

# Extracurricular Eligibility

---

## I) Basis

- A) Zion Christian School's extracurricular program is based on the premise that physical exercise, competition, and recreation are aspects of the lives that Christians live as prophets, priests, and kings before God. Such activity is part of our mission of living for the glory of God. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and, as such, can often be used to motivate students to higher academic success.

## II) Governance

- A) The Athletic Policy Committee consists of the Education Committee Chairman, High School Principal, Athletic Director, and Learning Enrichment Services Director.
- B) The Eligibility Committee consists of the Athletic Policy Committee for athletic eligibility issues and the Education Committee Chairman, High School Principal, Learning Enrichment Services Director, and faculty advisor for all "non-athletic" extracurricular activity eligibility issues.

## III) Extracurricular Activities

- A) Athletics
  - 1) All athletic teams
  - 2) All regular team attendants and officials (statisticians, timers, managers, etc.)
- B) Other Extracurricular Activities
  - 1) Student government representatives
  - 2) Drama participants

## IV) Definitions

- A) Ineligibility results if a student has not met the academic or citizenship requirements as outlined below. Any ineligible student may try out for, or continue to practice with, an athletic group, but may not participate in any public, scheduled contests or events during this time. Any ineligible student may not attend meetings or help with planning activities for Yearbook, Student Government, or Drama. Students participating on athletic teams must also meet the requirements of the Michigan High School Athletic Association in order to be considered eligible.
- B) On Probation means that a student may participate in public contests or events, attend meetings, and help with planning activities, but will be reevaluated by the Eligibility Committee. If, in the opinion of the Eligibility Committee, his situation does not warrant reinstatement, the student could be declared ineligible for a time to be determined by the Eligibility Committee.
- C) Scheduled Contest refers to a contest against another school, not to the date of competition. For example, a baseball or softball double-header will be counted as two contests, because two separate games are played. Volleyball or wrestling invitationals consisting of three, four, or more contests are considered separate scheduled contests, because they are played against different opponents. Track, tennis, or golf invitationals are generally considered one contest since all schools compete simultaneously. If a contest is canceled, it is to be considered as having occurred as it relates to eligibility terms.

V) Academic Eligibility

A) Criteria

- 1) A student whose average in a class drops to failing is considered ineligible the following week and all subsequent week(s) until the average rises to a passing grade. The following stipulations also apply:
  - (a) The course must have had at least three graded assessments completed in the academic quarter.
  - (b) In the case that a student has been ineligible for one week due to failure and does not have opportunity to improve his grade in the subsequent week(s), the teacher shall recommend to the Eligibility Committee whether the participant be reinstated based upon such factors as requests for assistance, improved discipline in class, or other behaviors indicative of a desire to improve.
  - (c) Students receiving consultation from Learning Enrichment Services may be considered exempt from this criterion by the Learning Enrichment Services Director if he deems it appropriate.
- 2) A student who fails to complete or turn in an assignment is considered ineligible until the assignment is received by the teacher.

B) Monitoring and Enforcement

- 1) Teachers will provide the Athletic Director or the faculty advisor (in the case of non-athletic extracurricular activities) with a list of all students who are ineligible. The Athletic Director will inform each head coach of the ineligible players. The Coach or the faculty advisor will be responsible for informing each student of his ineligibility after the Athletic Director & coach or faculty advisor have been informed.
- 2) The period of ineligibility begins when the coach or faculty advisor informs the student of his ineligibility.

C) Appeal Process

- 1) Once per school year, the parent of an ineligible student will be permitted to request that the student be reinstated. The process for doing so is as follows:
  - (a) The parent must request a review by contacting the Learning Enrichment Services Director.
  - (b) The Learning Enrichment Services Director or his designee will discuss with the student's teachers the student's record regarding:
    - (i) performance relative to ability
    - (ii) attitude toward learning
    - (iii) completion of daily assignments
    - (iv) performance in class
    - (v) effort
- 2) The Eligibility Committee will make a determination regarding eligibility. If probation or reinstatement is granted, the terms shall include:
  - (a) the duration of probation or reinstatement.
  - (b) consequences for future violations if different than those detailed in this policy.
  - (c) in the case of probation, when the case will be reevaluated.
  - (d) any other terms deemed necessary by the particular case.

## VI) Citizenship Eligibility

### A) Introduction:

All students are expected to represent God, our school, and themselves in a worthy manner. As we seek to promote Biblical values and Christian behavior in our students, we require that each student's Christian character be reflected in his behavior if he is to participate in extracurricular activities. Athletes must act with respect toward others and exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the participant, teachers, coaches, teams or opponents, school or, above all, toward his Lord will not be tolerated and may result in a loss of eligibility. The participant's Christian character must be reflected in his behavior during the school year and also during the summer months. The rules below are in effect during the entire year, including the summer months.

### B) Criteria

- 1) Students must attend all of the classes for which they are scheduled on any given day in order to participate in any extracurricular activities on that day. The sole exceptions will be college visits, job shadows, and medical appointments documented by notice from the medical office in which the appointment took place.
- 2) A student will be declared ineligible for extracurricular activities in any school year in which he has reached 12 discipline points. The student will become permanently ineligible from extracurricular activities after reaching 12 points twice while in high school.
- 3) A student may not use or possess alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco.
- 4) A student may not be present at a gathering where alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco are being used by minors.
- 5) A student may not commit any illegal acts.
- 6) Any athlete who becomes involved in fighting or flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct will be removed from the contest in which he is involved and will be suspended for at least one additional contest. The seriousness of the altercation will be evaluated by the Eligibility Committee and could be subject to further penalty. Fighting and flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct includes an invitation to fight; following an opposing player during a disturbance; making menacing or taunting gestures or sounds; punching; and wrestling or tackling an opponent as part of an altercation. In addition, no player may leave the player bench or bench area to approach an altercation.

### C) Monitoring & Enforcement

- 1) Any person may bring to the attention of the Eligibility Committee a student who, in his judgment, is in violation of these standards. All violations of the citizenship policy will be brought to the attention of the Eligibility Committee. In case of emergency, the High School Principal may make a judgment subject to full committee approval.
- 2) If a coach or faculty sponsor is aware of any violation of the citizenship requirements, it is his responsibility to bring it to the Eligibility Committee.
- 3) The High School Principal will provide the Athletic Director or the faculty head of the extracurricular activity with a list of all students who are ineligible. The Athletic Director will inform each head coach

of the ineligible players. The High School Principal or his designee will be responsible for informing each student of his ineligibility after the Athletic Director & coach or faculty advisor have been informed.

- 4) The period of ineligibility begins when the High School Principal or his designee informs the student of his ineligibility.

D) Appeal Process

- 1) Parents of an ineligible student will be permitted to appeal a penalty by contacting the High School Principal.
- 2) The Eligibility Committee will review the case and make a determination regarding eligibility. In case of emergency, the High School Principal will have authority to invoke a temporary judgment. If probation or reinstatement is granted, the terms shall include:
  - (a) the duration of probation or reinstatement.
  - (b) consequences for future violations if different than those detailed in this policy.
  - (c) in the case of probation, when the case will be reevaluated.
  - (d) any other terms deemed necessary by the particular case.

VII) Additional Athletic Eligibility Provisions

- A) A student may be suspended from the team for violating the following rules.
  - 1) An athlete must travel with the team to and from away contests unless he has received permission from his coach to travel separately.
  - 2) An athlete must receive permission from his coach to be absent from a practice or contest.
- B) School-furnished uniforms may be worn only during athletic contests and must be returned in good condition immediately following the season. Financial penalty will be levied when uniforms are lost or altered (e.g. discolored or torn) as a result of non-contest use. School-furnished equipment may be used only during practices and contests.
- C) Each athlete is required to have a yearly physical administered after April 15 that will cover participation for the following school year. An MHSAA Medical Card must be completed by the physician and submitted to the school office prior to participation.
- D) Parents of athletes must complete the school's insurance form acknowledging that they possess a family insurance plan. Zion Christian School does not carry insurance to cover student athletic injuries.
- E) Each athlete's parent(s) shall complete an Emergency Medical Authorization Card giving permission for treatment by a physician or hospital when a parent is not available. The card will be kept with the head coach for availability at all practices and games. It is understood that the school will pursue medical treatment for an athlete only in case of an emergency. Parents will be contacted as soon as possible.
- F) The coach may assign additional rules and disciplinary actions for conduct other than those listed in this handbook. The Athletic Director must approve all additional stipulations before the first week of practice. The Athletic Director and High School Principal will be advised by the coach regarding violations of these stipulations and the coach must get approval from the High School Principal regarding the disposition of the disciplinary action.

- G) State rules demand that every athlete who is a member of a high school team may not, under any circumstances, be a member of any other team in that sport at the same time. This includes church recreation teams, scrimmages, or any other form of competition involving more than one team.
- H) Dropping a Sport
- 1) No athlete shall drop a sport in season and join another team in the same season unless the situation meets one or more of the following criteria:
    - (a) It occurs before the final cut.
    - (b) It occurs because of an injury.
    - (c) It occurs before scheduled competition.
    - (d) It is by mutual consent by coaches.
    - (e) It occurs because of unusual circumstances. Unusual circumstances do not include the following: personality clash with the coach, insufficient playing time, or cramped social life. The situation must be serious and must have substantial consequences for the persons involved.
  - 2) Procedure: An athlete wishing to drop a sport to join another sport must request permission from the Athletic Policy Committee. This committee will make the decision after conferring with the coaches involved. The athlete may also present his rationale to the Athletic Policy Committee, if appropriate. Dropping a sport may result in being penalized by missing contests in the next sport in which the student participates or by being denied the privilege of participating in the sport which was dropped in future years. Varsity letters will not be given for a season in which a sport is dropped.
- I) If an athlete wants to participate in two sports in one season, he must seek the permission of the head coach for each sport. If permission is granted from the head coaches, the request is then passed on to the Athletic Policy Committee for final approval.
- J) The athlete and parent must sign a statement that states they have read and understood all the eligibility rules of Zion Christian School and the sport specific handbook.