

## **JJI - STUDENT ATHLETICS**

**Athletic Philosophy** - The primary goal of the Epping Athletic Program is to develop individuals who understand and appreciate the importance of athletics in one's academic experience and life experience. This will require the provision of as many venues as possible to accommodate elementary, middle school, junior varsity, and varsity athletes with interscholastic and intramural sports programs.

The Epping Athletic Program also believes that students should have a healthy balance of academics, athletics, and family commitments. As a result there will be no athletic practices and/or contests scheduled on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Easter Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving Day and the day after, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. On other holidays and on the weekends of holidays, coaches may hold practice at their own discretion and with the approval of the Athletic Director, with the understanding that there will be no student consequences for non-attendance.

The school community shall promote an athletic climate in which every athletic win is framed by modesty while a loss is framed with grace and dignity. Coaches will work vigorously with all athletes, regardless of individual talents, to instill a desire for personal excellence while encouraging sportsmanship, integrity, and character. Our athletes will also exhibit friendship and respect for their teammates and opponents. The end result will be students who exhibit sound values from their participation in the Epping Athletic Program and who develop into respectful, involved, and knowledgeable citizens in their school and community.

**Athletic Code of Ethics** - It is the duty of all concerned with athletic programs to:

1. Cultivate awareness that participation in athletics is part of the total educational experience.
2. Emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play as they relate to the lifetime impact on the participants and spectators.
3. Develop an awareness and understanding of all rules and guidelines governing competition, both in letter and intent, and to comply with them in all activities.
4. Recognize that the purpose of athletics in school programs is to develop and promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of individual participants.
5. Avoid any practice or technique which would endanger the present or future welfare or safety of a participant.
6. Avoid practices that force students to specialize, or which restrict them from participation in a variety of athletics.
7. Refrain from making disparaging remarks to opponents, officials, coaches, or spectators in any aspect of school athletics.
8. Encourage the development of proper health habits and vigorously discourage the use of chemicals, including alcohol and tobacco.
9. Exemplify proper self-control at all times and accept adverse decisions without public display of emotion or dissatisfaction.
10. Encourage everyone to judge the true success of the athletic program on the basis of the attitude of the participants and spectators rather than on the basis of a win or loss.

11. Treat opposing team members and officials respectfully and encourage behavior, which will create positive relationships between schools.

**Elementary Athletics** - Elementary school students shall be eligible to participate in school-sponsored athletics based upon age-appropriate criteria approved by the School Principal. Students/parents will be provided copies of such criteria prior to student participation. Any league or outside agency requirements shall also apply.

**Middle and High School Athletics** – Middle and high school students shall be eligible for participation in school-sponsored athletics per the following District guidelines. Middle school athletics is also subject to middle school athletic league rules and regulations. High school athletics is also subject to the rules and regulations of the NH Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA).

**General Eligibility Requirements** - In order to participate in interscholastic sports, the students must meet eligibility requirements in this Policy for each sports season.

1. Students must have an up-to-date immunization record and current physical examination signed, dated, and office stamped by a medical practitioner stating that the student is physically fit to participate in school sponsored sport/activity. (Students entering grade 6 and grade 9 must have a physical examination within one year (12 months) of school start date or sport start date. Students continuing to participate in the athletic program must be re-examined within two years of the previous physical exam on file.
2. Students must complete a baseline concussion test prior to participating in school sponsored athletics. Students continuing to participate in the athletic program must be re-tested within two years of the previous concussion test on file. Student athletes significantly injured or ill are also required to be re-examined in order to be eligible for athletic participation. Written permission must be received from the medical provider and parent/guardian for an athlete to return after a significant injury or illness.
3. Students must have proof of insurance coverage provided by the family or purchased through the school accident insurance program provided by the school district.
4. Students and parents must sign, complete, and return an acknowledgement of warning and consent agreement for student's participation in athletics.
5. Student must be in good academic standing defined as meeting student academic, attendance, tardy, and behavior guidelines as announced, printed, and posted.
6. Student must exhibit habits and conduct in and out of school worthy to represent the standards of the Epping School District in athletic events.
7. Students and parents are required to attend one sports information night per school year regarding school athletics program, eligibility, and rules.

**Residency Eligibility Requirements** – The District permits students who are residents of the school district, but who are enrolled in other schools – including charter schools, non-public schools, and home schools – to participate on an equal basis in any athletic sport offered by the District that is not offered at a student's school of attendance, provided they meet the eligibility requirements for participation. Proof of eligibility, as outlined in this Policy, is required for all students attending Epping schools, charter schools, non-public schools, and home schools.

Home school students may participate provided they comply with all laws governing home-based education. Home school students are also required to meet the academic requirement for each sport season. The School Principal will determine academic eligibility using a submitted portfolio of student work, grades issued by an educational agency, or other pre-approved method.

Non-enrolled students participating in District athletic programs are subject to the same fees as that charged to enrolled students for the activity.

**Academic Eligibility Requirements** – Academics are the number one priority of all student athletes. It is the expectation that all student-athletes focus on school academics first. The following academic requirements apply to athletic eligibility.

1. Student must earn an overall grade of C- or better in at least five (5) courses.
2. If a student takes less than five (5) courses, student must earn an overall grade of C- or better in all courses.
3. Students who do not meet the criteria stated in 1 and 2 above will have two 5-day reassessment periods in which to correct for academic deficiencies. It is the student's responsibility to request and complete a reassessment plan. If the student corrects the academic deficiency after the first 5-day reassessment period, the student will return to athletic eligibility. If the student does not correct the academic deficiency, the student is responsible for requesting and completing a second reassessment plan. If the student does not correct the academic deficiency after the second 5-day reassessment period, the student loses athletic eligibility for the season.
4. During reassessment period(s) student is not permitted to practice or participate in athletic contests or events. Student may not sit with athletic team during contests.
5. For academic eligibility, incompletes are not passing grades.
6. Summer activities do not count toward academic eligibility.
7. The School Principal may grant academic waivers due to extenuating circumstances.

**Drug and Alcohol Use Prohibited** – Students who participate in athletic activities shall not use, have in their possession, transfer, or be in the presence of alcohol or prohibited drugs, real or counterfeit, or drug paraphernalia. This Policy applies to all participants and applies on or off school grounds, 24 hours a day.

Upon the School Principal's and/or Athletic Director's determination that there is reasonable evidence of a violation of this Policy, school and athletic actions and consequences will be implemented per Student Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process Policy; Student Behavior & Consequence Guidelines Policy; and Drug Free Zone – Student Drug and Alcohol Use Prohibited.

**Tobacco Products and Devices Prohibited** – Use and possession of tobacco products and devices is prohibited on school grounds and by student-athletes under the age of 18. This Policy applies to all participants and applies on or off school grounds, 24 hours a day.

Upon the School Principal's and/or Athletic Director's determination that there is reasonable evidence of a violation of this Policy, school and athletic actions and consequences will be implemented per Student Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process Policy; Student Behavior & Consequence Guidelines Policy; and Tobacco Products and Devices Prohibited.

**Student Conduct Eligibility Requirements** - Students in violation of attendance, tardy, and behavior guidelines will receive consequences per the Student Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process Policy and Student Behavior & Consequence Guidelines Policy. Actions include consequences up to and including athletic ineligibility.

**Notification and Monitoring** – The School Principal and Athletic Director shall notify students and parents of athletic program participation rules, guidelines, and policy in student-parent handbooks and mandatory meetings. The monitoring of the Athletic Program and Policy is the responsibility of the School Principal and Athletic Director.

**Statutory/Regulatory/Policy/Handbook Cross References**

NH Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) Rules and Regulations  
Policy JH (Attendance – Absenteeism, Tardiness, and Truancy)  
Policy JHA (Student Attendance & Consequence Guidelines)  
Policy JHB (Student Tardy & Consequence Guidelines)  
Policy JICD (Student Conduct, Discipline, and Due Process  
Policy JICDA (Student Behavior & Consequence Guidelines)  
Policy JICG (Tobacco Products and Devices Prohibited)  
Policy JICH (Drug Free Zone – Student Drug and Alcohol Use Prohibited)  
Handbook (Referenced in Handbooks)

APPROVED/REVISED: September 22, 2005, March 22, 2007, August 20, 2009, January 21, 2010, October 18, 2012, October 2, 2014

PREVIOUS POLICY: August 14, 2003 - Athletics  
September 25, 1986 – Eligibility for Athletics and Extracurricular Activities  
July 13, 1989 – Sports Participation Policy