

Extra Curricular Participation Policy

Participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities is a privilege. This policy applies to all South Central students in grades 6-12 who wish to participate in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities that are listed below:

Athletics: Volleyball, Football, Cross Country, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Track and Field, Boys Golf, Dance Team (Rockettes), and Cheerleading, and any other participants in IHSAA recognized sports. (Participants include, but are not limited to, athletes, managers, and other athletic personnel.)

Co-Curricular Clubs: Extra-Curricular Music Groups (Jazz Band, Swing Choir, etc.), Intramurals, Class Officers, Student Senate, National Honor Society, FHA, FFA, Health Careers, German Club, Spanish Club, Drama Club (Including Drama Productions), Yearbook Club.

Pre-Participation Requirements for Athletes: Student Athletes (including Intramurals participants) must have the following documents on file in the athletics office prior to participation in any athletics activity:

1. I.H.S.A.A. Physical Pre-Participation Athletic Form (dated on or after April 1) and a Consent, Acknowledgement and Release/Hold Harmless Certificate.
2. Signed Consent for South Central Extra Curricular Participation Policy (Student and Parent)
3. Signed Concussion Acknowledgement and Signature Form (Student and Parent)
4. Signed Consent for Substance Abuse Testing Policy (Student and Parent).

South Central High School is a member of the Indiana High School Athletic Association. All student-athletes will be held to the standards and rules set forth by that association.

A. Expectations for Extra-Curricular Participants

A student who represents South Central High School must exhibit at all times the highest standard of personal behavior. When the student becomes an athlete or extra-curricular participant, he/she takes on a special responsibility for exemplary conduct because there will be times when he/she will be representing the high school to other communities as well as his/her own. Therefore, he/she should conscientiously fulfill all the rules established for the activity in which he/she is participating and avoid:

1. Possession, transmission, or use of alcoholic beverages, all forms of tobacco, or illegal drugs at any time.
2. Violating any school rules as outlined in the student handbook.
3. Being found guilty of violating city, state, or federal codes/laws.
4. Acting in a manner that brings embarrassment or shame to yourself and/or your school, or that negatively impacts the reputation of yourself or your school. Examples of such conduct include any illegal activity; any non-illegal activity that is lewd, vulgar, obscene, indecent, or that portrays sexual conduct done in a manner whereby the community learns of such activity; or any activity that degrades, demeans, or disparages any coach, activity sponsor, school official or student.
5. Engaging in any activity that is in violation of the hazing policy.

*These policies are in effect year-round.

B. Due Process:

In order to provide due process in extra-curricular activities, all of the following procedures must be adhered to:

1. The Extra Curricular Participation Policy will be made available to students and parents prior to participating in extra-curricular activities. Any additional rules for each individual sport or club activity will be discussed with participants at the beginning of that sport season or club activity and distributed to the participants.
2. Students and parents must certify that they have read and understand the rules.
3. When a violation of the rules is indicated, the coach, sponsor, or member of school administration shall investigate the situation and gather the facts.
4. If there is an apparent violation of the rules, the coach or a member of school administration should notify the student of the charges and obtain a statement from the participant.

C. Disciplinary Action To Be Taken:

Each violation will be handled on a case by case basis. Due Process for extra-curricular activities will be followed and if a suspension is warranted, the Principal and the Athletic Director will determine the extent of the suspension:

Violation of Policy	First Violation	Second Violation	Third Violation
Major Bus Incident	20% of Season (Athletes) 25 Calendar Days (Clubs)	50% of Season 63 Calendar Days (Clubs)	One Year
Tobacco	20% of Season (Athletes) 25 Calendar Days (Clubs)	33% of Season 35 Calendar Days	One Year
Alcohol / Drugs	50% of Season (Athletes) 63 Calendar Days (Clubs)	One Year	Career
Misdemeanor	20%-50% 25-63 Calendar Days (Clubs)	One Year	Career
Felony	50% of Season to Career (Athletes) 63 Calendar Days to Career (Clubs)	One Year to Career	Career
Vandalism	Admin. Decision plus restitution	20% of Season Plus Restitution	50% of Season Plus Restitution

When deemed appropriate by the administration, South Central athletes may be given a one-time option to reduce disciplinary action by 50% by attending and completing an appropriate class and/or counseling which must be approved by the Athletic Director and Principal.

For student-athletes- If the violation of the Extra Curricular Participation Policy occurred “out-of-season”, the suspension will be served in the next season in which the student participates. For returning athletes, a suspension will be enforced during or after a sport season that the athlete had previously participated in. (Example: An athlete that only participated in basketball as a sophomore commits a violation in the spring after basketball season has ended, the suspension will not be served until the next basketball season or the next sport the athlete chooses to participate in after the next basketball season.) If a student is unable to serve entire suspension during a contest season, the remainder of the suspension will be served in the next contest season in which the student participates.

For club participants, Summer break, Spring Break, and Winter Break will not be counted as part of suspension days prior to reinstatement.

*If a student-athlete is unable to serve entire suspension during a contest season, the remainder of the suspension will be served in the next contest season in which the student participates.

**The contest season is defined as the total number of regular season games scheduled plus one sectional game if the student is a varsity athlete.

1. Students arrested for violating a law may be suspended from extra-curricular participation for any incident that is not becoming of a South Central student.

2. Participants will be suspended if in violation a second time while on probation.

The coach or sponsor reserves the right to discipline any athlete under his direct supervision for any incident that is not becoming of a South Central athlete.

D. Hazing Policy

The National Federation of High Schools and South Central School Corporation defines hazing as “any act or ceremony which creates the risk of harm to the student or to any other party and that is committed as a form of initiation into a particular club or activity.” Hazing includes, but is not limited to, activities that involve a risk of physical harm, whipping, branding, ingesting vile substances, sleep deprivation, over-exposure to heat or cold, nudity or restraint. Hazing could also include actions of simulations of a sexual nature, activities that intentionally subject a student to embarrassment or shame, or activities that create a hostile, abusive, or intimidating environment.

Hazing is NOT a harmless rite of initiation and plays no role in team building or bonding. Hazing, therefore, cannot and will not be permitted in the extra-curricular programs at South Central Schools. This means that HAZING will not be tolerated in the fields or courts, in the locker rooms, on the bus, or at any other activity in which extra-curricular participants represent South Central High School. The elimination of HAZING from our extra-curricular programs will greatly enhance South Central.

General Policy Statements Regarding Hazing

A. No student, teacher, coach, administrator, volunteer, or other employee of the corporation shall permit, condone or tolerate hazing.

B. No student, teacher, coach administrator, volunteer, or other employee of the corporation shall plan, direct, encourage, aid or engage in hazing.

C. The corporation strictly prohibits students from engaging individually or collectively in any form of hazing or related initiation activity on school property, in connection with any school activity or involving any person associated with the school, regardless of where it occurs.

D. Consistent with the corporation’s Student Code of Conduct, any student who participates in hazing or related initiation activity will face immediate disciplinary action under the harassment policy, up to and including suspension, expulsion, and loss of the privilege of participation in extracurricular activities.

E. Students who participate in severe acts of hazing may also be referred to appropriate law enforcement authorities and may face subsequent prosecution under IC 34-30-2-150 (Indiana Hazing Law)

F. Consent is no defense to a charge of hazing. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions or penalties contained herein.

G. This policy applies to behavior that occurs on or off school property, and during, before and after school hours.

E. Athletic Awards:

A Letter Jacket may be purchased by an athlete after earning a major letter. The requirements for the major award will be set by the coach of each sport. Athletes will be made aware of these requirements at the beginning of each sport season.

The following awards are provided by the Athletics Department:

*Athletic Letter (Chenille SC): Awarded to student athletes upon receipt of their first major letter

*Chevron: Awarded to student athletes upon receipt of a major letter for that respective school year. Only one chevron will be awarded to each athlete per school year.

*Participation Pins: Awarded to athletes upon completion of their first year of competition in high school for each sport. Only one pin will be awarded per athlete per sport during their high school career.

*Triple Crown Awards: Awarded to athletes in grades 9-12 who participate in 3 or more sports during the school year. Award is presented at Spring Sports Banquet.

*Outstanding Senior Athlete Award: One annual recipient is based on total athletic points in a high school career. Cheerleader points, manager points, batgirl and Rockettes DO NOT count toward the outstanding athlete award. The points must be earned in athletic competition. A major counts 3 points and a minor counts two points. The award will be presented at the Senior Awards Night in the Spring.

1. Transfer students will be given credit for verified athletic accomplishments at their previous school.
2. An athlete must be present at the Athletic Banquet which honors his/her sport. The banquet is to honor the athletes and it is their obligation to be in attendance. If for a valid reason, an athlete cannot attend, he or she must be excused by the coach or the Athletic Director in advance of the banquet. If an athlete is not in attendance, awards to be presented will be forfeited.

The individual sport awards will be determined by the coach and will be approved by the athletic department.

The following traditional awards will be given and the recipients' names will be permanently inscribed on a plaque to be displayed at South Central School:

Joseph E. Hagenow Mental Attitude Award - Football

Stanley Fair Batting Award - Baseball

Mary Conner Award - Softball

Park Sanders Mental Attitude Award - Boys' Basketball

Kevin Yagelski Mental Attitude Award - Baseball

Triple-Crown Award - All Sports

F. Physical Examinations for Athletes and Intramural Participants:

Students wishing to participate in athletics in any IHSAA sanctioned sport must undergo a physical examination by a doctor holding a limited license to practice medicine. The physical examination form must be completed on the IHSAA form and be signed by the physician, parent and student-athlete. The IHSAA physical examination form is good from April 1 of each year and will be in effect for all until the first day of practice for Fall Sports the following year. Students will not be allowed to participate in any organized school athletic function, including pre-season conditioning and open gym until a physical form is on file in the athletic office.

G. Pre-Season Meetings

All athletes and parents are required to attend a pre-season meeting with the coaching staff of that sport. The meeting shall be held before the first contest. Parents will be informed of all rules for their sport as well as the rules of South Central and the IHSAA.

H. Extra-Curricular Attendance Policy:

Students must be in school for every period during the day to participate in an extra-curricular event that evening. The exceptions are: scheduled medical appointments, approved field trips, off-campus school activities, or pre-arranged absences approved by the Athletic Director or Principal. *An athlete who is unable to participate in physical education due to illness or injury will not participate in athletics.*

I. High School Academic Eligibility Requirements:

To be eligible for extra-curricular activities scholastically, students must have received passing grades and earned credit at the end of their last grading period in school in at least 5 classes (or 70%) of the maximum number of full credit subjects that a student can take and must be enrolled in at least 70% of the maximum number of full credit subjects that a student can take (5 classes). Semester grades take precedence over 9-week grades.

J. Age- IHSAA Restrictions

A student who is or shall be twenty (20) years of age prior to or on the scheduled date of the IHSAA state championship in his/her sport shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for that entire sports season.

K. Athletic Transfers

Parents of students who wish to participate in athletics at South Central High School, but did not attend South Central during their intended sports season during the previous year of high school, are required to complete an IHSAA Athletic Transfer Form. The student and parent must see the Athletic Director or Principal to obtain this form. Students do not become eligible to participate in contests until both schools and the IHSAA have approved the transfer. Students who transfer without a corresponding change of address may be granted "*Limited Eligibility*" to compete below varsity levels for 365 days.

L. Changing Sports

If an athlete is cut from a team, they may join another team or program in that sport season. An athlete cannot quit one sport to join another until the effected team is no longer competing. Example: An athlete cannot quit football to tryout for basketball until football season is completed. If an athlete is removed from a team for any reason (i.e. quitting, rule violation, grades, etc.) that athlete will not be allowed to participate in any practice, conditioning program or weight room activity **until completion of competition** for the team from which the athlete was removed.

M. Multiple Sport/Activity Athletes

South Central School recognizes that every student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities. Students should be cautious however about participating in too many activities. Conversely, students are also cautioned to refrain from "specializing" in one activity thus denying them a well-rounded scholastic experience. Every effort has been made by the administration to reduce the number of conflicts between athletics and other extracurricular pursuits. If a conflict does arise, the student is encouraged to communicate with all coaches/sponsors involved. If the conflict persists, the student and/or parent may contact the athletic director for assistance. Other guidelines are as follows:

1. Students will split practice time equitably between extra-curricular activities. Coaches and sponsors will work together with the athlete to create a practice schedule for the participant.

2. If the student has a game/meet, he/she will not practice for the other sport on that night. **EXCEPTION:** Cheerleaders and Rockettes will be expected to practice their respective sport on nights they will be performing.

3. If the student has two games on one night, Varsity contests over-ride Junior Varsity contests. Conference events take precedence over non-conference events. If both events are conference events or if both events are non-conference events, the decision will be made by the student athlete.

N. Equipment

All athletes are responsible for the care and return of equipment owned by the school. Lost equipment must be replaced at a fair market value. All equipment owned by the school will be worn in a manner determined by the coaching staff of each of the respective sports.

O. Transportation

All student-athletes are expected to ride the bus to and from all athletic contests. Situations may arise that require student-athletes to ride with parents. Students may be excused from the extra-curricular bus to ride with A PARENT OR GUARDIAN ONLY if a written note is provided to the coach. Student-athletes will not be excused to ride with anyone other than a parent or guardian unless arrangements are made with the Athletic Director in advance.

P. Fees and Financial Assistance

The South Central Athletics Department does not charge fees to participate. However, fees may be assessed for the purchase of items (shoes, shirts, etc.) that become property of the athletes. Financial assistance will be provided by the athletic department for families that need assistance. All correspondence regarding assistance should be directed to the athletic director and will remain confidential.

H. Junior High Athletics:

1. Academic Eligibility Requirements:

- a.** To be academically eligible for participation in junior high athletics, the student must receive no more than one failure in any grading period (Failure = F). If a student receives a failing grade in any nine week grading period, he must receive no failures the following grading period. Two consecutive failures (not necessarily in the same class) will make the athlete ineligible for participation until all failures have been removed.
- b.** Grade certification will be at the end of each nine-week grading period. Semester averages take precedence over nine-week grades. Nine-week rotation classes are not averaged.
- c.** If a student is academically ineligible at the beginning of a nine-week grading period, he/she may become eligible at progress report time provided he/she has received no F's on his/her progress reports.

2. Participation:

- a.** All junior high students may participate provided they meet the academic requirements.
- b.** Boys will participate on boys' teams and girls on girls' teams. Girls will be eligible to participate on a boys' team only if the girls do not have a team in that sport.
- c.** Every athlete (**11**) dressed for a contest shall participate in that contest. Exceptions may be made if the student is in violation of team rules. Limits may be set on the number of athletes that dress for each contest.
- d.** The coach will use his/her best judgment in determining playing time so that all athletes will get as much playing time as possible while maintaining a competitive balance.

3. The Athletic Director and Principal will have the final word on any interpretation of these athletic policies.