

Robbinsdale Armstrong High School District Eligibility Policy

Middle School and High School Co-curricular Activity Eligibility

It is the policy of Independent School District 281, Robbinsdale Area Schools, to follow school board-approved student discipline guidelines and procedures regarding chemical and tobacco use; academic standards; and sexual, physical, racial or religious harassment violations in determining eligibility of middle school and high school students to participate in the following district co-curricular activities: all fine arts activities, athletics and school-sponsored clubs/activities. Furthermore, it is the policy of Robbinsdale Area Schools to hold captains and student leaders of school activities to a higher standard of conduct than other students.

The board-approved *Students Rights, Opportunities and Responsibilities and Discipline Guidelines* will be the first measure of discipline when a violation occurs. The second measure of discipline will be this policy. In addition, student participants must abide by all relevant Minnesota State High School League rules.

It is the policy of Robbinsdale Area Schools to require all students participating in middle school and high school co-curricular activities to comply with the following discipline guidelines and procedures regarding:

1. Possession or use of alcohol or chemicals.
2. Possession or use of tobacco.
3. Misuse of over-the-counter drugs, substances that look like drugs or possession of drug paraphernalia.
4. Possession with intent to sell alcohol or chemicals.
5. Sexual, physical, racial or religious harassment violations.
6. Academic eligibility.
7. Conduct of captains or student leaders.

Disciplinary procedures for violations shall be administered separately during a student's participation in middle school co-curricular activities and during the student's participation in high school co-curricular activities.

Violations shall be dealt with in two categories. Category I violations involve alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Possession or use of a delivery device, regardless of the contents is a violation. Category II violations involve sexual, physical, racial and religious harassment. For purposes of administering District 281 co-curricular disciplinary procedures, each category of violations will remain separate.

I. Alcohol/Chemical Violations

First violation

After a violation has been determined, the student shall lose eligibility for two consecutive contests/events or two weeks (14 calendar days), whichever is greater. In practical terms, two weeks' loss of eligibility would normally result in ineligibility for four or more contests. This is the current Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) rule.

Second violation

Second Violation: After confirmation of the second violation, the student shall lose eligibility 17 consecutive weeks. Eligibility may be regained after professional chemical evaluation (at student or family expense). MSHSL second violation rules also must be met (six contest/events or three weeks, [21 calendar days], whichever is greater).

Third violation

No further participation will be permitted on any interscholastic team or activity for the remainder of the student's school years. However, a student *may* become eligible by choosing to complete a professional chemical evaluation and treatment plan, paid at the student's/family's expense. To become eligible the student also must meet the MSHSL eligibility requirement which is to lose eligibility for 12 consecutive interscholastic contests/events or four weeks, (28 calendar days), whichever is greater. The final question of eligibility shall be determined by an appeal to the activities eligibility committee consisting of the activities director, a building principal, coach/adviser and chemical specialist.

Fourth violation

No further participation will be permitted on any interscholastic team or activity for the remainder of the student's school years.

Students enrolled in musical ensembles at Robbinsdale Armstrong High School are required to abide by the MSHSL Fine Arts Eligibility rules are regulations with regard to chemical abuse. Violations of those rules will result in the following consequences:

First violation

After confirmation of the first violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next scheduled performance event (to be determined at the discretion of the director) or two weeks, whichever is greater, for each ensemble. Students shall not participate in any school related public performance during the time of their ineligibility. If the missed performance is a part of the student's grade, an alternate assignment will be required of the student. In addition, any violation that occurs while a student is on tour will result in that student being sent home at the parent's expense.

Second violation

After the confirmation of the second violation, the student shall lose eligibility for the next three scheduled performance events (to be determined at the discretion of the director) or six weeks, whichever is greater, for each ensemble. Students shall not participate in any school related performances during the time of their ineligibility. If the missed performances are part of the student's grade, alternate assignments will be required of the student. Students involved in extra-curricular ensembles will be withdrawn after a second violation. In addition, any violation that occurs while a student is on tour will result in that student being sent home at the parent's expense.

Third violation

After confirmation of the third violation, the student shall be removed from the ensemble and lose the appropriate credit. In addition, any violation that occurs while a student is on tour will result in that student being sent home at the parent's expense.

II. Sexual, Physical, Racial, Religious Harassment

First violation

After a violation has been determined, the student shall lose eligibility for two consecutive contests/events or two weeks (14 calendar days), whichever is greater. This is the current MSHSL rule. The student shall be required to attend Offensive Behavior class.

Second violation

After the violation has been determined the student shall lose eligibility for the next six consecutive contests/events or three weeks (21 calendar days), whichever is greater. It is recommended that the student be referred to a community agency or professional outside the school for counseling, paid for at the student's/family's expense.

Third violation

No further participation will be permitted on any interscholastic team or activity for the remainder of the student's school years. However, a student *may* become eligible after showing evidence in writing that he or she has received counseling from a community agency or professional paid at the student's/family's expense. To become eligible the student also must meet the MSHSL eligibility requirement which is to lose eligibility for 12 consecutive interscholastic contests/events or four weeks, (28 calendar days), whichever is greater. The final question of eligibility shall be determined by an appeal to the activities eligibility committee consisting of the activities director, a building principal, coach/adviser and chemical specialist.

Fourth violation

No further participation will be permitted on any interscholastic team or activity for the remainder of the student's school years.

III. Student Academic Eligibility

The student academic eligibility policy of Robbinsdale Area Schools requires that for a student to be eligible to participate in any co-curricular activity, the student must have had a passing grade (A, B, C, D or P) in 80 percent of the semester courses in which the student was enrolled during the previous semester. At the end of each semester, the school's athletic office will screen the grades of all students who participate in co-curricular activities. First- and third-quarter grades will be checked as a warning to those students who are passing less than 80 percent of their courses. If an incomplete is not changed to a passing grade within three weeks after the semester, the incomplete changes to a *no credit (NC)*.

A student who is declared scholastically ineligible may appeal the decision. The appeal will be on a standard district form and must be completed and sent to the chairperson of the district appeals committee which consists of the activities director from the school involved, the principal from the school involved and a staff member (optional). A student can only appeal academic status once in her/her high school career.

To regain eligibility, a student must earn 80 percent passing grades for the nine-week marking period,

80-percent passing grades the next semester marking period, or attend summer school and make up enough subjects to qualify under the 80 percent rule. If declared scholastically ineligible a student must complete five days of practice before re-entering competition.

[This policy took effect at the end of the first semester of the 1990-91 school year; the policy will be implemented in the middle schools January 1997.]

IV. Conduct of Captains/Student Leaders

Because students in leadership roles are role models for other students and are likely to have greater visibility than other students, the school district holds them to a higher standard of conduct than other students.

- A. A student shall be ineligible to be a captain/leader of a team/activity for the year or for the first year after the year in which the student was selected as a captain/leader if there has been confirmation that the student violated the MSHSL and/or District 281 alcohol, tobacco or other controlled substances policy.
1. A captain/leader of a team/activity shall be removed from the position of captain/leader and shall forfeit all honors afforded a captain/leader.
- B. A student shall be ineligible to be a captain/leader of a team/activity for the year or for the first year after the year in which the student was selected as a captain/leader if there has been confirmation that the student violated the MSHSL and/or District 281 harassment policy.
- C. A student shall be suspended from the position of the captain*/leader of a team/activity upon confirmation that the captain/leader has been formally charged with a criminal offense.** The suspension shall be in effect until there is confirmation of the resolution of the charge against the captain/leader.
1. A suspended captain/leader shall be reinstated to the position of captain/ leader after confirmation that the captain/leader was not convicted of the criminal charge against him/her.
 2. A captain/leader of a team shall be removed from the position of captain/ leader for the year or for the first year after the year in which the student was selected as a captain/leader if the captain/leader has been convicted of a criminal offense.
- D. A student may appeal his or her suspension to the activities eligibility committee which may allow a student to maintain captainship/leadership during pending criminal action.

* Includes captain, assistant captains, alternate captains.

** Criminal offense includes misdemeanor and felony offenses as defined under Minnesota statutes. Exception: misdemeanor parking and moving violations.

V. District 281 Co-curricular Rules

- A. A student shall be disqualified from all co-curricular activities for nine additional weeks beyond the student's original period of ineligibility when the student denies violation of a rule, is allowed to participate and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.
- B. Minnesota statute 126.036 requires police to report to the school whenever minors are found in violation of laws involving possession or use of alcohol, narcotics, controlled substances, or are in possession of drug paraphernalia. A police report to Robbinsdale Area Schools shall be considered a violation.