

**ATHLETIC/CO-CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY POLICY**  
(Criteria for Academic Eligibility begins 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2008 – 2009 school year)

The Windham School Committee maintains the philosophy that extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, including athletics, are an extension of its instructional program. Further, the Board maintains that it is a privilege, not a right, to participate in any given activity. With the privilege of participating in school activities comes the responsibility to maintain high academic, conduct, and ethical standards.

Sports, Co-curricular and extra curricular activities create an environment in which to instill core values such as discipline, respect, responsibility, fairness, trustworthiness and good citizenship. Positive competition and a spirit of excellence are defining values promoted through activities in school. The Windham student must always keep in mind that a contest is only an event, designed and conducted to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well being of the individual. The student must also realize that it is a privilege to participate in school programs and always remember they are representing their family, school, and community.

The Windham athlete/student agrees to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct. At any time a Windham athlete/student does not abide by the Student Code of Conduct, they can expect to be disciplined.

## I. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- A. All regulations of the Maine Principals' Association (MPA) concerning eligibility for interscholastic activities shall be enforced.
- B. In addition to the MPA requirements, the Windham School Department requires all students to pass all classes, per grading period. (Grading period defined as quarter grades) A student who fails one class will go on probation for three weeks. The student may practice with their team / participate in the club/activity during the probation period, but may not participate in any competitions. At the end of the three weeks, the student must be passing all classes. (Verification form circulated by student and returned to Athletic Administrator/Co-Curricular Advisor.) If the student is failing any classes at this time, they become ineligible. (Grading period is defined as Quarter Grades.)
- C. ***Quarter Grades Eligibility:*** A student who does not meet the requirements stated in A-B will become ineligible. Ineligible is defined as not being allowed to practice, play or participate in any manner with their team / activity. If tryouts are required for an activity while the student has been deemed ineligible, the student may try out for, but not participate in meetings, events / competitions once the team / group has been chosen.
- D. Athletes who are ineligible may begin practicing with their team (no games) one week prior to the end of a grading period. They must turn in a signed form to the Athletic Administrator, stating the student is in good standing with all their teachers. This allows for proper conditioning before participation in games.
- E. An incomplete will not count as a passing grade for credit. Catastrophic illness or injury accounting for an incomplete may require special consideration by the Principal or Athletic

Administrator. A withdrawal failure recorded on the permanent record will count as a failure for academic eligibility.

- F. Fourth quarter grades from the previous academic year will be used to establish eligibility for the next Fall athletic season.
- G. This policy will apply to all athletic activities / co-curricular and extra-curricular activities sponsored by Windham School Department ,as listed in Exhibit A.
- H. **Special Consideration:** With Administrative approval, special consideration could be given to individuals with extenuating circumstances. An appeal may be made to the Principal or Assistant Principal if a student believes extenuating circumstances have impacted their ability to pass a (one) course. Students must be able to document a learning difficulty, efforts to access assistance and/or other interventions.

## II. GENERAL RULES OF WINDHAM ATHLETICS

- A. All athletes must meet the eligibility requirements as set by the Windham School Department and the M.P.A.
- B. All athletes must have permission to play by parent or guardian.
- C. All athletes must have a **current** medical examination prior to initial participation on file at the Middle School or the High School. An exam is current for a period of two years from date of exam.
- D. All athletes must have proof of insurance before participating in athletics.
- E. All athletes must abide by the training and participation rules set up by the coach.
- F. As representatives of your team, school, and community, the athlete's appearance will be neat at all times. The appropriateness of an athlete's dress or appearance will be left to the coach and school administration.
- G. All athletes must travel to and from the game with the team. An exception to this will be permitted for valid reasons, but only under the following conditions: the parent or guardian must present themselves personally to the coach to pick up the student, the parent or guardian must sign the Athletic Transportation release form. These conditions must be met by all athletes regardless of the age of the athlete. It is the intent of the School Committee that this privilege not be misused, but the School Committee recognizes that there are times when team bus travel from a game could cause a hardship.

## III. INSURANCE

- A. No student in the Windham schools can participate in an authorized Maine Principals' Association **athletic** activity without adequate coverage as provided by a protective accident insurance policy.

- B. Windham schools have an available accident insurance plan, for a small cost, which will provide the required coverage.
- C. The athlete is presently protected by an adequate insurance policy which contains the necessary requirements and provides coverage for injuries resulting from participation in the athletic activity named: therefore, the Windham School Department's available insurance plan is not needed or desired.
- D. In the event that the necessary coverage for the athlete contained in the insurance policy presently in existence terminates or ceases to provide the required protective coverage, the principal of the schools shall be notified immediately.
- E. It is agreed that the State of Maine and the Windham schools shall not be responsible or liable for injuries to the student resulting from the participation in the athletic activity.

#### IV. ATTENDANCE TO SCHOOL

- A. No student shall take part in a practice, game, event or activity on a day when they have been tardy, absent or dismissed from school.
  - 1. Since it is understandable that emergencies do occur, the following adjustment to the this rule have been made:
    - a. A student will be allowed one tardy per sport season, for any reason other than illness, if the student arrives before the end of Block 1.
    - b. Any tardy that occurs after Block 1 will result in a student not being able to participate on that day.
- B. Exceptions to the above rule will take place if the reason for the infraction is a professional appointment that must be scheduled during the school day. (doctor, dentist, drivers license test, senior pictures, etc.) An appointment card must be turned in at the office for any such appointment.
- C. The Principal or his/her Designee has the right to adjust for extenuating circumstances when necessary.

#### V. STUDENT DISCIPLINE

It is the philosophy of the Windham School Committee that all students should conduct themselves properly in the school academic environment. The following infractions are listed with the athletic / co-curricular consequence.

- A. ***Tuesday Late Night*** – A Tuesday late night for any reason other than A or B will result in the athlete / student not being allowed to participate on the day of the next prior scheduled contest / activity / meeting / practice.

- B. **Multiple Offenses** – will result in the athlete / student not being allowed to participate in prior scheduled contests, games or events for a one week period. Any following offenses will result in dismissal from the team / activity.
- C. **Suspensions / In-School Suspensions** – Any suspension of more than one day will result in the athlete / student not being allowed to participate in contests / events / activities / meetings / practices for a two-week period. A second suspension of more than one day will result in team dismissal / dismissal from co-curricular activities.

It is required that all athletes / students be in attendance with their team / club at all contests from which they have been suspended. Athletes will be allowed to practice during any time they are not being allowed to participate in contests.

- D. **Substance Abuse Violation** – A first offense violation of the substance abuse policy will result in the athlete / student being suspended for three athletic events/three meetings, practices, events or competitions, or for three weeks, whichever is greater. On a second offense, the athlete/student will be suspended for the remainder of the season/quarter. A violation at the end of a co-curricular activity will result in the student being removed from eligibility for the next quarter. If selling or furnishing, the athlete / student will be suspended from athletics/co-curricular activity for the remainder of the school year.

Cross Reference: Drug & Alcohol Use by Students (File: JFCI and JFCI-R)  
Student Code of Conduct (JICDA)

First Reading: 11/19/97  
Second Reading: 12/17/97

Revised: May 29, 2002 (to be implemented 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2002 – 2003 school year)

Revised: First Reading October 18, 2006

Second Reading November 15, 2006

**REVISED: First Reading June 18, 2008**

**Second Reading August 20, 2008 (to be implemented at beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2008 – 2009 school year)**

**EXHIBIT A**

**High School Clubs / Activities**

All Sports  
Chamber Singers  
Musicals / Plays  
One Act Plays

**Middle School Clubs / Activities**

All Sports