

## Extra-Curricular Eligibility: Academic Requirements

Canton High School's academic eligibility standards are designed to ensure that a student is fully enrolled in school and actively engaged in his/her academic life on a consistent basis throughout the school year. These standards apply to all extra-curricular activities at CHS including but not limited to: athletics, drama, band, and clubs.

1. A student cannot participate in Canton High School extra-curricular activities unless that student is enrolled in at least 33 periods of academic courses in a 42 period cycle. Students should be aware that they can never carry more than 9 study halls at any time.
2. Academic eligibility of all students shall be considered as official only on the published date when report cards for that marking period are to be issued.
3. Incomplete grades count as failing until such time as the grade has been officially completed. In some cases, incomplete grades may be viewed as passing. These cases must be approved by the Athletic Director/Principal.
4. Students who are not academically eligible may not participate with the team, band, or other activity in any way.

### Eligibility during 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> marking period

1. A student is not eligible to participate in Canton High School extra-curricular activities if he/she receives more than one failing grade (or the equivalent) in major academic classes. Major academic classes are defined as classes that meet 6 days out of 7 days in the cycle. A minor class is the equivalent of half of a major class. Minor classes are defined as classes that meet 3 out of 7 days in the cycle.

#### *Examples:*

*All examples assume a student meets the 33 period minimum explained above.*

***Example #1-** A student who fails one Major class **OR** one or two Minor classes would still be **ELIGIBLE**.*

***Example #2-** A student who fails one Major class **AND** one Minor class would be **INELIGIBLE**.*

***Example #3-** A student who fails three Minor classes would be **INELIGIBLE**.*

5. Eligibility is based on grades secured during the marking period preceding the activity (e.g.- 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter grades will determine a student's eligibility during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.)

### Eligibility during 1<sup>st</sup> marking period

1. Final Course grades from the previous academic year will be used to determine eligibility during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of a year. This is for students entering grades 10-12 or students repeating 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. A student's final grades for the previous academic year, must meet the following requirements to make him/her eligible for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter athletic participation. The student must earn passing year-long grades in courses totaling at least 28 credits.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS OF CANTON HIGH SCHOOL ARE FOR ALL  
STUDENTS REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, OR GRADE.**

**RULES, REGULATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT  
FOR CHS ATHLETES**

Canton High School is an active member of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (henceforth referred to as the MIAA) and has agreed to conform to all of its rules and regulations governing high school athletics. Canton High School is also an active member of the Hockomock League and adheres to the constitution and by-laws of that League. Student-athletes should be aware of the rules and regulations of the above mentioned organizations. MIAA rules can be found at [www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net).

**The following Canton High School Athletic rules, regulations and expectations of conduct are also to be adhered to by all interscholastic team members:**

1. Any athlete who, in the opinion of his/her coach, the Athletic Director or the Principal, has acted in a way which violates the spirit of sportsmanship, teamwork, or the positive nature of competition, may be suspended or dismissed from the team. This is not limited to on field behavior.
2. Attendance is mandatory at both practices and games. All absences from practices or contests must be approved *in advance* by the Head Coach. Unexcused absences may result in a game/contest suspension. A second unexcused absence in a season may result in further suspension or dismissal from the team. Missing a practice because of detention/suspension is not an excused absence.
3. Canton High School adheres to the MIAA's Good Citizen Rule which states as follows, "Student athletes may not represent their school if they are on in-house or out-of-house disciplinary suspension. A suspended student is ineligible for practice or competition for at least the number of days (or partial days) equal to the number of days of the suspension." Canton High School's policy is that a day must be served whether there was practice or a game on the day of the suspension. If no team practice or game was scheduled on the day of the suspension, the student will serve their "Good Citizen" athletic suspension on the day of the next practice or game.
3. Family vacations are not excused absences, and we ask that every effort be made by families not to schedule such vacations during school sports season. While it is understood that sometimes families have little choice as to when they are able to travel as a unit, students who miss games or practices due to family vacation will serve a minimum of a game suspension for each game missed. Students who miss practices or games for this purpose are not guaranteed playing time from that point on.
4. No athlete may participate in any way with his/her team (this includes attending practice/game) on any day in which he/she is absent from school. A student who is not in

attendance for AT LEAST the final five periods of the day, is not eligible to participate on that day. Students who leave school during the day and who do not return are also not eligible that day. Game forfeitures and/ or suspensions may result from violation of this attendance policy.

**NOTE:** Student-athletes are reminded that Canton High School is an academic institution and that a full day of classes is expected of all students. If it is believed that student-athletes are abusing the “Final Five Period Rule,” coaches and administrators may deem them ineligible.

**EXCEPTION:** Permission to participate on these days may be granted by the AD/Principal in some excused cases (funeral, verified college visit, court obligations, etc) when requested and granted *in advance*.

5. Courtesy and obedience must be shown to all staff members and officials. Insubordination or insolence will not be tolerated. Any such violations shall result in suspension or dismissal, depending on the seriousness of the violation.
6. On athletic bus trips, all team members must go and return on the team bus, unless granted permission by the coach. In order for the coach to grant permission, 1. a permission note signed by the parent or guardian or an email from the parent or guardian, must be given to the AD/principal *before* the trip. 2. the student may only go or return with his/her parent or guardian.
7. Destruction or vandalism of personal, athletic, or school property will result in suspension or dismissal from the team, depending on the severity of the act.
8. Student-Athletes are responsible for all equipment or uniforms issued to them. Student-Athletes who lose or damage equipment will be required to pay replacement costs for comparable equipment. Student-Athletes who do not return equipment or pay replacement costs lose eligibility to play any other sports.
9. Appearance while representing the school shall at all time be reasonable and neat. Coaches may refuse to take a player to an away game if his/her appearance would discredit the school.
10. Student-Athletes are expected to represent their teams and school in a positive, classy manner when attending other school contests as spectators. Any athlete whose actions as a spectator are embarrassing to his/her team or offensive, may be suspended or dismissed from his/her team.
11. Hazing is illegal and will not be tolerated in any form. (See complete Hazing policy on in the following pages.)

12. No student-athlete will be allowed to practice or play unless the athletic office has, on file, a copy of a recent physical exam report. (For purposes of this rule, the copy on file will expire 13 months from the date of the physical exam.)
13. Each student-athlete is required to have on file in the athletic office a participation permission slip signed by his/her parent or guardian. This is included in the Online Registration process found at the CHS Athletics Website.
14. Student-Athletes should report all injuries to their coaches and the athletic trainer. No player may continue or resume playing without the trainer's consent.
15. If a player visits a doctor for an injury sustained through participation in Canton High School athletics, that athlete will not be allowed to resume participation without a note from a physician clearing him/her to play. Additional protocols must be followed when dealing with head injuries.
16. The Head Coach may make decisions for dismissal or extended suspensions from a sport for infractions of the athletic code. Appeals of said dismissals or suspensions may be made to the athletic director.
17. Parents/guardians are responsible for picking up their children at the conclusion of games and practices. The supervisory responsibilities of team coaches within the town of Canton conclude at the end of practices or games. For out-of-town competitions, the supervisory responsibilities of coaches conclude once the team has returned to CHS.
18. While transportation is provided to CHS activities outside of Canton, it is the responsibility of the family of the student-athlete to provide transportation to and from events that occur within Canton.
19. Families of student-athletes who are injured while participating in Canton High School athletics must use their own health insurance to cover any medical bills. Certain bills that are not covered by personal health insurance may be covered under a school plan. For claim information, see the Athletic Director or call Lefebvre Insurance Agency at (508)-384-0101.
20. All students are reminded that athletic practices/contests are extensions of the school day. All school rules apply as well.

## **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT DRUG, ALCOHOL and TOBACCO ABUSE POLICY**

**The use, possession, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances is forbidden by state law. It is also obvious that use of such chemicals is a detriment to the health and performance of student-athletes. Therefore, Canton High School's Athletic Department takes the issue of chemical use and abuse very seriously.**

From the earliest fall practice date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product; marijuana, steroids; or any controlled substance.\* This policy includes products such as "NA or near beer". It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor.

If a student in violation of this rule is unable to participate in interscholastic sports due to injury or academics, the penalty will not take effect until that student is able to participate again.

**FIRST VIOLATION:** When the Principal confirms, following the opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. All fractional parts of an event will be dropped when calculating 25% of the season. A student who becomes enrolled and participates fully, in a counseling program or substance abuse class approved by the school, may be allowed to continue to practice with his/her team while serving the game suspension.

If this student is a captain/captain-elect of another sport, that position will be lost.

**SECOND VIOLATION in a school year:** When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a second violation has occurred in a single school year, a ten school-month ban from all CHS athletic teams will be imposed. No participation of any type, including attending games as a spectator, will be allowed during this ban.

If the student becomes a participant in a rehabilitation program approved in advance by the Principal, the student may be certified for reinstatement to activities after a minimum of five months. Students choosing this option may not participate in any way with an athletic team during the 5-month period. Note- All MIAA minimums for a 2<sup>nd</sup> violation must be met as well.

**Both the First Violation and Second Violation periods of suspensions may carry over to the following season or academic school year.**

\* It is important for both students and parents to be aware of the dangers associated with posting photos on social media. Several times in recent years CHS student-athletes have served athletic suspensions for photos which show students violating the substance abuse policy. Students and parents need to be aware that these sites are only semi-private and can lead to serious problems if not maintained in a respectful manner.