

ALLEGANY-LIMESTONE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Guidelines for Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Participation

I. Introduction

The Allegany-Limestone Central School District believes that participation in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities is an important part of a student's educational experience. These programs provide opportunities for students to develop leadership, teamwork, responsibility, sportsmanship, and personal growth while representing their school and community.

Interscholastic athletic programs include all recognized fall, winter, and spring sports offered at the Modified, Junior Varsity, and Varsity levels.

Extracurricular programs include school-sponsored clubs and organizations such as LEO Club, SADD, Math Counts, Natural Helpers, National Honor Society (NHS), Odyssey of the Mind (OM), Ski Club, school plays, musicals, and other approved student organizations.

Participation in athletics and extracurricular activities is a privilege. With this privilege comes the responsibility to maintain acceptable standards of conduct, academic performance, attendance, and citizenship. Students participating in these programs serve as representatives of Allegany-Limestone and are expected to conduct themselves accordingly.

II. Notice and Insurance Information

Participation Requirements

Students may not participate in any athletic or extracurricular activity until all required registration forms, parental consent forms, and health requirements have been completed and submitted.

Acknowledgment of Risk

Participation in athletics and extracurricular activities involves inherent risks. Physical injuries may occur despite appropriate supervision, training, and safety precautions. By participating in a

school-sponsored activity, students and their parents/guardians acknowledge and accept the potential risk of injury.

Student Accident Insurance

The Allegany-Limestone Central School District provides supplemental accident insurance coverage for student participants. This coverage is secondary to any family, employer-sponsored, or other primary insurance policy.

In the event of an injury:

- Claims must first be submitted through the family's primary insurance carrier.
- Expenses not covered by the primary insurance may be submitted to the district's supplemental insurance provider.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for submitting all required claim forms and supporting medical documentation.
- Injuries must be reported to the district's insurance carrier within thirty (30) days.

Reporting Injuries

All injuries, regardless of severity, must be reported immediately to the student's coach or advisor, who will notify the school nurse.

Students requiring treatment by a physician or experiencing an extended illness or injury must provide written medical clearance before returning to participation.

III. Athletic Eligibility Requirements

Student-athletes shall participate in accordance with the rules and regulations established by:

- New York State Commissioner of Education
- New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA)
- Section VI Athletics
- Allegany-Limestone Board of Education

Student-athletes are expected to comply with all team rules established by their coach.

A student-athlete may not leave one sport to join another during the same season without approval from the Athletic Director and both coaches involved.

Health Examinations

Students participating in interscholastic athletics must complete a valid physical examination and any required health history updates before participating.

Physical examinations are valid for twelve (12) consecutive months.

Students returning from injury, illness, or prolonged absence may be required to obtain additional medical clearance before resuming participation.

IV. Academic Eligibility

Academic success is the foundation of participation in extracurricular activities. Students are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress while representing Allegany-Limestone.

The Academic Eligibility Program applies to **all school-sponsored extracurricular activities**, including but not limited to:

- Interscholastic athletics
- Clubs and club-sponsored events
- Club field trips (during and outside the school day)
- Drama Club productions
- School dances
- Musical performances
- Any other school-sponsored extracurricular activity

All teachers, coaches, and advisors are expected to implement and follow this Academic Eligibility Program.

Weekly Eligibility Process

Beginning on the **third Monday in September** and continuing weekly through the end of the school year:

1. Every Monday by 1:00 p.m., the Eligibility Administrative Assistant will generate a list of students failing one or more classes and distribute it electronically to appropriate administrators, teachers, coaches, advisors, and support staff. Parents/guardians will be notified through email, letter, or the district communication platform.
2. Students are responsible for monitoring their grades. Teachers will notify students confidentially when they appear on the eligibility list and explain what is needed to regain eligibility. Administrators and/or the Athletic Director may also meet with students regarding their eligibility status.

Academic Standards

3. Students in grades 6-12 who are failing **two (2) or more classes** shall be declared academically ineligible.
4. Academically ineligible students may not participate in practices, rehearsals, competitions, performances, meetings, or extracurricular events unless they:
 - regain eligibility through improved grades; or
 - meet the Homework Help requirements outlined below.

Eligibility Release

5. Students may regain eligibility after earning passing grades by obtaining an Eligibility Release Form signed by the teacher, administrator, or Athletic Director and presenting it to the coach or advisor before participating.

Homework Help

6. Students who remain academically ineligible must attend Homework Help **every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00–4:00 p.m.** in order to participate during that week.
7. Students must obtain a Homework Help Attendance Verification Form signed by the Homework Help Supervisor and present it to their coach or advisor. Attendance will also be communicated to the Athletic Director, coaches, and advisors.
8. Students are expected to use Homework Help productively by completing missing assignments, receiving academic assistance, or improving current coursework.
9. Students who fail to attend required Homework Help sessions will not be permitted to practice, compete, perform, or participate in extracurricular activities.
10. It is the student's responsibility to register for Homework Help and obtain the required attendance verification.
11. Students on the academic ineligibility list may attend extracurricular events as spectators unless otherwise prohibited by school discipline.
12. Eligibility during the first week of the second, third, and fourth marking periods shall be based upon final grades from the previous marking period. Thereafter, eligibility shall be determined using grades from the current marking period.
13. Students who are academically ineligible and who have not attended required Homework Help sessions may not attend club meetings held during the school day. Those students must remain in their assigned Enrichment (Period 10) placement or report to their classroom teacher for academic assistance.

V. Expectations for All Participants

Attendance

Students must:

- Be present at the start of first period on the day of an event.

- Miss no more than five (5) class periods during the school day.

Students who fail to meet these attendance requirements without an approved excuse may be ineligible for participation.

Students excused from Physical Education by a physician may not participate in athletics until medically cleared unless otherwise approved by the school nurse and Athletic Director.

Transportation

Student-athletes shall travel to and from contests using district-provided transportation.

Students may return home with their parent or legal guardian only after approval from the coach and completion of any required district procedures.

Conduct

Participants are expected to demonstrate respect, integrity, responsibility, and good sportsmanship.

Students represent themselves, their families, teammates, coaches, school, and community.

Students shall not manufacture, distribute, possess, purchase, or use:

- Illegal drugs
- Controlled substances
- Alcohol
- Tobacco products
- Electronic cigarettes or vaping devices

Violations of the District Code of Conduct may also constitute violations of this handbook and may result in extracurricular suspension.

Students may also be suspended for:

- Violations of the District Code of Conduct
- Inappropriate conduct during school-sponsored activities
- Failure to pay restitution for school property damage within thirty (30) days

Students will be informed of the reason for any suspension and the conditions for reinstatement.

V. Reporting Alleged Violations

Reports of alleged violations must be submitted promptly and will be investigated according to district procedures.

Reports from the following individuals, when based on firsthand observation, shall be investigated:

1. District employees
2. Adult chaperones or volunteers acting on behalf of the district
3. Law enforcement agencies or officers
4. Parents or legal guardians of the student involved

Written, signed reports must be submitted to the Principal within three (3) business days of the incident.

Reports from other individuals may also be considered. The Principal will determine whether sufficient information exists to warrant an investigation.

Criminal convictions related to conduct prohibited under this policy may also constitute a violation.

VI. Investigation Procedures

Upon receiving a report of an alleged violation, the Principal or Athletic Director shall notify the student and parent/guardian that an investigation is being conducted.

The notice shall include:

- The nature of the alleged violation
- The possibility of suspension or removal from participation
- The opportunity for the student and parent/guardian to respond

A conference will be offered within two (2) school days whenever practical.

The Principal will review all available information and issue a written decision within three (3) business days following the conference.

The student, parent/guardian, and coach or advisor will be notified of the decision.

VII. Consequences for Violations

First Violation

A student found responsible for a first violation shall be suspended from participation in all extracurricular and interscholastic activities for eight (8) school weeks.

The suspension may be reduced by up to four (4) weeks if the student successfully completes one approved counseling session per week for up to four weeks and provides appropriate documentation.

Counseling must be conducted by a licensed or certified professional. Alcohol- or drug-related violations require counseling from a qualified substance abuse professional.

Student-athletes are expected to continue attending team practices and contests in a non-participatory role unless otherwise directed.

Second Violation

A second violation during the same school year shall result in suspension from all extracurricular and interscholastic activities for the remainder of the school year or twenty (20) school weeks, whichever is longer.

Any portion of a suspension not completed during the current school year shall carry over into the next school year.

VIII. Appeals Process

The district's appeal process shall be completed within ten (10) school days whenever possible.

Level 1 – Appeals Committee

The student and/or parent/guardian may appeal the Principal's decision to an Appeals Committee by contacting the Athletic Director.

The committee shall review the matter and issue a decision within two (2) business days.

Level 2 – Superintendent

The student and/or parent/guardian may appeal the Appeals Committee's decision to the Superintendent, who shall issue a determination within three (3) business days.

Level 3 – Board of Education

The student and/or parent/guardian may request review by the Board of Education through the Board President.

The Board shall consider the appeal and render a decision within five (5) business days.

External Appeals

Following completion of district procedures, appeals may be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Education or through the court system as permitted by law.