



High School Performing Arts and Athletics Participation Protocols

High school students are afforded many opportunities to participate in after-school activities that serve as significant pathways to intellectual, physical, and social growth. Often students discover they have multiple interests and talents and participation in these activities sometimes coincide. Policy 8090: Non-School-Hour Curricular Programs was created and recently revised to better deal with the challenges that sometimes occur when students participate in several activities. The following protocols are offered as best practices to accommodate student participation in both a performing arts activity and an athletic activity. Before a student is required to choose between an athletic practice or contest and a performing arts rehearsal or performance, the following considerations should be taken into account.

Student Responsibilities:

- Although students are encouraged to participate in various after-school activities, they should evaluate whether their choices are realistic. Students should consult their parents/guardians, teachers, and coaches before making a commitment to participate in groups that have conflicting schedules.
- Prior to the athletic season and to any arts performances, students should provide both schedules of their activities to their coach(es) and performance arts teacher(s) as far in advance as possible.

Educator Responsibilities:

- The coach and teacher/sponsor must communicate to arrive at a mutual agreement that provides a clear course of action/procedure for student participation in both activities.
 - Leave early or arrive late to an activity
 - Split practice times
- Games and performances take precedence over practices and rehearsals – students would be permitted to miss a practice or rehearsal in order to participate in a contest or performance *without penalty*.
- Schedule changes should be considered when possible.
 - Change concert / game times
 - Switch JV & Varsity game times
 - Move Game Date

Per Policy 8090, conflicts that cannot be resolved fall under Required Activities and Voluntary Activities.

- Required Activities – “Those non-school-hour activities mandated by a curricular program.” The after-school curricular activity takes precedence over the extra-curricular activity. The student *cannot be penalized* for missing an extra-curricular activity while attending an after-school curricular activity.
- Voluntary Activities – “Those non-school-hour activities that are scheduled and for which student participation is not required.” The student must make a choice, and is free to make that choice *without penalty or pressure*.

Ultimately, if an acceptable resolution cannot be reached, all parties must comply with Policy 8090 where it states:

“If no resolution can be found, the required non-school-hour curricular activity takes precedence over the extracurricular activity.”