**SOUTH OLDHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL**
**SCHOOL-BASED DECISION MAKING COUNCIL POLICY**
**POLICY ON EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY AND CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY 9001**

Extracurricular activities—including sports, clubs, band, choir, and any programs extending beyond the normal school day—are a privilege, not a right. The South Oldham Middle School (SOMS) Extracurricular Eligibility and Code of Conduct Policy applies year-round, including summer and vacation periods. Students are expected to uphold the highest standards 24/7 throughout their participation at SOMS, starting from their first involvement in any extracurricular activity or the first day of school.

Violations of this code may result in disciplinary actions per this policy, Oldham County Board of Education regulations, and SOMS School-Based Decision Making Council policies. The principal holds the exclusive authority to review individual cases and adjust consequences based on mitigating circumstances.

## TOPICS STATEMENT

### I. Participation

The Site-Based Council believes that all students should be encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. SOMS will follow all state and federal guidelines, including Title IX requirements for equal opportunities.

The following conditions shall apply to all extracurricular participants:

1. Extracurricular activities at SOMS are for students of SOMS only.
2. If a sport is offered at the middle school, the student may participate only at the middle school level. A student may participate at the high school level if:
    - a. A written formal request is received from the parent(s) explaining the reasons for the move to the high school level,
    - b. Both head coaches approve,
    - c. Both athletic directors approve,
    - d. Both principals approve, and
    - e. The student must sign and follow both middle and high school code of conduct.
    - f. It is in the best interest of the student.

3. If the sport is not offered at the middle school level, then the student may try out for the high school level if invited.
4. If the high school season continues after the conclusion of the middle school season for a particular sport, then invited students may participate at the high school level at the conclusion of the middle school season.
5. Students may try out for a second sport in the next consecutive season, but they are required to participate 100% with their first team until the conclusion of that season.
6. Students in overlapping sports may try out for the second sport while the first sport is still occurring, with coaches providing alternate tryout times if necessary.
7. If a student quits or is removed from an athletic team or group for any reason, they may not participate in another school sport until their original sport season has concluded.
8. SOMS extracurricular activities will take precedence over outside group activities (club sports, AAU, private lessons, etc.). Coaches are permitted to require participants to attend practices/games and can impose playing time limitations, game suspensions, or removal from the team/group if guidelines are not followed. Coaches will need to develop and communicate expectations for all participants prior to any punishment being levied.
9. Students who are remaining at school before practice/game/meeting must remain in their designated space with adult supervision. Students are not allowed to roam the building after school hours.
10. Any decision/scenario regarding students playing up at the middle school level will be approved through the AD and/or principal.

**II. Eligibility**

At the beginning of the school year, all students officially enrolled at South Oldham Middle School who are not repeating a grade are eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

In order to maintain their eligibility, students must meet the following academic requirements:

1. SOMS students are expected to maintain passing grades (no more than 1 failing grade)
2. If a teacher reports show a student is failing more than 1 class, then the student will be placed on probation for 1 week. During that week the student may participate in practice and competition.
3. If after 1 week on probation the student has not made progress toward passing grades, then the participant will be suspended for 1 calendar week (7 days) from

the grade check. There will be NO mid-week grade checks to reinstate eligibility. During this suspension, the player is still eligible to practice with the team/group; however, they may NOT dress for competition, although they can attend.

4. Attendance at practices and competitions during school vacations may be a requirement for team/Group membership.
5. **Absent students, out of school for more than 50% of the day, may not participate in any regularly scheduled school activities including extracurricular activities.**

**III. Code of Conduct**

Representing the SOMS community in any extracurricular activities is a privilege! All extracurricular participants, spectators, parents, etc. are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and positive manner at all times. Failure to do so could result in a suspension from participating and/or observing extracurricular activities at SOMS.

**Student Participants:** Students will only be allowed to represent SOMS in extracurricular activities if they are free from disciplinary action from the school and/or legal action from law enforcement.

- The following will not be tolerated, and repeated offenses could result in suspension from team/group activities (including practices and games): classroom disruption, disrespect of teachers, students, staff, etc., failure to follow school and/or team/group policy, violations of school policy, tobacco use and/or vaping, unsportsmanlike conduct before, during, or after participation in an extracurricular, minor school disciplinary action (detention, team referrals, and/or team disciplinary recommendation, etc.).
- The following offenses will result in immediate suspension from team activities (including practices and games) for a time to be determined by school administration (1-week minimum): bullying, harassment, fighting, use of illegal drugs and/or alcohol, sexual harassment or intimidation, in-school suspension, suspension from school, criminal citation or law enforcement intervention.

**Athletic Suspension Policy:**

- Consequences will begin the day the consequence is handed out and will end at midnight on the last day of the suspension.
- Consequences might require both 10% and 25% suspensions to run consecutively due to the range of infractions in a given scenario.
- Principal, AD, and/or team's head coach reserve the right to increase the consequence due to varying circumstances.

**First offense**:

- For any tobacco product and/or vape use or possession, solicitation of vape products, verbal aggression toward adults, chronic disruption of the classroom environment, OCATS, In-School suspension, etc., there will be a 1-week suspension from all extracurricular activities (including games, practices, team meals, bus rides, sitting on the bench during games, etc.) plus a suspension from 10% of the team's total contests for the year.

**Second offense**:

- For illegal drug or alcohol use and/or possession, distribution of vape products, criminal charges/citations filed by OCPD, suspensions for hate speech or sexual harassment, terroristic threatening, etc., there will be a 2-week suspension from all extracurricular activities (including games, practices, team meals, bus rides, sitting on the bench during games, etc.) plus a suspension from 25% of the team's total contests for the year.

**Student Spectators:** Student spectators will be held to 'school day' standards when supporting extracurricular teams/groups at SOMS or at 'away' contests. Students who are not upholding the school expectations will be redirected and reminded of expectations only once. Repeated violations could result in suspension from attending SOMS extracurricular events.

**Parents:** The Parent Code of Conduct emphasizes parental support and positive role modeling. Parents must maintain a high standard of behavior at SOMS events, adhering to guidelines like avoiding disrespectful behavior, refraining from foul language, and respecting the 24-Hour Rule, which prohibits discussing athletic concerns with a coach for 24 hours after an issue arises.

**Evaluation**

All extracurricular programs will be evaluated annually for effectiveness, student participation, and equity as part of the school improvement planning process.