

# CO-CURRICULAR/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATION

## POLICY

RSU 29 encourages all students to participate in the numerous co-curricular/extracurricular activities that Houlton Middle/Senior High School offers. Any student who wishes to represent Houlton High School in a co-curricular or extracurricular activity should realize this is a privilege and not a right. Students should respect this privilege by adhering to the rules as set down by the appropriate departments and the School Board. Students should conduct themselves in such a manner as to bring positive credit to the school and themselves. Co-curricular and extracurricular activities are those school/class sponsored advisor/coach led clubs or organizations conducted primarily outside the regular school day and recognized by the RSU 29 Board of Directors.

This policy should be in effect starting the first day of any practice, tryout, audition, or selection of that academic year, and remains in effect at all times, both in and out of school, for the duration of the school year for all students involved. This policy will stop its governance on the last day of schools for the current year or last event, whichever ends last. If a student's violation of this policy happens at a time when the suspension cannot be completed by the end of the school year, the suspension will run into the following year, beginning with the first practice, tryout, audition, and/or selection.

- The following are Houlton High School's core values of civic/social expectations; Honesty, Trustworthiness, Kindness, Respect, and Responsibility. These values are expected to be upheld by anyone attending Houlton High School.
- Students participating in extracurricular activities are encouraged to refrain from putting themselves in any situation where their integrity may be questioned. If a student is present at a situation where illegal activity takes place, it doesn't show responsibility, which violates the civil/social expectations of Houlton High School.
- The EXTRACURRICULAR civic/social expectation indicates that students and parents will commit to the expectations indicated. The School Committee recognizes that the expectations are only effective when parents, students, coaches, and advisors are working collaboratively to reinforce the core values indicated above. The specificity of the extracurricular civic/social expectations outlined below is to insure that parents, students, coaches, and extracurricular advisors understand the expectations, and consequences of not meeting those expectations.
- The following policies apply from the time a student begins participation in extracurricular activities at Houlton High School until he/she graduates. Violations of the substance abuse or tobacco policies will be cumulative and ongoing.
- These policies will apply whether or not the participant is presently in a co-curricular activity or the sport is "in season". The policy will be reinforced at the start of each new activity to remind students of Houlton High School's Core Values.
- Students participating in extracurricular activities will refrain from using or having possession of alcohol or any other illicit drug.

### A. Academics

We are an academic school, striving to have all students perform successfully. Students may fail no more than one subject to be eligible to participate in co-curricular/extracurricular activities. Students may be reinstated when mid-term grades are issues, providing they are passing all subjects, and is only effective when agreed upon by the principal and coach or advisor of an extracurricular program. An incomplete grade acts as a failure and the student is ineligible until the work is made up and the grade is officially turned in.

- It should be noted that for the purposes of this policy, the following definitions will be used:
  - Date ineligibility begins - ineligibility begins the day report cards are distributed to students, or posted on the computer.
  - Date of reinstatement of eligibility - eligibility will be reinstated on the date published for the distribution of mid-term reports or the day report cards are distributed to students.
- If a student is ineligible during tryouts/auditions/selections for an activity, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the activity.

## B. Substance Abuse

There will be absolutely NO use, possession, and/or illegal transportation of any illegal/controlled substances, (tobacco, alcohol, illegal and/or prescription drugs) by any Houlton High School student in grades 7-12 participating in any co-curricular activities regulated by this policy. For the sake of this policy, use also pertains to being under the influence. If the student does not start any co-curricular or extracurricular activities until a later date, the policy still pertains to the student during the time from the start of fall practices until a later date, the policy still pertains to the student during the time from the start of fall practices until the state of his or her activity. Any student who is witnessed violating this rule, either on or off campus, by an administrator, teacher, staff member, coach, activity advisor, or adult community member is subject to disciplinary action. The witness shall submit a formal, written incident report to Houlton High School administration. Every reasonable effort will be made to involve parents/guardians of students involved in such cases.

1. The first violation of this rule will result in a 30 day school suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities. If the first violation is a parent or student self-referral, (seeking help for an existing problem), it will result in a 15 school day suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities. This may mean that suspensions carry over from activity to activity. The student may participate in practices, at the coach's discretion.
  - We encourage student cooperation and honesty, therefore, if during the investigation the Houlton Jr/Sr High School administration find the student to be honest and cooperative the suspension may be reduced to 15 school days. The student must also complete a mandatory counseling session with the school's substance abuse counselor and an assessment of the student's chemical use/abuse by the school's substance abuse counselor is required before participation may be resumed. Recommendations must be followed and monitored by substance abuse counselor and administrators.
2. The second violation of this rule will result in a suspension from participating in all extracurricular activities for 45 school days from the time of reported violation and a meeting with the principal has taken place. This may mean that suspensions carry over from activity to activity. Such 45 school day suspensions will be carried over to the next school year if necessary. The number of days between the end of school and the beginning of the next activity are not counted as part of the suspension. If the suspension carried into the next season the student will not be eligible for tryouts or selection into the next activity. The student must also complete mandatory counseling sessions (6) with the school's substance abuse counselor (or a substance abuse counselor from an outside agency) and an assessment by the school's substance counselor before participation may be resumed. The school counselor and the substance abuse counselor will have the student choose a community service project from a selective list to be carried out by the student before he or she is eligible to return.
3. The third violation of this rule will result in suspension from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's enrollment in Houlton schools.

### C. Tobacco

Students participating in extracurricular activities will refrain from using or having possession of tobacco, and tobacco product, in any form in school, on school grounds, during practice, events, or at any other time while a student is in Houlton schools.

1. The first violation of this rule will result in suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities for 15 school days. If the first violation is a parent or student self-referral, it will result in a two week suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities and, in the case of athletics, at least one countable game. In addition, if the violation of this rule occurs during school hours on school grounds, the participant will be subject to the rules outlined in the student Handbook/Folder. The student may participate in practices.
2. The second violation of this rule will result in suspension from any athletic team for the remainder of the season, 30-day suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities and meeting with the substance abuse counselor, an investigation of the American Cancer Society cessation program.
3. The third violation will result in suspension from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's enrollment in Houlton schools.
4. After being suspended for any of the above violations and if the violation was self-reported (as opposed to being found in violation of a coach /administrator investigation) one violation will be eliminated for each year he /she able to demonstrate compliance with the spirit and intent of the extracurricular code. To exercise this option the student and parent will write a narrative explanation of the steps taken to comply with the extracurricular civil /social expectations and will include a statement from school substance abuse counselor or other recognized health professional as to the student's commitment to the spirit and intent of the extracurricular civil /social expectations. The application will be considered by a committee of the Athletic Director, School Principal, and Assistant Principal.

### D. Hazing

Students participating in extracurricular activities are expected to refrain from hazing. Hazing is defined as harassing or abusive or humiliating acts. No student shall engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or other person.

1. A student violating this policy will be suspended from any athletic team for the remainder of the season, indefinite suspension from participation in all extracurricular activities, in face further disciplinary action as outlined in other policies and procedures.

### E. Violation of Civil/Social Expectations

1. No student shall be involved in any activity that might embarrass or discredit the community, school, team, activities, coach, or him /her. For violation of this rule, the coach, advisor, and school administration will determine the appropriate disposition on a case by case basis. Examples might include but are not limited to violation of the Civil Code of the state of Maine or federal government, vandalism, theft, assault, etc.
2. Any student who violates these expectations will not be eligible to be named as captain of any team if the violation occurred within the last twelve months. In addition, any current captain who violates the civil/social code will be removed as captain. If it is the student's first violation and is a parent or student self-referral, the student will not be eligible to be named as captain of any team if the violation occurred within the last eight months.

