

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

Suspension

An authorized member of the administrative staff may suspend a student from school privileges or from transportation services when the student's conduct on school grounds or at a school sponsored activity endangers persons or property or is seriously disruptive of the educational process, or whose conduct violates a publicized policy of the Board of Education. A student may also be suspended from school privileges when the student's conduct off school grounds is violative of Board policy and is seriously disruptive of the educational process.

In making a determination as to whether conduct is "seriously disruptive of the educational process," the administration, Board of Education or impartial hearing board may consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to; (1) whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school; (2) whether other students from the school were involved or whether there was any gang involvement; (3) whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence or the unlawful use of a weapon as defined in Section 29-38 and whether any injuries occurred, and (4) whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol.

For any one incident a student shall not be suspended for more than ten (10) consecutive school days. No student shall be suspended more than ten (10) times or a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, unless the student is granted a formal hearing as specified in C.G.S. 4-176e -- 4-180a. (Effective July 1, 2008: Suspensions shall be in-school suspensions unless the administration determines that the student being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the student shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension.)

Students may not be suspended without an informal hearing before the Building Principal or the Principal's designee unless the Principal determines that an emergency situation exists.

A suspended student must be given an opportunity to complete any classwork, including examinations, which were missed during the suspension.

For any student who is suspended for the first time and who has never been expelled, the school administration may shorten the length of or waive the suspension period if the student successfully completes an administration-specified program and meets any other administration-required conditions. Such program shall be at no expense to the student or his/her parents/guardians.

At the discretion of the Principal, in-school suspensions (not to exceed five consecutive days) (ten days effective July 1, 2008) may be given when deemed appropriate no more than fifteen (15) times or a total of fifty days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (continued)

If it is necessary to suspend a student before an informal hearing is held, such hearing shall be held as soon after the suspension as possible.

A suspension shall not extend past the end of the school year.

A suspension shall be included in the student's record.

Expulsion

The Board of Education may expel any student whose conduct on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity endangers persons or property or is seriously disruptive of the educational process, or violates a published policy of the Board, provided that a formal hearing is held under C.G.S. 4-176e -- 4-180a. The Board shall expel any student found to be in possession of a dangerous weapon in school, on school transportation, on school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity. Consideration may also be given to expelling a student whose conduct off school grounds is seriously disruptive of the educational process and is violative of a publicized policy of the Board.

1. Grounds for expulsion if occurring on school property, school transportation vehicles, or at any school-sponsored activity shall include, but not be limited to:
 - A. Willfully striking or assaulting a student or any member of the school staff.
 - B. Theft.
 - C. The use of obscene or profane language or gestures to a member of the school staff.
 - D. Deliberate refusal to obey a member of the school staff.
 - E. A walkout from or a sit-in within a classroom or school building or class.
 - F. Blackmailing, harassing, threatening or intimidating school staff or another student.
 - G. Personal possession of a firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument, or martial arts weapon, as defined in Section 53a-3, such as a pistol, knife, blackjack, etc.
 - H. Unauthorized possession, distribution, selling or consumption of dangerous drugs, narcotics or alcoholic beverages (Dangerous drugs or narcotics shall mean any controlled drug as defined in C.G.S. 21a-240).
 - I. Willful destruction of school property or property of staff members or other students.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

Expulsion (continued)

- J. Creating a disturbance in the classroom.
 - K. Any violation of school policies or rules.
2. Grounds for expulsion if occurring off of school property or outside of school activities:
 - A. Conduct leading to a Class A misdemeanor or felony arrest if that conduct is determined to pose a danger to the student himself/herself, other students, school employees or school property.
 - B. Adjudication as a delinquent or a youthful offender as the result of a felony if the conduct leading to the adjudication is determined to pose a danger to the student himself/herself, other students, school employees or school property.
 - C. Knowingly possessing a firearm or deadly weapon. A firearm as defined by C.G.S. 53a-3 includes any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, or other weapon whether loaded or unloaded from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, a gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon or metal knuckles.
 - D. Knowingly possessing, or using a dangerous instrument, or martial arts weapon, article or substance, which, under the circumstances in which it is used or attempted or threatened to be used is capable of causing death or serious physical injury and includes a vehicle as defined in C.G.S. 53a-3.
 - E. Offering for sale or distribution a controlled substance as defined in Section 21a-240(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes.
 3. A special education student's disability shall be considered before making a decision to expel. An IEP team (PPT) meeting must be held for any suspension beyond 10 cumulative days in a school year which constitute a pattern or change of placement. The meeting shall determine whether the student's behavior or actions are violative of Board of Education standards set forth in policy which govern suspension and expulsion and are the result of the student's disability.
 4. If a student is found to have possessed a firearm, dangerous instrument, deadly weapon or martial arts weapon on school property or at any school-sponsored activity or to have possessed off school property a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921 or used off school property, a deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon in the commission of a crime, or on or off school property offered for sale or distribution a dangerous drug, he/she must be expelled for one calendar year. The Board may modify the expulsion period on a case-by-case basis.

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Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

Expulsion (continued)

5. Any student under sixteen who is expelled shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity during the period of expulsion according to the terms of the law. Any student between the ages of sixteen and eighteen, not previously expelled and who wishes to continue his/her education shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity if he/she complies with conditions established by the Board, unless such student has been expelled for conduct endangering persons which included (1) carrying a dangerous instrument or weapon including a martial arts weapon, or introducing a dangerous instrument or weapon, including a martial arts weapon on to school property or possession of a dangerous instrument or weapon including a martial arts weapon, at a school-sponsored activity or (2) offering for sale or distribution on school-sponsored activity a controlled substance, as defined in Section 21a-240(9) of the Connecticut General Statutes.
6. With regard to special education students, any special education student found to be in possession of a weapon on school property or at a school function or knowingly possessing, using of illegal drugs or selling or soliciting the sale of controlled substances at school or at a school function or has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function will be referred to the IEP team (PPT) for modification of the individualized education plan in order to prevent reoccurrence of such behavior and to ensure the safety of other children in the school. School personnel may remove a student to an interim alternate educational setting for up to 45 school days without regard to whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability in the aforementioned circumstances. If the IEP team (PPT) determines that the special education student's inappropriate behavior or actions are deemed not to be the result of the student's disability, suspension or expulsion procedures shall be conducted in accordance with provisions of this policy for non-special education students. If the special education student is expelled, he/she must be offered an alternative educational opportunity consistent with his/her needs during the period of expulsion and with the student's IEP. The interim alternative placement shall be determined by the IEP team (PPT). In case of a due process hearing, the student shall remain in the interim placement until the Board and parents otherwise agree or the Board obtains a court order.
7. A period of exclusion may extend into the next school year.
8. A student may be expelled before the formal hearing provided that an emergency exists, but in this case the hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible.
9. The notice of formal hearing required by C.G.S. 4-177 shall be given to the parents or guardians of the student as to the student if the student is a minor. The notice shall include information concerning legal services that are provided free of charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access such services.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (continued)

Expulsion (continued)

10. An expelled student may apply for early readmission to school. Such readmission shall be at the discretion of the Board of Education (*alternative language* - “*at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools*”) Readmission decisions shall not be subject to appeal to Superior Court. The Board or Superintendent, as appropriate, may condition such readmission on specified criteria.
11. For any student expelled for the first time and who has never been suspended, the Board of Education may shorten the length of or waive the expulsion period if the student successfully completes a Board specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board. Such a Board specified program shall not require the student or the parent/guardian of such student to pay for participation in the program.
12. If a student’s expulsion is shortened or the expulsion period waived based upon the fact that the student was expelled for the first time, had never been suspended, and successfully completed a Board specified program and/or met other conditions required by the Board, the notice of expulsion shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record if the student graduates from high school or, if the Board so chooses, at the time the student completes the Board specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board.

Under provisions of C.G.S. 10-233d, a student may be expelled at a meeting at which three or more members of the Board are present provided that at least a majority of those present at the expulsion hearing vote for expulsion, and provided that at least three affirmative votes for expulsion are cast.

Students and parents shall be notified of this policy annually.

Students

Student Exclusion

Special Education Students

Change in Placement for Not More than 10 days

School personnel may transfer a student with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting, another setting, or suspend the student for not more than ten school days per school year, if such disciplinary action would also apply to students without disabilities. A disabled student may be suspended for additional removals (suspensions) for up to ten school days for separate acts of misconduct as long as such removals do not constitute a pattern or change in placement. Educational services must be provided in cases of removals (suspensions) beyond the original ten days in a school year. The services are to be provided to the extent determined necessary to enable the student to appropriately progress in the general education curriculum and appropriately advance toward achieving the goals of his/her IEP and to receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so it does not recur. In cases involving removals (suspensions) for ten days or less, school personnel (administration) in consultation with the student's special education teacher shall make the service determination.

Change In Placement for Not More than 45 Calendar Days

School personnel may transfer a student with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days if the student

1. was in possession of a dangerous weapon, as defined in 18 U.S.C. §930(g)(2), as amended from time to time, on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity; or
2. knowingly possessed or used illegal drugs or sold or solicited the sale of a controlled substance while at school or at a school-sponsored activity.
3. inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person, as defined in 18 U.S.C. §1365(h)(3), upon another person while at school, on school premises or at a school function.

Other Disciplinary Action

School personnel may take disciplinary action against a disabled student that would be taken against similar behavior by a student without disabilities, including expulsion, if a review of the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior subject to disciplinary action concludes that the student's behavior was not a direct manifestation of the student's disability, and provided that a free appropriate public education is provided as specified below.

Students

Student Exclusion

Change in Placement Where Substantial Likelihood of Risk of Injury

If the Board of Education believes that maintaining the current placement of the student is substantially likely to result in injury to the students or others, the Board of Education may apply to a hearing officer for a change in placement for not more than forty-five (45) calendar days. The Board must prove the substantial likelihood of injury by substantial evidence, and the district must make reasonable efforts to minimize the risk of harm in the child's current placement prior to applying to the hearing officer for such a change in placement. The Board must be able to demonstrate that the interim alternative educational setting is selected to enable the child to receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in order to participate in the general education curriculum and to continue to receive services and modifications as set out in the IEP.

Manifestation Hearing

If disciplinary action, not already contemplated in the student's IEP, is considered as a consequence of a disabled student's conduct or if the Board of Education is contemplating a change of placement (such as a recommendation for expulsion) for more than ten days per school year for a student with a disability who has engaged in behavior that violated any rule of the school district that applies to all students, with or without disabilities, the parents of the student must be notified of the decision to take disciplinary action on the date on which the decision to take that action was made and must also receive notice of all procedural safeguards. In addition, relevant members of the student's IEP team (PPT) will be convened no later than ten school days after the decision to take disciplinary action was made, for the purpose of reviewing the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior that led to disciplinary action, in order to determine whether the student's behavior was a direct manifestation of his/her disability.

The District has the authority, on a case-by-case basis, to determine whether the student should be removed from the classroom and placed in an alternate setting, pending such determination.

If the District, the parent and relevant members of the PPT finds that the behavior **was** a direct manifestation of the student's disability, the Superintendent shall not proceed with the recommendation for expulsion. The PPT must either revise the IEP to prevent a recurrence of the conduct or develop a plan to address the behavior that led to the disciplinary action.

If the District, the parent and relevant members of the PPT finds that the behavior **was not** a direct manifestation of the student's disability, the Superintendent shall proceed with the proposed disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion, to the extent that a student without a disability would be subject to such discipline.

Students

Student Exclusion

Manifestation Hearing (continued)

During any period of expulsion, a student with disabilities under the IDEA shall receive an alternative educational plan including related services in accordance with the IEP, as modified by the IEP team (PPT) in light of the student's expulsion. Services must continue for such students to the extent determined necessary to enable the student to appropriately advance in the general education curriculum, to advance toward achieving the goals of his/her IEP and to receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

Parents of a student with disabilities who is eligible for services under the IDEA (or the student himself/herself if eighteen years of age or older) are entitled to due process under § 10-76h to contest a change in placement by either school personnel or a hearing officer or to challenge an IEP team (PPT) determination that the student's behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability. During the pendency of that challenge, the student shall stay in the interim educational setting selected by the school district until either the decision of the hearing officer is released or until the expiration of the determined duration of the discipline, whichever occurs first, unless the parent and the Board of Education agree otherwise.

If school personnel decide not to return the student to his/her original placement and instead choose to change the placement prior to the conclusion of the student's placement in an interim alternative educational setting, a hearing must be initiated by either the district or the parent who disagrees with this change.

If school personnel maintain that it is dangerous for the student to be returned to his/her original placement during the pendency of the challenge to that new placement, the Board of Education may request an expedited hearing. Pending the results of this hearing, the student shall remain in the educational placement recommended by school personnel.

The Board of Education may report a crime committed by a student with disabilities to the appropriate law enforcement authority.

The special education and disciplinary records of the student must be transmitted to the individual(s) who will make the final determination regarding any disciplinary action under consideration under this policy.

If a student who has not been determined to be eligible for special education (and related services under the IDEA) has violated any school rule or code of conduct, and the Board of Education had knowledge that the student was a student with a disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred, the above policies applicable to disabled students apply to the student.

Students

Student Exclusion (continued)

Students Not Yet Identified as Eligible for Special Education and Related Services

The Board of Education will be considered to have knowledge of the student's disability if:

1. The parent of the student wrote to any appropriate school district personnel (including the Superintendent, Principal, other administrator, teacher, or student personnel services), expressing concern that the student is in need of special education and related service.
2. The parent of the student requested that the school district conduct a IEP evaluation of the student; or
3. The student's teacher or other school personnel expressed concern about the behavior or performance of the student to the Director of Special Education or to other school supervisory personnel.

If the Board of Education did not have knowledge that the student could be a student with a disability, the student can be disciplined in accordance with school policies governing behavior by students without disabilities

If a request is made for an evaluation of a student during the time period in which the student is being subjected to discipline, the evaluation will be expedited. Pending the results of this evaluation, the student shall remain in an alternate educational placement determined by school authorities. If the student is ultimately determined to be eligible for special education and related services, such services shall be provided to the student in accordance with the provisions of the IDEA.

If a student who has not been determined to be eligible for special education (and related services under the IDEA) has violated any school rule or code of conduct, and the Board of Education had knowledge that the student was a student with a disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred, the above policies applicable to disabled students apply to the student.

Students with Disabilities

A special education student's and/or 504 disability shall be considered before making a decision to suspend. A student with disabilities may be suspended for up to ten school days in a school year without the need for the district to provide any educational services. A disabled student may be additionally removed (suspended) for up to ten school days at a time for separate acts of misconduct as long as the removals do not constitute a pattern. During any subsequent suspension of ten days or less of a student with disabilities, the district shall provide services to the disabled student to the extent determined necessary to enable the student to appropriately advance in the general education curriculum and toward achieving his/her IEP goals. In cases involving removals for ten days or less, school personnel (school administration) in consultation with the child's special education teacher, shall make the service determination.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

J. Students with Disabilities (continued)

If the disabled student's suspensions beyond ten school days in a school year constitute a pattern because of factors such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the child is removed and the proximity of the removals to one another, the IEP team (PPT) shall conduct a manifestation determination. Meetings of a student's IEP team (PPT) are required to develop a behavioral assessment plan or to review and modify as necessary one previously developed when the disabled student has been removed (suspended) from his/her current placement for more than ten school days in a school year and when commencing a removal (suspension) that constitutes a change in placement.

Whenever a student is suspended, notice of the suspension and the conduct for which the student was suspended shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice shall be expunged from the record by the Board if the student graduates from high school.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following procedures shall apply to students who have been identified as having one or more disabilities under the IDEA and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (a "student with disabilities"):

1. If a student with disabilities engages in conduct that would lead to a recommendation for expulsion, the district shall promptly convene an IEP team (PPT) meeting to determine whether the misconduct was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability or if the conduct in question was the direct result of the District's failure to implement the IEP. A student may be suspended for up to ten days pending the IEP team (PPT) determination.
2. If the District, parent and relevant members of the IEP team (PPT) determine that the misconduct was not caused by the disability, the Superintendent may proceed with a recommendation for expulsion. During any period of expulsion, a student with disabilities under the IDEA shall receive an alternative educational plan consistent with the student's educational needs as determined by the IEP team (PPT) in light of such expulsion and the student's IEP. The services must continue to the extent determined necessary to enable the disabled student to appropriately advance in the general education curriculum and to advance toward achieving the goals of his/her IEP, and be provided a free appropriate public education.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

J. Students with Disabilities (continued)

3. If the District, parent and relevant members of the IEP team (PPT) determine that the misconduct was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the disability, or the conduct in question was the direct result of the District's failure to implement the student's IEP, the Superintendent shall not proceed with the recommendation for expulsion. The IEP team (PPT) shall consider the student's misconduct and revise the IEP to prevent a recurrence of such misconduct and to provide for the safety of the other students and staff. A functional behavioral assessment shall be conducted, if not previously done, and a behavioral intervention plan implemented or revised, if in existence. The student shall be returned to the placement from which he/she was removed unless agreed otherwise by the District and parent.
4. Should a parent of a student with disabilities who is eligible for services under the IDEA (or the student himself/herself if eighteen years of age or older) file a request for a due process hearing to contest an expulsion under subparagraph (2) above or a proposed change in placement under subparagraph (3), unless the parents (or student if eighteen years of age or older) and the Board otherwise agree, the child shall stay in the interim alternate educational setting, if so placed by student authorities, pending decision in said due process hearing and any subsequent judicial review proceedings.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding subparagraph (4), a student with disabilities may be assigned to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days if the student brings a weapon to school or to a school function or knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function, or has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function. For purposes of this paragraph, "weapon" means a device instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, but excludes a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 ½ inches in length. "Serious bodily injury" is defined as bodily injury which involves a substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ or mental faculty. The interim alternative placement shall be determined by the IEP team (PPT). If a due process hearing is requested, the student shall remain in said interim alternative placement pending a decision in the due process hearing, unless the Board and the parents otherwise agree, or the Board obtains a court order.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

J. Students with Disabilities (continued)

6. In order for the district to unilaterally obtain a 45 day change in placement from a federal judge of Connecticut hearing officer, it must prove by substantial evidence, that maintaining the current placement of the student is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or others. The school must also prove that it has made reasonable efforts to minimize the risk of harm the student presents in the current placement.

K. Alternative Educational Opportunity

The Board of Education recognizes its obligation to offer any student under the age of sixteen (16) who is expelled an alternative educational opportunity during the period of expulsion. Any parent or guardian of such student who does not choose to have his or her child enrolled in an alternative educational program shall not be subject to the provision of Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Any expelled student who is between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) not previously expelled and who wishes to continue his or her education shall be offered an alternative educational opportunity if he or she complies with conditions established by the Board of Education. Such alternative educational opportunity may include, but shall not be limited to, the assignment of a student (who is sixteen years of age or older) to an adult education program or placement of such student in a regular classroom program of a school other than the one from which the student has been excluded. In determining the nature of the alternative education opportunity to be offered under this Section, the Board of Education may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary problems which have led to removal from a classroom, suspension, or expulsion.

The Board of Education is not obligated to provide such alternative educational opportunity to any student eighteen years of age or older. The Board of Education is not required to offer such alternative educational opportunity to any student between the ages of sixteen and eighteen who is expelled because of conduct which endangers person, if it was determined at the expulsion hearing that the conduct for which the student was expelled involved (a) carrying on or introducing onto school property a firearm, deadly weapon or dangerous instrument as defined in C.G.S. 53a-3 or (b) offering for sale or distribution on school property or at a school sponsored activity a controlled substance, as defined in subdivision (8) of C.G.S. 21a-240, whose manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting, or possessing with the intent to sell or dispense, offering, or administration is subject to criminal penalties under C.G.S. 21a-277 and 21a-278. If the Board expels a student for the sale or distribution of such a controlled substance, the Board shall refer the student to an appropriate state or local agency for rehabilitation, intervention or job training, or any combination thereof, and inform the agency of its action. If a student is expelled for possession of a firearm or deadly weapon, the Board shall report the violation to the local police department.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

K. Alternative Educational Opportunity (continued)

This provision shall not apply to students requiring special education who are described in subdivision (1) of sub-section (e) of C.G.S. 10-76a. The alternative educational opportunity for any such student shall be established by the IEP team (PPT) in accordance with the procedures described above.

Whenever the Board notifies a student between the ages of sixteen and eighteen or the parents/guardians of such student, that an expulsion hearing will be held, the notification shall include a statement that the Board is not required to offer an alternative educational opportunity to any student who is found to have engaged in conduct including possession of a martial arts weapon, firearms, deadly weapons or dangerous instruments on school property or at a school function.

L. Other Considerations

1. If a student is expelled, notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the student was expelled shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record. Such notice shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record by the Board if the student graduates from high school unless the expulsion notice is based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon.
2. If a student's expulsion is shortened or the expulsion period waived based upon the fact that the student was expelled for the first time, had never been suspended, and successfully completed a Board specified program and/or met other conditions required by the Board, the notice of expulsion shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record if the student graduates from high school or, if the Board so chooses, at the time the student completes the Board specified program and meets any other conditions required by the Board.
3. The Board may adopt the decision of a student expulsion hearing conducted by another school district provided such Board of Education held a hearing pursuant to C.G.S.10-233d(a). Adoption of such a decision shall be limited to a determination of whether the conduct which was the basis for the expulsion would also warrant expulsion under the policies of this Board. The student shall be excluded from school pending such hearing. The excluded student shall be offered an alternative education opportunity in accordance with item K above.
4. Whenever a student against whom a expulsion hearing is pending withdraws from school and after notification of such hearing but before the hearing is completed and a decision rendered, (1) notice of the pending expulsion hearing shall be included on the student's cumulative educational record and (2) the Board shall completed the expulsion hearing and render a decision.

Students

Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

L. Other Considerations (continued)

5. A student expelled for possession of a firearm or deadly weapon shall have the violation reported to the local police department.
6. The period of expulsion shall not extend beyond a period of one calendar year. A period of exclusion may extend into the next school year.
7. An expelled student may apply for early readmission to school. Such readmission shall be at the discretion of the Board of Education/Superintendent of Schools (*choose which*). Readmission decisions shall not be subject to appeal to Superior Court. The Board or Superintendent, as appropriate, may condition such readmission on specified criteria.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 4-176e through 4-180a. Contested Cases. Notice. Record, as amended.
 10-233a through 10-233f. Suspension, removal and expulsion of students, as amended by PA 95-304, PA 96-244, PA 98-139, PA 07-66 and PA 07-122
 53a-3 Definitions.
 53a-217b Possession of Firearms and Deadly Weapons on School Grounds.
 PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Safety.
 GOALS 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. 103-227.
 18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.
 Title III - Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
 Sec. 314 (Local Control Over Violence)
 Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 as amended by the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994.
 P.L. 105-17 The Individuals with Disabilities Act, Amendment of 1997.
Kyle P. Packer PPA Jane Packer v. Thomaston Board of Education.
 20 U.S.C. Section 7114, No Child Left Behind Act
 P.L. 108-446 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004
State v. Hardy, 896 A.2d 755, 278 Conn 113 (2006)

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THOMASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Thomaston, Connecticut

Students

Suspension from Athletics/Co-Curricular and Extra-curricular Activities

Any student who is arrested for the possession or use of alcohol, marijuana, anabolic steroids, or any other controlled chemical substance, or is reported to be in possession of, or using alcohol, marijuana, anabolic steroids, or any other controlled chemical substance by a reliable source will be subject to suspension.

(cf. 5114 - Removal, Exclusion, Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

Students

Student Handbooks

The administration shall publish and annually revise a handbook containing information about the District and about the individual schools and the rules and regulations with which students are expected to conform. The administration is responsible to ensure that the handbook does not conflict with any district policies or state or federal law. The handbook shall be distributed to all students the first week of each school year and to new students when they enroll.

Students

Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics

General Policies, Procedures and Responsibilities of the Student-Athlete

While the high school interscholastic athletic program serves as an arena for the student-athlete to display his/her talents, student athletes must, in turn be willing to assume certain responsibilities that accompany this privilege. The student-athlete continually serves as a reflection of his/her coach, team, family, school and community. The student-athlete is expected to make responsible decisions about his/her behaviors. If he/she chooses an inappropriate or unacceptable behavior, the stated consequences will be placed in effect.

Appropriate Behavior

Student-athletes will be expected to:

- conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times, both on and off the playing field.
- attend all practices and contests. Consequences of absences other than illness, family emergency or unavoidable school-related conflicts, will be made known by the coach at the beginning of the season.
- stand at attention during the national anthem.
- dress up the day of the game.
- travel to and from contests on the team bus accompanied by the coach.
- refrain from social interaction with non-participants during contests.
- represent their school with pride and dignity.

All CIAC eligibility rules will be strictly adhered to and enforced during the season.

Hazing

“Hazing” means any action which recklessly or intentionally endangers the health or safety of a person for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a student or athletic organization/team. Hazing can also be defined as any action or activity which does not contribute to the positive development of a person; which conflicts or intends to cause physical or mental harm or anxieties; which may demean, degrade, or disgrace any person, regardless of location, intent or consent of participants. It is also any action or situation, which intentionally or unintentionally endangers a students’ well being for admission into or affiliation with any student organization.

Students

Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics

Hazing (continued)

The following activities can be considered hazing:

1. Paddling or striking in any manner.
2. Marking or branding.
3. Requiring the carrying of items such as rocks, books, paddles etc.
4. Preventing/restricting normal personal hygiene.
5. Treating a person in a degrading manner.
6. Causing indecent exposure.
7. Requiring uncomfortable, ridiculous, or embarrassing dress.
8. Preventing/restricting class attendance or sleep.
9. Requiring periods of silence.
10. Verbal abuse.
11. Forcing alcoholic beverages on an individual who does not wish to drink or who has no wish to drink the quantity provided.
12. Forcing/requiring the eating or drinking of any unwanted food or drink.

Note: Hazing includes but is not limited to the above actions listed.

Procedures for students and school system for hazing occurrences:

1. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of hazing shall report the alleged acts to the athletic director or coach immediately.
2. Any person who believes he or she has knowledge of an incident during which hazing has occurred shall report the alleged act to the athletic director or coach immediately.
3. Upon receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, school officials will conduct an investigation of the alleged incident(s).
4. The school district may take immediate steps to protect the complainant, reporter, students or others pending completion of an investigation of hazing.
5. Upon completion of the investigation, the school district will take appropriate and immediate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to: warning, detention, school suspension, team suspension, revoking of athletic rights, expulsion, criminal complaint to the police and legal action.

Thomaston High School will discipline or take appropriate action against any person who retaliates against any person who makes a report of alleged hazing or participates in an investigation of alleged hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

Students

Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics (continued)

Substance Use

Any student-athlete possessing or having consumed alcoholic beverages, or possessing or having used illicit drugs or steroids will be disciplined as follows:

First Offense: Suspension from competition for remainder of the season, and he/she must agree to participate in a voluntary drug or alcohol awareness program at any licensed drug/alcohol agency.

- If further treatment is recommended, a student must pledge his/her consent prior to being reinstated in any interscholastic activities.
- Reinstatement is contingent upon participation in a licensed program and a clearance to participate from that agency.
- Refusal to participate in a licensed program will result in being dismissed from all interscholastic activities for the remainder of the year.
- The player, upon agreeing to participate in a licensed program and being cleared to participate (in writing) by that program, will be allowed to practice and compete with his/her team during the sport season to follow his/her present one.

Second Offense: The second or any subsequent offenses, while a member of any school team, will result in dismissal from all interscholastic activities for the remainder of the year.

Tobacco

Any student-athlete using or in possession of any tobacco product (smoking, chewing, snuff) will be disciplined as follows:

First Offense: Suspension from the team for two weeks of competition. The player will not be allowed to practice with his/her team during suspension from competition.

Second Offense: Dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season.

Important: The student-athlete must inform his/her coach of the need/use of prescription drugs during the season and provide verification from medical personnel.

Students

Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics (continued)

Presence at Illegal Activities or in Situations That Might Compromise Your Eligibility

No student-athlete at Thomaston should be present at any situation where illegal activity such as underage drinking, use of illegal drugs, etc. is taking place. If you find yourself in this type of situation, to protect your reputation and your continued eligibility for athletics, there is only one thing to do, **LEAVE** as quickly as possible.

- A firsthand report from a reliable adult (police, etc.) will result in that student being suspended from a contest or event that follows the investigated report.
- Student athletes in Thomaston will be held to a higher standard of conduct. Remember, **YOU ARE A ROLE MODEL**; behave accordingly.

Violation of State and/or Federal Laws

A student-athlete of any other member of school related activities who is charged with a felony or misdemeanor will be suspended from all interscholastic activities. This suspension will continue until resolution of the charges. Upon this resolution, the principal will review the case to determine whether or not the student should be permitted to represent Thomaston High School.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Any student-athlete ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct will not be permitted to participate in the next scheduled contest.

The following behaviors will be considered serious violations of the athletic code and school policies and may result in suspension from the team:

1. Criminal or civil law infractions.
2. Theft or malicious destruction of individual, private, or school property.
3. Infraction of school rules requiring administrative action.
4. Misconduct by an athlete that is potentially detrimental to the athletic program, school or school district.

Students

Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics (continued)

Fighting

Any student athlete who is reprimanded for fighting, verbal or physical abuse while representing the school, either prior to, during or immediately after a game, will be suspended from the next scheduled game. A subsequent offense will result in suspension from the team pending investigation by school administration.

Any student-athlete who clearly initiates a fight in the course of an athletic contest, in which his/her team is participating, will be immediately dismissed from the team for the balance of the season.

Verbal and/or Physical Abuse of officials or coaches by student-athletes will result in immediate dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season.

Berkshire League Ejection Policy

It will be the policy of the Berkshire League to suspend an athlete for the next scheduled Berkshire League contest if he/she has been ejected from an athletic contest for violent or abusive behavior, and/or has exhibited violent or abusive behavior prior to, during, or immediately following the athletic contest.

- The presiding official at the athletic contest will notify the coach of the offending player. It is the responsibility of the coach of the offending player to inform his/her athletic director, who in turn informs the president of the Berkshire League.
- If said player knowingly participates under this suspension in the next league contest, the result will be forfeiture of the game.

Any non-league game will be governed by the CIAC Player/Coach Disqualification/Ejection policy. This policy is as follows:

CIAC Regulation disqualification/Ejection Rule

The CIAC sets the guidelines and tone for acceptable and appropriate behavior at all CIAC contests. Given this charge, the CIAC must be proactive and responsible to the growing issues of violence in sports. A strong and consistent statement reflecting zero tolerance for violence in sports must become standard operating procedure for all schools. To this end, the following CIAC regulations will be implemented in all contests involving any CIAC member school commencing in the fall of 1995. (This is to be considered a minimum standard.)

Students

Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics

CIAC Regulation disqualification/Ejection Rule (continued)

The following policies for disqualification shall apply in all sports:

1. Any student-athlete who physically assaults an official, coach, opposing player or spectator will be immediately dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season.
2. When a student-athlete is disqualified during a contest for flagrant misconduct and or unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting, that student is ineligible to participate in any contest until withheld from the next contest at that level of play.
3. Upon the second disqualification, if that violation is for initiating a fight or retaliating in a fight (as determined by the game official), that student-athlete will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season. Otherwise #2 remains applicable.
4. When a coach is disqualified during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting, that coach shall be prohibited by his/her school from coaching or attending a contest until the next contest at that level of play has occurred.
5. Failure of the school for any reason to enforce this regulation will prohibit the school from entry in the next CIAC tournament for that sport, or from the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during a CIAC tournament or during the last regular season contest/day of competition.
6. Any CIAC team that accumulates 5 or more disqualifications for flagrant misconduct, unsportsmanlike conduct including taunting, fighting, retaliating in a fight, or physically assaulting an official, coach, opposing player or spectator during the course of one season will be barred from CIAC post-season competition. The number of disqualifications must be completed on all tournament forms. Disqualification from the team under #1 constitutes one disqualification in team totals.
7. Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches, or the next season of participation in any sport for seniors.
8. If the playing rules for a sport specify an additional penalty, the additional penalty will apply. The CIAC disqualification rule applies to all disqualifications with the exception of reaching the limit of personal fouls in basketball, reaching the limit of technical violations in wrestling, or being disqualified by the rules in ice hockey which does not require a next game disqualification.

Additional rules or regulations adopted by a head coach for a particular team or sport will be approved by the principal and athletic director. Such additions will be in writing and on file in the office of the principal and athletic director and will be provided to all student-athletes on that specific team in writing.

Students

Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics (continued)

Trying Out For a Team

- Students may try out for any sport while at Thomaston High as long as they remain eligible and in good standing with the Athletic Department policies, including all academic and medical policies. A student-athlete should select his/her sport carefully for the following reasons:
 - A student-athlete will not be allowed to drop one sport for another in the same season except with permission of the coach prior to the first game. If a student-athlete is cut from one sport, he/she may tryout for another in the same season.
 - A student-athlete will not be allowed to drop a sport in season to tryout for an upcoming sport if he/she was a member of that sport squad at the time of the first game. In the event he/she drops out after the first game, he/she will be declared ineligible to participate in another sport until the completion of the season in progress.

Eligibility for Practices and Games

- Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices and games as scheduled. Anyone desiring to be excused must see his/her coach and not send word by a teammate. Coaches will always excuse student-athletes for extra help with studies; however, student-athletes should make every attempt to seek help when it least interferes with after-school practice.
- Student-athletes must be in attendance for 4 consecutive hours until the end of the school day to be eligible to practice or play that day unless excused by the administration for medical, family, or otherwise excused absences. All athletes will abide by regular school absentee and tardy policies.
- Absence from team activities due to other school related activities, family obligations or medical appointments are acceptable when approved in advance by the team coach. Unexcused absences will result in the consequences set down by the coach at the beginning of the season.
- Absences from team activities due to non-school related activities must be approved by the team coach and school principal prior to the start of the season.
- Student athletes who go on vacation at any time during an athletic season in which they participate must understand that all games will be played as scheduled. Games will not be rescheduled because one or more athletes are missing. In addition, individual coaches may have additional policies regarding student athletes who miss practices and/or games to go on a trip or vacation. All coaches should make these rules known to their respective teams before the start of pre-season practices. Student athletes who are planning a vacation or trip during the athletic season should notify his or her coach prior to the season so there are no misunderstandings.

Students

Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics

Eligibility for Practices and Games (continued)

- **Absence policy including school sponsored trips:**

Thomaston's policy for athletes missing games, meets, matches, or practices due to excused absences including school-sponsored trips is as follows:

Upon his or her return, a student-athlete may be required to take part in a predetermined number of conditioning practices before being allowed to participate in games depending on the amount of time missed. The suggested and maximum amount of days needed for conditioning are as follows:

1-3 days absent	=	1 day of conditioning
4-5 days absent	=	2 days of conditioning
6 or more days absent	=	3 days of conditioning

Note: Coaches reserve the right to dismiss any member of a team for repeated absences from games and /or practices, excused or unexcused.

- Student-athletes must attend all mandatory seasonal chemical education programs.

Detention Policy

Any student who is scheduled to stay for detention on the day of a game, meet, match, or practice, must first meet this obligation before being eligible for that day's activities.

- If a student-athlete fails to stay for detention and then participates he/she will be suspended for a minimum of two games.
- In order for a student-athlete to attend an away game after serving detention, his/her parent/guardian must drive him/her to the site of the game. There will be no exceptions for this rule.

Suspension Policy

Any student athlete who has been placed on ISS or OSS may not practice or play in their game/meet/match on that day or days assigned including any non-school, vacation or holiday that may fall in between. Refer to detention policy for failure to stay.

Students

Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics (continued)

Responsibility for Equipment

- All issued school equipment will remain the property of the school and must be properly cared for by the student-athlete to whom it is issued.
- It is the financial responsibility of the student-athlete to ensure that the equipment is returned at the end of the season or departure from the team.
- Any student-athlete failing to return a cleaned uniform or accountability payment (at the rate of the replacement cost) at the end of a season is ineligible to play in the next sport season until the account is cleared.
- All uniforms/equipment are due to your head coach, cleaned, including warm-ups and pullover jackets, 7 days after the last game/meet/match of the season. Failure to hand in any part of the uniform, warm-up, pullover, will result in one or more of the following consequences:
 1. For each day the uniform is outstanding past the 7 day due date, that student athlete will not be allowed to participate in their next sport season (including the following year for underclassmen), for the exact amount of days the uniform is late.
 2. Any athlete whose uniform is not turned in will not be given a uniform for their next sport season until:
 - a. the uniform is handed back in, or
 - b. a payment is made to the school for the amount of replacing that uniform, warm-up, or pullover jacket.
 3. Report cards may be withheld.
 4. College transcripts may be withheld.
 5. Athletes may not be allowed to take mid-term or final exams.
 6. Athletes may receive detention(s).
 7. Athletes will not be eligible to receive awards or be invited to awards night(s). Awards include receiving varsity letters in a sport.
 8. A bill will be sent home for the amount of replacing a single uniform, warm-up, or pullover.
- Games uniforms should only be worn on the day of the contest or upon arrival of the coach.

Responsibility Regarding Locker Rooms

- The school is not responsible nor is liable for your personal property.
- Do not bring valuable items to school with you, leave them at home.
- Keep your locker locked at all times and do not share your combination with anyone.
- Locker rooms are expected to be left in a clean condition at the end of the day.
- Lockers will be cleaned out at the conclusion of each season.

There will be no spikes worn in the school at any time.

Students

Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics (continued)

Bus Travel and Trips

- All student-athletes must ride the team bus to and from all contests.
- If a student-athlete needs to ride home with his/her parents, the parents must make the request personally to the coach.
- Students will not be allowed to drive to any away athletic contest.
- Student-athletes will be expected to follow all rules and regulations governing how students behave on the school bus to ensure a safe trip.

There will be no spikes worn on school buses.

General Policies, Procedures and Responsibilities of the Student-Athlete

While the high school interscholastic athletic program serves as an arena for the student-athlete to display his/her talents, student athletes must, in turn be willing to assume certain responsibilities that accompany this privilege. The student-athlete continually serves as a reflection of his/her coach, team, family, school and community. The student-athlete is expected to make responsible decisions about his/her behaviors. If he/she chooses an inappropriate or unacceptable behavior, the stated consequences will be placed in effect.

Appropriate Behavior: Student-athletes will be expected to:

- conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times, both on and off the playing field.
- attend all practices and contests. Consequences of absences other than illness, family emergency or unavoidable school-related conflicts, will be made known by the coach at the beginning of the season.
- stand at attention during the national anthem.
- dress up the day of the game.
- travel to and from contests on the team bus accompanied by the coach.
- refrain from social interaction with non-participants during contests.
- represent their school with pride and dignity.

All CIAC eligibility rules will be strictly adhered to and enforced during the season.

Hazing

“*Hazing*” means any action which recklessly or intentionally endangers the health or safety of a person for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a student or athletic organization/team. Hazing can also be defined as any action or activity which does not contribute to the positive development of a person; which conflicts or intends to cause physical or mental harm or anxieties; which may demean, degrade, or disgrace any person, regardless of location, intent or consent of participants. It is also any action or situation, which intentionally or unintentionally endangers a students’ well being for admission into or affiliation with any student organization.

The following activities can be considered hazing:

1. Paddling or striking in any manner
2. Marking or branding
3. Requiring the carrying of items such as rocks, books, paddles etc.
4. Preventing/restricting normal personal hygiene
5. Treating a person in a degrading manner
6. Causing indecent exposure
7. Requiring uncomfortable, ridiculous, or embarrassing dress
8. Preventing/restricting class attendance or sleep
9. Requiring periods of silence
10. Verbal abuse
11. Forcing alcoholic beverages on an individual who does not wish to drink or who has no wish to drink the quantity provided.
12. Forcing/requiring the eating or drinking of any unwanted food or drink.

Note: Hazing includes but is not limited to the above actions listed.

Procedures for Students and School System for Hazing Occurrences:

1. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of hazing shall report the alleged acts to the athletic director or coach immediately.
2. Any person who believes he or she has knowledge of an incident during which hazing has occurred shall report the alleged act to the athletic director or coach immediately.
3. Upon receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, school officials will conduct an investigation of the alleged incident(s).
4. The school district may take immediate steps to protect the complainant, reporter, students or others pending completion of an investigation of hazing.
5. Upon completion of the investigation, the school district will take appropriate and immediate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to: warning, detention, school suspension, team suspension, revoking of athletic rights, expulsion, criminal complaint to the police and legal action.

Thomaston High School will discipline or take appropriate action against any person who retaliates against any person who makes a report of alleged hazing or participates in an investigation of alleged hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

Substance Use: Any student-athlete possessing or having consumed alcoholic beverages, or possessing or having used illicit drugs or steroids will be disciplined as follows:

First Offense: Suspension from competition for remainder of the season, and he/she must agree to participate in a voluntary drug or alcohol awareness program at any licensed drug/alcohol agency.

- If further treatment is recommended, a student must pledge his/her consent prior to being reinstated in any interscholastic activities.
- Reinstatement is contingent upon participation in a licensed program and a clearance to participate from that agency.
- Refusal to participate in a licensed program will result in being dismissed from all interscholastic activities for the remainder of the year.
- The player, upon agreeing to participate in a licensed program and being cleared to participate (in writing) by that program, will be allowed to practice and compete with his/her team during the sport season to follow his/her present one.

Second Offense: The second or any subsequent offenses, while a member of any school team, will result in dismissal from all interscholastic activities for the remainder of the year.

Tobacco: Any student-athlete using or in possession of any tobacco product (smoking, chewing, snuff) will be disciplined as follows:

First Offense: Suspension from the team for two weeks of competition. The player will not be allowed to practice with his/her team during suspension from competition.

Second Offense: Dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season.

IMPORTANT: The student-athlete must inform his/her coach of the need/use of prescription drugs during the season and provide verification from medical personnel.

Presence at Illegal Activities or in Situations that Might Compromise your Eligibility:

No student-athlete at Thomaston should be present at any situation where illegal activity such as underage drinking, use of illegal drugs, etc. is taking place. If you find yourself in this type of situation, to protect your reputation and your continued eligibility for athletics, there is only one thing to do, **LEAVE** as quickly as possible.

- A firsthand report from a reliable adult (police, etc.) will result in that student being suspended from a contest or event that follows the investigated report.
- Student athletes in Thomaston will be held to a higher standard of conduct. Remember, **YOU ARE A ROLE MODEL**; behave accordingly.

Violation of State and/or Federal Laws

A student-athlete of any other member of school related activities who is charged with a felony or misdemeanor will be suspended from all interscholastic activities. This suspension will continue until resolution of the charges. Upon this resolution, the principal will review the case to determine whether or not the student should be permitted to represent Thomaston High School.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Any student-athlete ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct will not be permitted to participate in the next scheduled contest.

The following behaviors will be considered serious violations of the athletic code and school policies and may result in suspension from the team:

1. Criminal or civil law infractions.
2. Theft or malicious destruction of individual, private, or school property.
3. Infraction of school rules requiring administrative action.
4. Misconduct by an athlete that is potentially detrimental to the athletic program, school or school district.

Fighting: Any student athlete who is reprimanded for fighting, verbal or physical abuse while representing the school, either prior to, during or immediately after a game, will be suspended from the next scheduled game. A subsequent offense will result in suspension from the team pending investigation by school administration.

Any student-athlete who *clearly initiates* a fight in the course of an athletic contest, in which his/her team is participating, will be immediately dismissed from the team for the balance of the season.

Verbal and/or Physical Abuse: of officials or coaches by student-athletes will result in immediate dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season.

Berkshire League Ejection Policy:

It will be the policy of the Berkshire League to suspend an athlete for the next scheduled Berkshire League contest if he/she has been ejected from an athletic contest for violent or abusive behavior, and/or has exhibited violent or abusive behavior prior to, during, or immediately following the athletic contest.

- The presiding official at the athletic contest will notify the coach of the offending player. It is the responsibility of the coach of the offending player to inform his/her athletic director, who in turn informs the president of the Berkshire League.
- If said player knowingly participates under this suspension in the next league contest, the result will be forfeiture of the game.

Any non-league game will be governed by the CIAC Player/Coach Disqualification/Ejection policy. This policy is as follows:

CIAC Regulation Disqualification/Ejection Rule

The CIAC sets the guidelines and tone for acceptable and appropriate behavior at all CIAC contests. Given this charge, the CIAC must be proactive and responsible to the growing issues of violence in sports. A strong and consistent statement reflecting zero tolerance for violence in sports must become standard operating procedure for all schools. To this end, the following CIAC regulations will be implemented in all contests involving any CIAC member school commencing in the fall of 1995. (This is to be considered a minimum standard.)

The following policies for disqualification shall apply in all sports:

1. Any student-athlete who physically assaults an official, coach, opposing player or spectator will be immediately dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season.
2. When a student-athlete is disqualified during a contest for flagrant misconduct and or unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting, that student is ineligible to participate in any contest until withheld from the next contest at that level of play.

3. Upon the second disqualification, if that violation is for initiating a fight or retaliating in a fight (as determined by the game official), that student-athlete will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season. Otherwise #2 remains applicable.
4. When a coach is disqualified during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting, that coach shall be prohibited by his/her school from coaching or attending a contest until the next contest at that level of play has occurred.
5. Failure of the school for any reason to enforce this regulation will prohibit the school from entry in the next CIAC tournament for that sport, or from the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during a CIAC tournament or during the last regular season contest/day of competition.
6. Any CIAC team that accumulates 5 or more disqualifications for flagrant misconduct, unsportsmanlike conduct including taunting, fighting, retaliating in a fight, or physically assaulting an official, coach, opposing player or spectator during the course of one season will be barred from CIAC post-season competition. The number of disqualifications must be completed on all tournament forms. Disqualification from the team under #1 constitutes one disqualification in team totals.
7. Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season in that sport for undergraduates and coaches, or the next season of participation in any sport for seniors.
8. If the playing rules for a sport specify an additional penalty, the additional penalty will apply. The CIAC disqualification rule applies to all disqualifications with the exception of reaching the limit of personal fouls in basketball, reaching the limit of technical violations in wrestling, or being disqualified by the rules in ice hockey which does not require a next game disqualification.

Additional rules or regulations adopted by a head coach for a particular team or sport will be approved by the principal and athletic director. Such additions will be in writing and on file in the office of the principal and athletic director and will be provided to all student-athletes on that specific team in writing.

Trying Out For a Team:

- Students may try out for any sport while at Thomaston High as long as they remain eligible and in good standing with the Athletic Department policies, including all academic and medical policies. A student-athlete should select his/her sport carefully for the following reasons:
 - A student-athlete will not be allowed to drop one sport for another in the same season except with permission of the coach prior to the first game. If a student-athlete is cut from one sport, he/she may tryout for another in the same season.
 - A student-athlete will not be allowed to drop a sport in season to tryout for an upcoming sport if he/she was a member of that sport squad at the time of the first game. In the event he/she drops out after the first game, he/she will be declared ineligible to participate in another sport until the completion of the season in progress.

Eligibility for Practices and Games:

- Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices and games as scheduled. Anyone desiring to be excused must see his/her coach and not send word by a teammate. Coaches will always excuse student-athletes for extra help with studies; however, student-athletes should make every attempt to seek help when it least interferes with after-school practice.
- Student-athletes must be in attendance for 4 consecutive hours until the end of the school day to be eligible to practice or play that day unless excused by the administration for medical, family, or otherwise excused absences. All athletes will abide by regular school absentee and tardy policies.
- Absence from team activities due to other school related activities, family obligations or medical appointments are acceptable when approved in advance by the team coach. Unexcused absences will result in the consequences set down by the coach at the beginning of the season.
- Absences from team activities due to non-school related activities must be approved by the team coach and school principal prior to the start of the season.
- Student athletes who go on vacation at any time during an athletic season in which they participate must understand that all games will be played as scheduled. Games will not be rescheduled because one or more athletes are missing. In addition, individual coaches may have additional policies regarding student athletes who miss practices and/or games to go on a trip or vacation. All coaches should make these rules known to their respective teams before the start of pre-season practices. Student athletes who are planning a vacation or trip during the athletic season should notify his or her coach prior to the season so there are no misunderstandings.
- **Absence Policy Including School Sponsored Trips:**

Thomaston's policy for athletes missing games, meets, matches, or practices due to excused absences including school-sponsored trips is as follows:

Upon his or her return, a student-athlete may be required to take part in a predetermined number of conditioning practices before being allowed to participate in games depending on the amount of time missed. The suggested and maximum amount of days needed for conditioning are as follows:

1-3 days absent	=	1 day of conditioning
4-5 days absent	=	2 days of conditioning
6 or more days absent	=	3 days of conditioning

Note: Coaches reserve the right to dismiss any member of a team for repeated absences from games and /or practices, excused or unexcused.

- Student-athletes must attend all mandatory seasonal chemical education programs.

Detention Policy: Any student who is scheduled to stay for detention on the day of a game, meet, match, or practice, must first meet this obligation before being eligible for that day's activities.

- If a student-athlete fails to stay for detention and then participates he/she will be suspended for a minimum of two games.
- In order for a student-athlete to attend an away game after serving detention, his/her parent/guardian must drive him/her to the site of the game. There will be no exceptions for this rule.

Suspension Policy: Should a student be suspended at a time prior to a school recess (including inclement weather closings) and the suspension extends to days when school resumes, the student may not participate in athletics, be it practice and/or contests until the suspension period terminates. Refer to detention policy for failure to stay.

Responsibility for Equipment:

- All issued school equipment will remain the property of the school and must be properly cared for by the student-athlete to whom it is issued.
- It is the financial responsibility of the student-athlete to ensure that the equipment is returned at the end of the season or departure from the team.
- Any student-athlete failing to return a cleaned uniform or accountability payment (at the rate of the replacement cost) at the end of a season is ineligible to play in the next sport season until the account is cleared.
- All uniforms/equipment are due to your head coach, cleaned, including warm-ups and pullover jackets, 7 days after the last game/meet/match of the season. Failure to hand in any part of the uniform, warm-up, pullover will result in one or more of the following consequences:
 1. for each day the uniform is outstanding past the 7 day due date, that student athlete will not be allowed to participate in their next sport season(including the following year for underclassmen), for the exact amount of days the uniform is late.
 2. Any athlete whose uniform is not turned in will not be given a uniform for their next sport season until:
 - a. the uniform is handed back in, or
 - b. a payment is made to the school for the amount of replacing that uniform, warm-up, or pullover jacket.
 3. Report cards may be withheld.
 4. College transcripts may be withheld.
 5. Athletes may not be allowed to take mid-term or final exams.
 6. Athletes may receive detention(s).

7. Athletes will not be eligible to receive awards or be invited to awards night(s). Awards include receiving varsity letters in a sport.
 8. A bill will be sent home for the amount of replacing a single uniform, warm-up, or pullover.
- Games uniforms should only be worn on the day of the contest or upon arrival of the coach.

Responsibility Regarding Locker Rooms:

- The school is not responsible nor is liable for your personal property.
- Do not bring valuable items to school with you, leave them at home.
- Keep your locker locked at all times and do not share your combination with anyone.
- Locker rooms are expected to be left in a clean condition at the end of the day.
- Lockers will be cleaned out at the conclusion of each season.

There will be no spikes worn in the school at any time.

Bus Travel and Trips:

- All student-athletes must ride the team bus to and from all contests.
- If a student-athlete needs to ride home with his/her parents, the parents must make the request personally to the coach.
- Students will not be allowed to drive to **any** away athletic contest.
- Student-athletes will be expected to follow all rules and regulations governing how students behave on the school bus to ensure a safe trip.

There will be no spikes worn on school buses.