

INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

DEFINITION

According to Spring Grove School Board Policies #122 and #123, interscholastic activities are those activities, which are sponsored or approved by the Board, but are not offered for credit toward graduation. In order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities, a student must pursue a curriculum defined and approved by the Principal as a full-time curriculum. Where required, this curriculum or its equivalent must be approved by, and conform to, the regulations of the State Board of Education and the Pennsylvania School Code, as well as any local policies established by the Board of School Directors of the Spring Grove Area School District. The student must maintain an acceptable grade in such approved curriculum, as certified by the principal, conform to the appropriate rules of conduct, attend school regularly, and return all school equipment.

The Spring Grove Area School District endorses the “Character Counts!” program, “Pursuing Victory with Honor.” Any participation by a student at a interscholastic activity must conform to the guidelines set forth by the Pursuing Victory with Honor Code of Conduct.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for interscholastic participation requires a student to maintain at least a 65% average or higher in four (4) full credit subjects or the equivalent.

Eligibility will be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period and will be reported on a weekly basis. In cases where a student's work does not meet the standards provided for in this statement as of any Friday during a grading period, the student will be ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities. The student will be ineligible from the immediate following Sunday through the Saturday immediately following the next Friday. During this time, said student may practice.

In cases where a student's work does not meet the standards provided for in this statement after two consecutive Fridays during a grading period, said student will be ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities and may not practice for the next 15 school days beginning with the first school day immediately following the second consecutive Friday during the grading period where the eligibility standards provided were not met. Following this 15 school day period eligibility may be restored if the standards provided for in this statement are met.

In cases where a student's work in any preceding grading period does not meet the standards provided for in this statement, the student will be ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities and may not practice for 15 school days beginning on the first day report cards are issued. After the 15th school day, eligibility will be reinstated when the standards set forth have been met. Note that eligibility for the next school year is based on final average (not 4th quarter). If the standards are not met, the student is ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities and may not practice through the 15th school day of the next school year. Students whose work does not meet the standards provided who attend summer school and correct their deficiencies, will be eligible.

ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

A student must be in attendance at school by 9:00 am on a regular school day or when the start of the school day is delayed by one hour in order to practice or participate in an interscholastic event that evening. If the start of the school day is delayed by more than one hour, the student must report on time in order to practice or participate in an interscholastic event that evening. Arriving after the allowable time on a Friday will exclude the student from participation in any weekend events along with that Friday. Prior administrative approval or a doctor's excuse will be the only exceptions to the preceding statements.

If a student's absences total 20 or more days in a semester, a student would lose their eligibility until they have attended 45 days of school. This period of ineligibility starts the first school day after the 20th day.

A student will not be permitted to participate in an interscholastic activity during a season or marking period after he/she receives two (2) unexcused or unlawful absences. A student will be excluded from participation in the next scheduled activity, practice, performance, or competition after three (3) times tardy to school. In those situations where a student participates in more than one activity, he/she will be excluded from participation in the first occurring activity, practice, performance or competition. If a student should be tardy to school a fourth time, he/she will be ineligible for participation for the remainder of the season or marking period, whichever comes first, and will be immediately removed from participation in all interscholastic activities for the season or marking period, whichever comes first. The building administration will have the final say in the removal of a student from participation in extracurricular activities.

A student may not participate in any interscholastic activity on a day or evening in which he/she has been absent from school.

DEMEANOR OF AUDIENCE

Spring Grove Area School District supports the York / Adams Interscholastic Athletic Association's Sportsmanship Announcement "being implemented" at all district interscholastic activities. Good behavior is expected of coaches, players, participants, and audience members.

The interscholastic activity is for the benefit of students. No signs, banners or noise-makers are permitted. All members of the audience are asked to remain seated during the game / presentation. Any observer, by their actions or behaviors, interfering with the program, will be removed from the event.

HAZING AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE (Drugs, Alcohol, Chemical Substances)

Spring Grove Area School Board Policies #227, Controlled Substance / Drug Awareness and #247, Hazing have been enacted to address disciplinary procedures for students using chemical aids and engaging in activities that recklessly or intentionally endanger the mental health, physical health, or safety of a student or cause willful destruction or removal of public or private property for the purpose of initiation or membership in or affiliation with any organization recognized by the Board. Additionally, in a further attempt to protect the health and wellbeing of our students and the integrity of interscholastic activities, the following "Interscholastic Guidelines" pertain to the school activities included, but are not limited to all athletic teams, musical groups/programs, national honor society, theatre, art, clubs, and elected positions.

Period of Accountability

The regulations set forth in these guidelines are in effect from the first legal practice date or band camp date for fall activities (or the first day of school for all other participants), until the last day of school or the end of an activity, whichever comes last, and at all activities under the jurisdiction of the School District. Any period of suspension that has not been completed prior to the end of an activity will carry into the next activity that the student wishes to participate. Students may participate in tryouts during a period of suspension.

Confirmed Violation

A student will be deemed in violation of these guidelines when an incident has been confirmed through a comprehensive investigation and an informal hearing using information provided by an advisor, member of the coaching staff, teaching staff, administration, or by law enforcement records.

SUBTLE or HARASSMENT HAZING

First Offense

Any student found to be engaging in a behavior categorized as subtle or harassment hazing will be suspended from an interscholastic activity from the date of the confirmed violation if involved in an interscholastic activity for a period of 30 calendar days. The student will be eligible to return to practice after 15 calendar days and full participation after 30 calendar days. If not involved in an interscholastic activity, the effective date of the suspension will be with the start of the next interscholastic activity in which the student participates. **No suspension will be imposed if a student does not participate in an interscholastic activity within one calendar year of the confirmed violation.** A student who returns to full participation following a suspension will be placed on probation from the date of return to the activity, through the end of the next interscholastic activity in which the student participates.

Second Offense

A student found to be engaging in a behavior categorized as subtle or harassment hazing a second time will be dismissed from an interscholastic activity from the date of the confirmed violation if involved in an interscholastic activity. If not involved in an interscholastic activity, the student will be ineligible to participate for the duration of the next interscholastic activity, which the student wishes to participate. **No suspension will be imposed if a student does not participate in an interscholastic activity within one calendar year of the confirmed violation.** A student who returns to full participation following a suspension will be placed on probation from the date of return to the activity through the end of the next interscholastic activity in which the student participates.

VIOLENT HAZING

Any student found to be engaging in a behavior that has the potential to cause physical and/or emotional, or psychological harm and is thus categorized as violent hazing, will be dismissed from an interscholastic activity from the date of the confirmed violation if involved in an interscholastic activity. If not involved in an interscholastic activity, the student will be ineligible to participate for the duration of the next interscholastic activity which the student wishes to participate. **No suspension will be imposed if a student does not participate in an interscholastic activity within one calendar year of the confirmed violation.** A student who returns to full participation following a suspension will be placed on probation from the date of return to the activity through the end of the next interscholastic activity in which the student participates.

IN SCHOOL / OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Any student assigned to in-school or out-of-school suspension is not eligible to participate in interscholastic activities until the first calendar day immediately following the period of suspension.

NARCOTIC, DANGEROUS DRUG OR ALCOHOL VIOLATION

A narcotic, dangerous drug or alcohol violation occurs if any student is found to be using, possessing or distributing any narcotic or dangerous drug as defined in "The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act" (Act 64, April 14, 1972), and not prescribed by a physician: or being under the influence of narcotics or dangerous drugs as defined in the "Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act (Act 64, April 14, 1972), and not prescribed by a physician: or possessing or using alcoholic beverages and/or being under the influence of such beverages: or the possession or use, sale or transfer of "look alike" substances as defined in Act 23 of 1982, or non-prescription drugs, whether or not on school property and whether or not during a school related activity of any kind.

First Offense

1. Suspension of eligibility to participate in Spring Grove Interscholastic activities for a period of 60 calendar days from the date of the confirmed violation if involved in an interscholastic activity. If not involved in an interscholastic activity, the effective date of the 60-calendar day suspension will be with the start of the next interscholastic activity which the student participates in. **No suspension will be imposed if a student does not participate in an interscholastic activity within one calendar year of the confirmed violation.** After 15 calendar days, the student may return to practice if an agreement has been reached between the student, parent, coach/advisor and administration as to a remediation plan focusing on the violation. The student would be eligible to return to full participation after the next 15 calendar days if the student has successfully adhered to the plan. A student who fails to meet these standards will be not eligible for participation until the completion of the 60 calendar days. A student who returns to full participation following a suspension will be placed on probation from the date of return to the activity through the end of the next interscholastic activity in which the student participates. Violation of these guidelines while on probation will constitute a second offense.
2. Referral to Students Assistance Program/Treatment Team with mandatory participation as determined by remediation plan.

Second Offense

Suspension of interscholastic participation for one calendar year from the date the incident was confirmed.

TOBACCO VIOLATION

A tobacco violation occurs if a student is found to be using or possessing tobacco products whether or not on school property and whether or not during any school related activity. Tobacco will be defined as lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, pipe and/or pipe tobacco; other lighted smoking product; and smokeless tobacco.

First Offense

1. Suspension of eligibility to participate in Spring Grove interscholastic activities for a period of 30 calendar days from the date of the confirmed violation if involved in an interscholastic activity. If not involved in an interscholastic activity, the effective date of the 30-calendar day suspension will be with the start of the next interscholastic activity in which the student participates. **No suspension will be imposed if a student does not participate in an interscholastic activity within one calendar year of the confirmed violation.** After a ten-day period, a student may return to practice if an agreement has been reached between the student, parent, coach/advisor and administration. The student may return to full participation after the next 10 days if the student has successfully adhered to the remediation plan focusing on the violation. If a student fails to meet these standards, he/she will not be eligible for participation until the completion of the 30 days.
A student who returns to full participation will be on probation from the date of return to the activity through the end of the next interscholastic activity in which the student participates. Violation of these guidelines will constitute second and third offenses.

Second Offense

1. Suspension from interscholastic participation for 90 calendar days from the date the incident was confirmed.

Third Offense

1. Suspension from interscholastic activities for one calendar year from the date the incident was confirmed.

We believe that parents and educators must work cooperatively to instruct young people about chemical use. It is necessary for us to discipline those who choose to use prohibitive substances and to emphasize training and practice rather than the use of chemicals to improve performance. Doing one's best through dedication and training is the real measure of success. The use of chemical aids cannot enhance the joy of success; neither can their use diminish the pain of failure.