

## ***INTERPRETATIONS OF BOARD POLICY 5370 AND NDHSAA POLICY***

**For a student who violates the board policy 5370 or the NDHSAA eligibility rules prior to a season in which he/she will participate, how is the two week or two contest penalty applied?**

The six week or 18 week penalty must be served in all cases. If this expires prior to the first game/performance of the student's season, the student must complete a two week or two game/performance suspension. The student cannot compete/appear in the first game/public performance with the team/group. If the second game/public performance is scheduled within a two week period after the first event, the student cannot compete/performance in the second event. He/she then becomes eligible for all subsequent events. If no game/public performance is scheduled in the two week period following the first event, the student is eligible to participate in the second event.

**What if the student is in football and suspended during July?**

The six week suspension will expire by the middle of August so the student would not have missed any football. Therefore, the student will miss the first two games of the football season.

**What if the student has a violation in July and only plays basketball in the winter?**

The six week suspension will expire by the middle of August so the student would not have missed any basketball. Therefore, the student will miss the first two games or first two weeks of the season, whichever comes first.

**What if the student is suspended in July and plays basketball but goes out for cross country?**

The student will miss two events or two weeks of cross country and then be eligible to compete for the rest of the cross country season and for basketball. The student must complete the cross country season to re-establish eligibility for basketball.

**What if the violation occurs at the end of the year and the student is not in any extracurricular activity at the time but will participate in something the next school year?**

The two event or two week suspension will be carried over to the next school year and then be applied.

**What if a track athlete had a summer violation and was not in anything until track and then he/she had another violation during September of the same year?**

If the second violation occurs before the first infraction's two event or two week penalty is served, then the student would have four events or four weeks to serve before the next time he/she is eligible to participate. The six week and 18 week suspensions would still be applied beginning on the date the district is notified.

**What if the student is in band and has a summer suspension in July?**

The six week suspension will expire by the middle of August so the student would not have missed any public performance. Therefore, the student will miss the first two public performances or the first two weeks of band. Practices do not count. If the first event were the Potato Bowl Parade, the student would miss the parade and the next public performance, or starting with the first event, the next two weeks, whichever comes first.

**What if a student is in band and basketball?**

The student would miss the first two events or weeks of band, and, therefore, be eligible for the remainder of the year. He/she would not miss any basketball. Once a student has completed the suspension for one activity, he/she has fulfilled the suspension requirement.

**How will the two week or event penalty affect drama students?**

If it happens during a production, the student would be suspended from performing with that production. If it happens before any production, the student would have to miss the next production.

**What does the suspension cover?**

Students who are suspended cannot represent the school. They cannot travel out of the school with school clubs or activities. They cannot miss school, and they cannot perform in public with the activity or club. They can practice with the activity or club, attend meetings in the school, and participate in school level activities.

**If a student is a member of NHS, can they do food drives where they go door to door?**

No, he/she cannot go out in public representing the school during the suspension.

**Seasons****What is defined as a season?**

- For athletics, it is the beginning date of practice to the day of the banquet.
- For drama, it is from the beginning of practice to the final strike date.
- For speech and debate, it is during the defined seasons.
- For music, DECA, student council, NHS, etc., it is the school year.

**Awards**

If a student is suspended during the season, he/she will not receive a letter or any end of the season awards. This would include such honors as most valuable player, defensive player of the year, John Philip Sousa Award, etc.

Awards that are given by outside groups are allowed such as all state, starring at state in music, all EDC, etc. These are awards chosen by other groups which the school does not control.

If the suspension occurs before the season, the student is eligible to receive awards and letters.

**What if the suspension occurs between the state tournament and the banquet?**

The season does not end until the banquet; therefore, the student is not eligible for awards at the banquet.

**Can the student attend the banquet?**

Yes, he/she can attend, but he/she will not receive awards or letters or be able to speak or represent the team at the banquet.

## **Leadership**

### **What are considered leadership positions?**

Officers of clubs, captains of teams, and royalty are all examples of leadership positions.

### **Can a student run for an office in the student council during the time he/she is suspended if the suspension will be completed by the next year?**

No, any activity that requires self promotion such as an election would be considered a public performance or appearance and, therefore, falls within the guidelines of the one year suspension from any leadership type role.

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