

Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Athletic Code of Conduct
Code	123.1
Status	First Reading
Legal	1. Pol. 123 2. Pol. 204 3. Pol. 218 4. Pol. 222 5. Pol. 227 6. Pol. 247
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### **Purpose**

Participation in any athletic program is a privilege, not a right. Participating students are frequently the object of public attention. Therefore, the district expects that the conduct of such students should be above reproach, twenty-four (24) hours per day and seven (7) days per week, year round.

### **Authority**

The Board establishes that this policy shall apply to athletic programs at the Pequea Valley School District. Students shall be aware of the rules and penalties that govern the interscholastic athletic program, and shall abide by this policy at all times.

### **Guidelines**

Each student shall follow the written rules promulgated by the coach of each individual sport, as approved by the Athletic Director.

On the day of practice or game, a student must be in attendance for a full day in order to participate in the practice or game. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by prior approval of the Athletic Director.[1]

~~An unexcused absence from school may carry the penalty of at least a one (1) week suspension, as determined by the coach.[2]~~

~~A student may be failing only one (1) class to be eligible for participation. Grades are reviewed weekly and at the end of each marking period by the coach.~~

Students are given a one (1) week grace period to improve a single failing grade. Students who continue to fail the same class for more than one (1) week and/or students who are failing more than one (1) class at a time will not be eligible for the following week. If a student fails a class at the end of the marking period, he/she is not eligible to participate for fifteen (15) school days. Grades are reviewed weekly and at the end of each marking period by the athletic department.

P.I.A.A. regulations shall be followed at all times in all cases of academic eligibility, transfer, physical exams, insurance coverage, starting dates, and use of school.[1]

Students must return all parts of a uniform **and equipment** when requested to do so by the coach. Failure to do so will result in the student paying the cost of replacement. The student shall be ineligible to participate in any future athletic programs until such costs have been paid.

A student ejected from a game by an official is subject to ~~disciplinary action by the coach, which may include, but is not limited to, prohibition from participating in the next competition.~~ **mandatory disqualification as per the P.I.A.A. bylaws.**

Possession, distribution, use or abuse of controlled substances (including steroids), related paraphernalia, alcohol or tobacco in any form, is prohibited. Violation is determined either by observation by a school employee or police citation. In addition to all applicable disciplinary action available to the district under Board policy, the following actions shall occur if this rule is violated:[3][4][5]

1. First Offense – Student will be removed from the team for two (2) weeks and referred to the HEART Team. Parents/Guardians will be notified. The recommendation of the HEART Team must be followed. If the recommendations are not followed, the student will be declared ineligible for one (1) calendar year in all interscholastic athletics beginning on the date of which the administration determines the violation occurred. If the student accepts the HEART Team’s recommendation, ~~s/he the student~~ may remain with the team and practice, but will be denied the opportunity for interscholastic competition for the two (2) week period.

**A. If the activity in question was referred by a parent/guardian to school official, the learner will be required to participate in the HEART Team referral process and must follow all recommendations of the HEART Team Assessor. However, any citation by law enforcement in the matter will require the administration treat the matter as stated above.**

2. Second Offense – The student will be ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic program for one (1) calendar year beginning on the date of which the administration determines the violation occurred.

Students participating in interscholastic athletics who violate controlled substances guidelines or Board policy at school or at a school-sponsored activity shall be subject both to the disciplinary consequences stated in those guidelines and this policy.[3][5]

Charges filed against a student by the police involving any infraction of a criminal law, whether on or off school property or at a school-sponsored event or during the school year, shall result in a review by the head coach, Athletic Director, and the building principal or assistant principal. Possible suspension or dismissal from the athletic program will be based upon review of the severity of the violation. All disciplinary action will be consistent with Board policy and established guidelines.[3]

Hazing, bullying, or initiation will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Board policy and established guidelines.[3][6]

A student involved in any athletic program who uses controlled substances may report his/her use to the HEART Team. Confidentiality is maintained unless it is viewed as life threatening or potentially harmful to others. Students are encouraged to recognize their problems and seek help through the HEART Team, but cannot use the option to circumvent this policy.

Students and parents/guardians are expected to cooperate fully with school officials in the investigation of an alleged violation of this policy.