no credit" status. The student may remain eligible until all appeals have been exhausted.

### Disqualification of an Athlete

- A. The NJSIAA has established rules regarding disqualification, suspension, or when a student/athlete is removed from competition. These vary by sport. It is the student's obligation to be aware of these requirements. Each coach will review these rules with his or her team. In the event that an athlete is disqualified from an athletic contest, he or she will be suspended from play for two games (one for football). He/she will not even be permitted to be in attendance for any games (home or away) during this suspension.
- B. Under state guideline, an athlete who has been suspended cannot even attend AS A SPECTATOR;
- C. Additional disciplinary action may be taken by the school administration;
- D. The determination to disqualify by an official cannot be appealed in accordance with NJSIAA regulations;
- E. The penalty for subsequent disqualification becomes more severe and may result in removal from the team.

\*Under the Bordentown Regional School District policy 5131.8, athletes are subject to random drug testing. Any positive result determined as part of the random drug testing or any other referral for substance abuse which results in a positive test may result in ineligibility to participate in athletics as described above.

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Questions regarding district policies and procedures related the district athletic program should be directed to the athletic director before signing this agreement.

Adopted: March 6, 2002  
NJSBA Review/Update: June 2014  
Readopt: