

Series 6000 – Instruction

1. Elementary and Secondary

D. Curriculum

(5) Student Activities

(b) Intramural Programs/Interscholastic Athletics

Eligibility requirements for participating in athletic programs will be set by the school administration and will conform with regulations of the C.I.A.C. They will include the requirement that a student will have been determined as physically fit for the sport by the school physician or his/her physician. The Principal may revoke a student's eligibility at any time.

Insurance coverage for student athletics is the responsibility of the student's parents or guardian.

It is recognized that a well-organized and well-conducted athletic program is a positive factor in the morale of a student body and an important phase of good community-school relations.

Conditions

1. Participation in interscholastic athletics is limited to students in grades 9-12 with participation of properly supervised teams from grades 6, 7, and 8 also permitted to participate in a limited program within their own grade levels with other schools.
2. The athletic program is an integral part of the high school and middle school curriculum and comes under the authority of the Principal to the same degree as do all other phases of the curriculum.
3. In the conduct of interscholastic athletic programs, the rules, regulations, and limitations outlined by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference will be followed. The school district will also adhere to the constitution of the North Central Connecticut Conference. Athletes must adhere to the conduct code and regulations established by the Athletic Coordinator for each sport.
4. Those teachers having responsibility for the athletic program of the school are required to conform in all ways to the general education program as prescribed by the Board and administration including such matters as schedules, financial expenditures, relationships with other schools, and health and safety regulations.
5. Expenditures for the athletic program are incorporated as part of the budget of the Board. Coaches of each sport will submit their budgetary needs to the Athletic Coordinator for the next school year, and the latter will present the total athletic budget request to the Principal for approval and inclusion in the budget. No expenditure from the Board of Education budget for athletic purposes will be made in excess of those listed in the budget without approval of the Superintendent.
6. District participation in interscholastic athletics will be subject to approval by the Board. This will include approval of membership in any leagues, associations, or conferences, of rules for student participation, and of annual sports schedules.

7. Athletics, when utilized properly, serves as a positive means for the development of the participants' growth in physical fitness, skills, mental alertness, moral qualities, social abilities, and emotional maturity.

The primary purpose of the athletic programs at Suffield Middle School and High School are to promote the physical, mental, social, emotional, and ethical well-being of the participants. It is hoped that athletics in our schools will be a positive force in preparing youth for an enriching and vital role in life.

In addition to the rules and regulations for students at Suffield High School printed in the student handbook, athletic program participants are also governed by the High School Athletic Code and the C.I.A.C.

High School Athletic Code

I. General Regulations

- A. Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference rules must be followed in all cases of eligibility, transfer, physical examinations, insurance coverage, starting dates, use of school equipment, etc. Each coach has the responsibility to know, to inform team members and parents, and to enforce school and C.I.A.C. regulations in these matters.
- B. Any civil law infraction or conduct by a student athlete that is determined by the head coach and school administration to be detrimental to the athletic program, school or school district will result in counseling by the head coach and a school administrator with possible suspension.
- C. No athlete may quit one sport and play another after the season has begun without the mutual consent of both coaches.
- D. Athletes must travel to and from contests away from Suffield in transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions are:
 1. Injury to a participant which would require alternate transportation.
 2. Prior arrangement between the participant's parent/guardian and the coach for the student to ride with the parent/guardian or their designee.
- E. A display of unsportsmanship-like conduct toward an opponent or official or use of profanity during a practice or contest will result in disciplinary action, counseling and possible suspension by the head coach.
- F. Unexcused absence from scheduled practice will result in:
 1. Suspension for one content following the first violation.
 2. Suspension for remainder of the season following the second.
- G. Theft or malicious destruction of any school or individual's equipment or property is not to be tolerated and will be dealt with in the following manner:
 1. First offense: The individual will be suspended from the squad for five (5) school days. Student may begin practice after three (3) days. At the end of this period, following counseling by the head coach and a school administrator, a decision regarding further competition will be made.

2. Second offense: Suspension for the remainder of the sports season and a referral of the student to the school administration.
 3. More serious infractions will be referred to the school administration for disciplinary action and possible prosecution.
- H. Completion of the sports season is required in order for the student to be eligible for a letter or other team or individual awards. (Exception: injury which limits participation.) No awards shall be given to any student suspended for the remainder of the season for Athletic Code violation.
- II. School Attendance Requirements
- A. A student must be in school the entire day in order to participate in an activity that day. An exception would be made if the student had an approved medical appointment or prior approval from the Athletic Coordinator.
 - B. If a student is absent the last day of the week, and the competition is on a non-school day, the student must bring to the coach a signed statement from the parent that permission is given to participate.
 - C. A student who has been injured and has had medical treatment cannot participate again until the date indicated by the student's doctor.
- III. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, drugs, narcotics, or hallucinating agents by athletic program participants is prohibited.
- A. First offense: The individual will be suspended from the squad for five (5) school days. At the end of this period, following counseling by the head coach and Athletic Coordinator, a decision regarding further competition will be made. The school administration will be informed and administrative action may supercede the athletic department's action depending upon the circumstances.
 - B. Second offense: Suspension for the remainder of the season and referral of the student to school administration.
- IV. Before any "suspension" provided for under these rules shall take effect, the student shall be advised by the head coach of the alleged violation and the student will have an opportunity to explain or justify the action. If, after such conference, the head coach is satisfied that a suspension is justified, the student shall be notified.
- V. The rules and regulations in this code shall apply to any violations, on and off school premises, during the season of participation.
- VI. Additional rules or regulations from the head coach must be cleared by the Principal and Athletic Coordinator. Any additional rules and regulations must be in writing and on file in the school office.

Regulation adopted: June 13, 1982
Regulation revised: August 21, 2007

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, Connecticut