

PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS PROGRAM
AND
RULES & REGULATIONS
FOR THE
STUDENT-ATHLETE

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JURISDICTION:

The “Rules and Regulations” for the Student-Athlete have been approved by the Pennsbury administration and the Board of School Directors and shall apply to any violations, on and off school premises, during the sport season of participation.

PHILOSOPHY:

The primary purpose of the athletic program in the Pennsbury School District is to promote the physical, social, emotional and moral well-being of participants. It is hoped that athletics in our school will be a positive force in preparing youth for an enriching and vital role in American life.

The athletic program is an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to participation; the athlete gives time, energy and loyalty to the program. They also accept the training rules, regulations and responsibilities which are unique to an athletic program. In order to contribute to the welfare of the group, the athlete must willingly assume these obligations because the role demands that the individual make sacrifices not required of others.

PIAA:

All secondary schools in the Pennsbury School District are members of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and subscribe to the philosophy and intent of its bylaws that pertain to age, awards, attendance, health, transfers and residence, participation, representation, curriculum and seasonal rules, which will be followed. Each coach is responsible to know the rules, inform team members and parents, and to enforce them.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

Student-Athletes in the Pennsbury School District must keep in mind they are *always in the public eye* and that their personal conduct will always be subject to the scrutiny of their fellow students, fans, opponents and media. They, therefore, have an obligation to serve as positive role models by subscribing to the following:

1. Showing respect for authority and property
2. Maintaining academic eligibility and training rules
3. Emphasizing the ideals of sportsmanship, loyalty, ethical conduct and fair play
4. Understanding that striving to win is important to success in athletics just as in every facet of life

Any display of unsportsmanlike behavior toward an opponent, official or spectator during the season will result in counseling by the coach and possible suspension from the team.

PRACTICES AND CONTESTS:

Each member of any team is required to make a commitment to that sport during the season. Part of that commitment involves being at every scheduled practice and contest throughout the season. Unexcused absences from scheduled practices/contests will result in:

1. Counseling by the head coach and notification of parents, if necessary; and
2. Suspension from the team and possible dismissal for the remainder of the season if subsequent violations occur.

TRAVEL:

Athletes must travel to and from contests, away from Pennsbury, in transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions are:

1. Injury to participant which would require alternate transportation
2. Prior arrangement made in writing between the participant's parent/guardian and the coach for the student to ride with the parent/guardian
3. When school transportation is not provided and alternative means are approved

EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS:

Equipment and uniforms are issued to students on a loan basis and are to be worn only when authorized by the coach. If any of the equipment is not returned at the conclusion of the season, an obligation will be issued to the student for the fair cost of replacing it. Until the obligation is resolved, the student will not be eligible for athletic awards and will not be permitted to participate in any future athletic season.

COMPLETION OF SPORTS SEASON:

In order for the student-athlete to be eligible for a letter, team and/or individual awards, it is required that they complete the sports season, including post-season playoffs, tournaments and exhibitions. The only exception will be illness and/or injury which limit participation. No awards will be given to any student-athlete suspended and/or dismissed for the remainder of the season for "Student Conduct Policy" violations; or who has an outstanding obligation with the Athletic Office.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS:

PIAA Board of Control policy prohibits the use of tobacco products by participating and non-participating team personnel, including coaches, during any level of interscholastic athletic competition.

COACHING RULES:

Any additional rules and regulations developed by the head coach of any sport must be approved by the Principal and Athletic Director prior to the season. These additional rules and regulations must be in writing and on file in the Athletic Office.

GENERAL REGULATIONS:

1. Student-Athletes should leave all valuables at home or with coaches, not in the locker room.
2. Student-Athletes should be neatly groomed and properly dressed when traveling to any contest.
3. No athlete may quit one sport and try out for another after the season has begun without the mutual consent of both coaches.
4. Any civil law infraction or conduct by a student-athlete that occurs during a sport season that is determined by the administration and head coach to be detrimental to the athletic program, or the school district, will result in counseling by the school administration and head coach and possible suspension/dismissal from the team.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REPORTING PROCEDURES:

1. The Athletic Office will distribute to the building Principal a list of all students involved in the interscholastic athletic program for each season.
2. Teachers will submit to the Athletic Director the names of students who are doing failing work each Friday of the week. Eligibility shall be cumulative from the beginning of the grading period, and shall be reported on a weekly basis.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY:

PAGES #22 – 26 OF THE 2016-2017 STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY PERTAINING TO EXTRACURRICULAR/ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES ARE ATTACHED FOR YOUR REVIEW AND WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.

Violations of the Pennsbury School District “Student Conduct Policy” which require administrative action will be handled in accordance with the provisions of the specific sections as outlined in the manual.

1. For example, if a violation involves a suspension, then said athlete will be suspended from practices/contests of that team for those days
2. It should be clearly understood that the same standard of behavior and discipline for the regular student shall also apply to the student-athlete and any violations of the “Student Conduct Policy” may result in forfeiture of the privilege to participate on a Pennsbury athletic team.

Attachments: Pennsbury High School Sports Program
Interscholastic Sports Program
Copy of 2016 -2017 Student Conduct Policy Pages #22-26

PENNSBURY HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAMS:

JV/Varsity Sports:

Fall Sports: Regular season begins the third Monday in August through November

Cheer

Cross Country - Boys

Cross Country - Girls

Field Hockey

Football

Golf

Soccer - Boys

Soccer - Girls

Tennis – Girls

Volleyball – Girls

Winter Sports: Regular season begins the third Monday in November through March

Basketball – Boys

Basketball – Girls

Bowling – Boys

Bowling – Girls

Cheer

Swimming – Boys

Swimming – Girls

Winter Track – Boys

Winter Track – Girls

Wrestling

Spring Sports: Regular Season begins the first Monday in March through June

Baseball

Lacrosse – Boys

Lacrosse - Girls

Softball

Tennis – Boys

Track & Field – Boys

Track & Field – Girls

Volleyball – Boys

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS PROGRAMS:

Freshman:

Fall Sports: Regular season begins the second Monday in September through November
Field Hockey
Football

Winter Sports: Regular season begins the first Monday in December through February
Basketball – Boys
Basketball – Girls

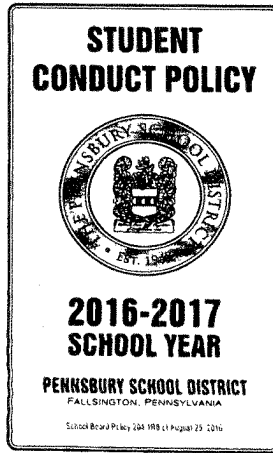
Spring Sports: Regular season begins the third Monday in March through May
Baseball
Softball

Middle Schools (Charles Boehm, Pennwood, Wm Penn):

Fall Sports: Regular season begins the second Monday in September through October
Field Hockey
Football – Lightweight
Football – Heavyweight
Soccer – Coed
Volleyball - Girls

Winter Sports: Regular season begins the first Monday in December through February
Basketball – Boys
Basketball – Girls
Wrestling

Spring Sports: Regular season begins the third Monday in March through May
Baseball
Softball
Track - Coed



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Eligibility for athletic and extracurricular activities is based on the premise that academic performance is the keystone of the curriculum and the standard against which participation is measured.

I. SCHOOL CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

1. The principal and the School Board will determine which student clubs and organizations will be recognized as school-sponsored.
2. One or more teachers acting as sponsors must be present at all meetings of school-sponsored organizations.

II. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

1. To be eligible for extracurricular activities, a student must pursue a minimum four-year roster as outlined in the Pennsbury School District Program of Studies.
2. Eligibility shall be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period and shall be reported on a weekly basis.
3. In order to participate in an extracurricular program, a student may not fail more than one subject.
4. In the event that a student is failing more than one subject, he/she is ineligible to participate in contests for a period of one week. At the discretion of administration, ineligible students may practice with their team. The weekly ineligibility begins and ends on Monday of each week.
5. If a student fails more than one subject for a marking period he/she is ineligible to participate for the first fifteen days of the next marking period beginning on the first day report cards are issued.
6. A student failing more than one subject at the end of the school year will be ineligible to participate for the first fifteen days of the next fall semester unless one of the failing grades is made up in summer school.

III. OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Any suspended or expelled student shall be disqualified from extracurricular activities for at least the duration of the suspension or expulsion.

2. Students suspended or expelled for a second violation of the District's policy regarding possession or use of drugs or alcohol policy shall be disqualified from participating in extracurricular activities for the duration of the suspension or expulsion or the remainder of the season or activity, whichever is longer.
3. The use of anabolic steroids, except for a valid medical purpose, by any pupil involved in school-related athletics is strictly prohibited. Body building, muscle enhancement, increasing muscle bulk or strength or the enhancement of athletic ability is not a valid medical purpose. Students violating this provision are subject to the following:
 - a. For a first violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season.
 - b. For a second violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season and for the following season.
 - c. For a third violation, permanent suspension from school athletics.
 - d. No student shall be eligible to resume participation in school athletics unless there has been a medical determination that no residual evidence of steroids exists. Participation in drug counseling, rehabilitation, testing or other program may be imposed as a condition of reinstatement into a school athletic program.
4. Students suspended or expelled for selling or distributing drugs or alcohol will be disqualified from participation in extracurricular activities for the greater of the period of the suspension/expulsion or the remainder of the school year.
5. Students not in attendance at school by 10:15 a.m. may not participate in a meeting, contest, performance or practice that day, unless the student has an approved medical appointment and presents a signed statement from the doctor to the building administrator or a note from the parent/guardian for illness.
6. You must be enrolled in and in full-time attendance at a PIAA member school, or be home-schooled.
7. Generally, you are eligible only at the school at which you are enrolled or, if a home-schooled student, at a public school in the public school district in which you reside. Charter school students should consult with your Principal to determine the school at which you are eligible.
8. If you are absent from school during a semester for a total of twenty or more school days, you will lose your eligibility until you have been in attendance for a total of forty five school days following your twentieth day of absence.
9. Students absent on the last school day of the week must have administrative and parent permission to participate in any competition or performance that is on a non-school day. The coach/sponsor should contact the parent/guardian regarding the absence.
10. For any activity that requires a physical, students shall not be eligible to participate until they have provided the required medical documentation.
11. Students who are injured and receive medical treatment shall not be eligible to participate until medical clearance is granted.

IV. PARTICIPATION BY NON-PENNSBURY STUDENTS

Unless otherwise required by law, students are only eligible to participate in extracurricular activities if they are currently enrolled in the Pennsbury School District. However, under certain limited circumstances, the School District may grant a waiver of this eligibility requirement. The process for requesting such a waiver and the procedures under which the waiver may be granted are as follows.

A written request must be sent to the building principal where the activity is conducted, or through which it is organized, as well as to the School District staff member who is primarily responsible for coaching, supervising and/or monitoring the activity.

Upon receipt of such a written request, the building principal and the staff member involved, in consultation with the Central Office Administration, may agree to waive the eligibility requirement that only students who are currently enrolled at the School District may participate in extracurricular activities if all of the following facts and conditions exist and/or are met:

1. The non-student resides within the School District.
2. The non-student is a former Pennsbury student who participated in the activity while enrolled at Pennsbury.
3. The non-student's participation in the activity will not result in any increase in cost to the School District.
4. The activity at issue has an opening which has gone unfilled despite efforts to recruit Pennsbury students. The non-student's participation will not deprive any School District student of the ability to participate in or advance within the activity.
5. The non-student's participation in the activity will, in the opinion of the School District, enhance the activity for the students who are involved.
6. The non-student must be of the appropriate age for the activity at issue.
7. The non-student's participation must be approved by any third party organization which sponsors, regulates or sanctions the activity at issue.
8. The activity is not offered at the non-student's school.
9. The non-student's participation is contingent on the non-student's agreement to comply with the Student Conduct Policy.
10. The non-student and the non-student's parents must sign a waiver of liability in favor of the School District in a form acceptable to the Solicitor.
11. Each non-student is eligible for only a single waiver to participate in one extracurricular activity per school year.

If a waiver is granted, the non-student's continued participation in the extracurricular activity is subject to the same requirements and restrictions as other students. The waiver which can be granted under this amendment is a privilege and not a right. As such, the waiver can be revoked at any time with or without reason by the Chief Executive Officer or Superintendent.

V. SUBSTANCE ABUSE

In order to participate in an extracurricular activity or sport, students must observe the following rules in compliance with PIAA regulations. The use and/or possession of alcohol and other drugs while in school, on a school bus, on school property, or at offsite school sponsored activities is in violation of School District policy and a violation of the law.

A. POSSESSION OR USE

1. FIRST VIOLATION

- a. If a student is found improperly or unlawfully possessing, using or under the influence of drugs or narcotics classified as controlled substances or alcohol, while in school, on school property, or on the school bus, or surrounding area, he/she will be suspended for up to ten school days, and he/she will forfeit the privilege of participating in athletic and extracurricular activities for the same period of time;
- b. By the third day of the suspension an informal hearing will be held to determine in part if

a Due Process Hearing (See Disciplinary Measures IV. Expulsion) may be requested for the purpose of possible expulsion from school;

- c. The police will be notified;
- d. Student will be referred to Student Assistance Team. If Student Assistance Team recommendations are not followed, a Due Process Hearing (See Disciplinary Measures IV. Expulsion) may be requested at any time.

2. SECOND VIOLATION

- a. If a second offense occurs, the student will be suspended for ten school days and dismissed from the team/activity, and he/she will forfeit the privilege of participating for the remainder of the season/activity;
- b. The Principal will request a Due Process Hearing (See Disciplinary Measures IV. Expulsion) before the Board of School Directors for the purpose of possible expulsion from school;
- c. The police will be notified.

B. SELLING OR DISTRIBUTION

- 1. If a student sells, transfers, procures or solicits drugs or alcohol, or possesses drugs or alcohol with intent to sell, transfer or provide while in school, on a school bus, on school property, or at other school related functions or otherwise on the way to or from school or school sponsored activities, he/she will be suspended immediately for ten school days.
- 2. The principal will place the student in an alternative program or request a Due Process Hearing (see Disciplinary Measures Section IV. Expulsion) before the School Board for the purpose of expulsion from school.
- 3. Such items will be confiscated and the police will be notified.
- 4. The student will forfeit all rights and privileges for further participation in athletic and co-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year.

VI. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- 1. A student must be in school by 10:15 a.m. in order to participate in a meeting, contest, performance, or practice that day. An exception will be made if the student has an approved medical appointment; in which case the student must present to the building administrator a signed statement from the doctor regarding the absence. A note from the parent/guardian for illness will also be acceptable.
- 2. If a student is absent the last school day of the week, and the competition and/or performance is on a non-school day, the student must have administrative and parent permission to participate. It is recommended that the coach/sponsor call the parent/guardian regarding the absence. A student who has been injured and has had medical treatment cannot participate again until medical clearance has been granted.

VII. ABSENCE AND ELIGIBILITY

A student who has been absent from school during a semester for a total of twenty or more school days, shall not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities until he/she has been in attendance for a total of forty five school days following the twentieth day of absence, except where there is a consecutive absence of five or more school days, due to but not limited to, a confining illness or injury, death in the immediate family, court subpoena, or quarantine.

VIII. HAZING

Hazing is prohibited in connection with any student activity or organization regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off of school property or outside of school hours.

Hazing is any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a person or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization.

This includes, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property.

Any activity as described in this definition upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be "forced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding. See the Public School Code, 24 P.S. §5352.

No student, parent/guardian, coach, sponsor, or volunteer, or district employee shall engage in, condone, or ignore any form of hazing.

Any student who has been subjected to hazing is encouraged to promptly report such incidents to his/her building principal.

District Administrators shall investigate promptly all complaints of hazing and administer appropriate discipline to any student found to be in violation of this policy.

A finding by the investigator that a student has engaged in hazing shall subject the student to disciplinary action which may include, but not be limited to, counseling within the school, parental conference, loss of school privileges, transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus, exclusion from school-sponsored activities, detention, suspension, imposition of fines, the withholding of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with the rules or pending payment of fines, and/or expulsion from school.

1. A finding by an investigator that an organization, operating under the sanction of or recognized by the District, has authorized hazing in blatant disregard of these rules may be subject to the rescission of permission for the organization to operate on campus or other school property or to operate under the sanction or recognition of the District. 24 P.S. §5354(b)(3).
2. All penalties imposed as part of this section shall be in addition to any penalty imposed under 24 P.S. §5353 making hazing a misdemeanor of the third degree or any other criminal law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. 24 P.S. §5354(b)(4).