

## **NDHSAA ELIGIBILITY RULES INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION**

The following paragraphs provide an interpretation of the North Dakota High School Activity Association rules for participation in cocurricular programs at Central High School. Please take the time to review these important rules.

**Section V of Article XIV** of the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) policies states: A student shall be doing passing work in **at least twenty (20) hours per week**, the passing grade to be computed from the opening of the semester and to relate to such subjects only as severally and individually shall have a credit value of one-half unit per semester.

*Students must be passing at least **twenty (20) hours per week in a given quarter**. This includes all courses with the exception of S/U graded courses. Courses that are graded with S/U include office, library, and teacher aides, tutorial classes, and VRE. Therefore, if a student is receiving a passing grade in at least four (4) classes that meet daily, excluding S/U graded classes, he/she would be eligible. If he/she is not passing at least four (4) classes or has incomplete grades (this includes detention time), he/she is ineligible.*

**Section VIII of Article XIV** of the NDHSAA policies states: After attending the first semester of the ninth grade, he/she shall have credit on the school records in the unit per year or half unit per semester subjects of at least four (4) half units earned and recorded at the close of the last semester in which he/she was enrolled as a student, thirty days or more of attendance or participation in interscholastic competition within any shorter period being sufficient to constitute enrollment in any semester. Failure to acquire four half units at the end of a semester will make him/her **ineligible for a period of four (4) weeks** the following semester.

***All ninth grade students** entering Central High School **will be eligible** for fall activities. **At the end of the first quarter**, grades will be checked, and if the student is not passing twenty (20) credit hours, he/she will become ineligible for a period of four (4) weeks.*

*Eligibility is determined after each quarter at Central High School. This means that grades will be checked at the end of each quarter. Students who are ineligible because they are not passing twenty (20) hours per week will not be allowed to participate for four (4) weeks. After the four-week period of time, a student must provide his/her associate principal with a progress report. If the student is passing twenty (20) hours of course work, he/she will become eligible. If he/she is still ineligible, he/she must submit a new progress report after a period of one week. The student will remain ineligible for subsequent periods of one week at a time until he/she is passing twenty (20) hours of course work. If ineligible due to accumulated detention hours or incomplete work, the student will remain ineligible until all detention hours have been served or the work has been completed. There is no waiting period of four (4) weeks for detention or grades of incomplete.*

**Section XII of Article XIV** of the NDHSAA policies states: The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or any controlled substance as defined by North Dakota law is prohibited. The following sanctions will apply to a student who is in violation of School Board Policy 5370 and the NDHSAA policies regarding academic and athletic eligibility.

### Currently Participating

Penalty shall be six weeks for first offense and 18 weeks for second offense, as indicated by the North Dakota High School Activities Association Section XII bylaws. Suspension will start at the time the school is notified of the violation.

### Non-Participating

Penalty shall be six weeks for first offense, 18 weeks for second offense, and third offense student will be suspended for the remainder of the school year. Suspension will start at the time the school is notified of the violation. There will also be a two week or two contest suspension, whichever comes first. The two week or two contest suspension starts from the first authorized date of competition for the activity he/she is participating in. To satisfy the two week or two contest suspension, the student must remain with the program in which the suspension was served through the completion of the season.

### Leadership Role

Any participant who has a violation will not be eligible for a leadership role for a period of twelve calendar months from the date the school is notified of the violation.

### Recognition – Awards

Any student who has a violation that occurs during the season or prior to the banquet will not be awarded a letter or receive any other recognition/awards for that activity.

A suspension from representing the school means that a student can practice with extracurricular teams while participating in clubs and the like within the school but may not participate in any public events during the suspension. In addition, the student is not eligible to travel with the team or group out of town during the time of the suspension.

The following outlines responsibilities of school officials to ensure that these policies are being followed:

1. **Suspensions** - Students who are suspended from an activity due to NDHSAA violations will be notified by the principal. A letter will be sent to the parents and the coach or advisor informing them of the student's suspension. The suspension time will be outlined in the letter.
2. **Ineligibility** - After each quarter, the records secretary will prepare a list of students who are ineligible. The associate principals will review the list and inform students who are deemed to be ineligible due to grades or detention hours. The coach or advisor will be notified by the associate principal. It is also the responsibility of the coaches and advisors to check the eligibility list to make certain that all students participating in contests or events are eligible to do so.

It is recommended that coaches and advisors have their students complete a periodic progress report.