

ATHLETIC & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES GUIDE

South Royalton School recognizes the important role extra-curricular activities play in rounding out a student's education. Achieving excellence and success in something outside the classroom gives students added chances to develop.

Participation in extra-curricular activities at South Royalton School is a privilege for each individual. It is important that students, parents, and interested persons are aware of the governing rules and regulations.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

At South Royalton, students are given the opportunity to participate in many activities beyond the academic program. The school's major concern is that the skills, goals, and objectives of the academic program be most important and that the extra-curricular involvement be complementary.

The extra-curricular academic eligibility policy for all activities is as follows:

- Students must carry five credits and receive a passing grade in each class.
- A student taking six (6) or more credits is permitted to earn one (1) failing grade.
- A student taking fewer than six (6) credits must pass all courses.
- Community based learning will count as one credit; band and chorus will count as one credit if both are taken. Classroom aide and Driver Education do not count as credit for eligibility unless the principal gives prior approval.
- Academic eligibility will be reviewed and determined at approximately five-week intervals (progress reports and report cards) throughout the school year.
- A listing of ineligible students will be published on the school day following the mailing of progress reports or report cards.
- Appeals: After progress reports are issued a student may appeal his/her eligibility with the principal and athletic director, if the student feels that his/her grade was based on limited data. (This appeal is NOT valid at the end of a marking period.)
- Academic Probation: Following progress reports, a student may apply for "academic probation." To be considered for academic probation, a student MUST complete and return the academic probation contract to the athletic director no later than the school day following the publication of the ineligibility list. The contract will state the student's intent and agreement to abide by the conditions of academic probation, or automatically remain ineligible. Academic probation is

available only ONCE per quarter, directly following progress reports.

- Adding/dropping: If a student drops a class, he/she will receive the grade listed at the time of the drop, unless they add a complementary course (i.e. math for math, science for science).
- During a period of ineligibility, a student will not take part in practices, meetings, or rehearsals, and will not be permitted to practice, attend meetings, or rehearsals.

ACADEMIC MAKE UP WORK

Students who miss class as a result of extra-curricular activities/contests are expected to see teachers before an event to get assignments and make up academic work as soon as possible. This may include after school sessions. Participants (and coaches/advisors) should understand that practice is not an acceptable excuse for failing to complete make-up work or for failing to attend after school help sessions.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs has negative effects on an individual's ability to perform at his/her full potential. Student athletes will demonstrate a commitment to themselves, their team, their classmates, and their school by remaining free of these substances during their activities.

Student athletes acknowledge and agree to the following terms and conditions pertaining to their eligibility for participation in South Royalton School's athletic programs. Violation will result in the following consequences:

1. First Offense

- a. Ineligibility for 25% of remaining games in a season.
- b. Will continue to attend practices, and support other team members (at the coaches' discretion).
- c. Meet with a school approved substance counselor prior to returning as an active member. The counselor will advise the athletic director of the student athlete's compliance with this requirement.

2. Second/Subsequent Offenses

- a. Ineligibility for scheduled competitions for the remainder of the school year. In the event that this is not applicable, ineligibility for 25% of the following year's scheduled competitions.
- b. Will continue to attend practices, and support other team members (at the coaches' discretion).
- c. Meet with a school approved substance abuse counselor prior to returning as an active member in any sport, during any season. The counselor will advise the athletic director of the student athlete's compliance with this requirement.

Failure to comply with these conditions will result in a student athlete becoming ineligible for further participation in South Royalton School's athletic programs.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be in school all day, every day. A student must arrive at school before 9:45 AM in order to be eligible to participate in that afternoon/evening's activities. All student athletes are expected to attend all practices and games. Acceptable absences include only those for illness and school functions occurring on a limited basis throughout the school year (field trips, AP testing). The coach and/or athletic director will act upon individual situations not covered by this rule.

If a student is well enough to be in school, he/she is expected to be at practice. The coach/advisor may excuse a student from participating, partially or fully, but the student must speak personally to the coach/advisor if he/she is to be excused. An unacceptable absence will result in a consequence, such as suspension. Missing practice the day before a game will render the athlete's eligibility for that game questionable.

Any student who does not attend school (see Vermont Principals' Bylaws) for reasons of sickness or truancy will not be eligible to participate in any scheduled interscholastic practice or game on that date. A student who is absent for any part of the school day because of truancy will not be eligible to participate in any scheduled interscholastic practice or game on that date. For any student who misses any part of the day for reasons other than truancy, his/her eligibility will be determined by the nature of the absence. Any student who is suspended will not be eligible to participate in that day's activities.

If a student's family wishes to take a family vacation during a regularly scheduled school vacation, arrangements with the coach/advisor should be made prior to the vacation period.

If any violation becomes known at a later date, appropriate consequences/penalties will be exercised.

AWARDS ASSEMBLY

An awards assembly honoring all seasonal athletes will be held each year. At this time sub-varsity and varsity participants will receive athletic certificates, with some receiving varsity letters.

BEHAVIOR & CONDUCT

Student athletes shall represent South Royalton School in a responsible and appropriate manner at all times. Examples of inappropriate behavior and/or conduct include, but are not limited to, inappropriate language and/or appearance, derogatory remarks to an official, an opponent, coach, or teammate, or any acts that are (in the discretion of the coach or administration), detrimental to the best interest of the team or South Royalton School. A student may face disciplinary action, which could include

suspension or dismissal from the team/group based upon the severity of the offense.

School citizenship and personal conduct **while representing the school are also important factors in determining eligibility. When it is decided that it is in the best interest of either the student or the school, the principal will declare him/her ineligible to participate in co-curricular activities.**

Appeals regarding suspension decisions may be made in accordance with this guide's section on questions/appeals.

Any student who is suspended will not be eligible to participate in any practice(s) and/or game(s) until the suspension ends. A student who appeals a suspension is permitted to participate until the appeal is resolved. A student whose suspension is upheld or dropped will be required to serve the full suspension in terms of practice time, games played, or both. (Ex: A student is suspended from school for two days, and will miss practice and a game. He/she appeals the suspension. During the appeal they play in two games, and attend four practices. The appeal is upheld/dropped after those games/practices. The student will be required to serve the suspension in terms of missing one practice and one game.

CONTEST PARTICIPATION

Playing time at the Varsity level is determined by the individual's ability, attitude, and the team situation. At the Middle School and Junior Varsity levels, every effort will be made to ensure each athlete participates in every event. It is expected that members of the Middle School and JV teams will see action in each game as long as they fulfill their team responsibilities and expectations, as determined by the coaching staff.

EQUIPMENT

All issued equipment and uniforms belong to South Royalton School and because these are only loaned, it is expected that student athletes will return equipment with no more than normal wear. Each student athlete is responsible for all equipment and uniforms assigned to him/her. Individuals will be assessed replacement costs for unduly damaged or missing equipment and uniforms.

HAZING

Please refer to the Student Handbook for the South Royalton School Hazing Policy.

PERMISSION, INSURANCE, AND PHYSICAL FORMS

Physical forms signed by doctors, proof of insurance and permission forms **MUST** be presented to the coach **B E F O R E** students may participate in extra-curricular activities at South Royalton School. A student who does not have completed forms **WILL NOT BE PERMITTED** to practice. No exceptions.

PRACTICES

Participants in all interscholastic athletic activities must have a minimum of ten (10) practices per season prior to competing in interscholastic athletic contests (Vermont Principals' Association Bylaws).

PRESEASON MEETINGS

The athletic department will hold preseason meetings prior to the beginning of each sport season. Parents/guardians of student athletes are encouraged to attend these meetings in order to receive important information about their son's/daughter's sport participation.

QUESTIONS/APPEALS

If there are questions and/or concerns about any athletic issue, the following process is in order:

First, contact the coach;

Second, contact the athletic director;

Third, contact the principal;

Fourth, contact the superintendent;

Fifth, contact the school board.

If step #1 does not answer the question satisfactorily, then move on to step #2, and so forth until you feel you have the answer that addresses your concerns.

TRANSPORTATION

Student athletes are expected to travel to and from every athletic event with their teams. Only the athletic director can make exceptions. An exception will be granted only after completion of a travel permission form by a student's parent/guardian one day in advance of the event. The athletic director will provide travel permission forms to athletes upon request.

TRYOUTS

In some activities it may be necessary to reduce the number of participants to a manageable size, particularly when safety, fiscal resources, equipment, facilities, and coaching/advising personnel are considered. It will be the responsibility of the coach/advisor to make decisions considering what the final number of participants will be in that activity.

VERMONT PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION EJECTION POLICY

Any South Royalton School student athlete ejected from any high school athletic contest for fighting, malicious contact, unsportsmanlike conduct or taunting toward an official, coach, or athlete will automatically be suspended from the next two regularly scheduled contests in that sport. If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student athlete shall be ineligible for the same period of time in the next sport in which he/she participates. The suspended student athlete may not be in uniform. A student athlete who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. (This policy can only be appealed to the Vermont Principals' Association.)

The South Royalton School athletic director and the coach of the team involved will review each incident to decide upon further disciplinary action.