



# Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc. Policy Statement

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**SUBJECT: INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**  
**POLICY NUMBER: JJIB**  
**DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY: 2/8/06**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/7/17**  
**DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: 6/2020**  
**DATED: 6/20/17**

I. PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT:

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege that students must earn through responsible behavior and acceptable academic achievement. Participation in interscholastic athletics provides students with individual training and experience in teamwork and leadership skills, and the school should provide such activities within available resources and opportunities, scheduling them to enable and encourage students to take advantage of the activities provided by the school. Therefore, the Shonto Governing Board of Education establishes the following policy:

II. POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc. to encourage eligible students to participate in interscholastic athletics.

III. EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY:

None

IV. AMPLIFYING INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES:

A. PHILOSOPHY OF OUR INTERSCHOLASTIC AND GUIDELINES

1. The Governing Board directs team coaches, sponsors, and participants to conduct themselves properly and respectfully while representing the Shonto Preparatory School.
2. The Governing Board encourages the student body, parents, and friends to support total athletic program enthusiastically and within a behavioral framework that reflects good sportsmanship.
3. The Governing Board perceives interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total school curriculum.
4. The Governing Board recognizes the fact that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege that eligible students earn through responsible behavior and actions.
5. The Governing Board encourages the school and community to view a



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"successful season" as one that has shown evidence of meeting objectives as reflected in the attitude and work ethic of the participants

6. At the Middle School level, the Governing Board desires that coaches are expected to give all team members experience in competitive situations on a regular basis.
7. At the High School level, the Governing Board understands that the goal is to win games and that the coaches will field the best athletes regardless of grade level or previous starting histories.

## B. PARTICIPATION

1. All pupils who participate in an athletic activity do so under the eligibility rules established by the Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Association , High School Principal, K-8 Principal, Athletic Directors, and Superintendent of Schools as recommended to and approved by the Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc.
2. All pupils participating in any form of athletic activity shall be required to wear standard protective equipment customarily used for such type of activity with the coaches and teachers giving due consideration to the gender, age, size, and capabilities of the participants. Mouth guards are required for football. They are highly recommended for all other contact sports. In all sports where mouth guards are not required but recommended, parents must sign a waiver form acknowledging responsibility if a mouth injury occurs.
3. All pupils participating in an athletic activity shall give the coach of that sport a consent form signed by the parent or guardian giving his or her permission for their son or daughter to play under the athletic regulations as established by the Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc.
4. All pupils participating in an athletic activity shall have a health examination prior to participating in the activity.
5. Each coach may establish additional rules for his/her sport. These rules shall be communicated to the athletes at the beginning of the season and be acknowledged by athlete and parent signatures.
6. All pupils are to be encouraged to participate in as many activities as they wish, with no penalty for participating in another school activity.
7. A student who is participating on an athletic team is disallowed from



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participating simultaneously on any other outside athletic team (i.e. a team that has a coach, organized practices, and/or schedule). Shonto Preparatory School sports is the priority for student athletes. A student who is a member of a school team shall not practice or compete with any other groups, club, organization, association, etc., in that sport during the interscholastic season of competition. This rule applies to the following team sports: football, baseball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, track relay and swimming relay teams. For purposes of this rule, the interscholastic season of competition shall begin with the first regularly scheduled game and conclude with that particular team's final game. Any violating the above rule shall forfeit his/her eligibility for a minimum of the balance of the season for that sport or up to a maximum of one calendar year. \*\*Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) Bylaws; Article 14. General Provisions 2016-17 14.4 Non-School Participation.

8. At least once during the athlete's high school participation, the athlete and parent must attend a "right to know" program which provides specific information regarding the potential risks of participating in high school interscholastic athletics.
9. At least once during the season this policy (IV.5) will be communicated in a effective manner to parents. Student athletes, through decision of parents, shall be subject to any consequences from the coach and athletic director. Parents will receive this policy and by signature, acknowledge the content of the policy.

## C. HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

1. Any enrolled pupil of the Shonto Preparatory School who meets the requirements established by the district shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.
2. To be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities a contestant must:
  - a. Be a bona fide student, having enrolled not later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of any semester of participation and carry four (4) subjects.
  - b. Not have reached 19 years of age prior to September 1.
  - c. Present a certified copy of his/her birth certificate as proof of age.
  - d. Not have been in high school more than four (4) years.
  - e. Not be a graduate of a four (4)-year high school.
  - f. Attend school in district where family actually resides.



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- g. Attend school the majority of the school day.
- h. Be able to demonstrate, at the end of the year, normal progress toward the earning of units of credit required for graduation. The student must have at least an overall average of 70; be enrolled in five (5) credits toward graduation each year; must have a passing average for the year and the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Failure in one (1) class is allowed during the previous three (3) quarters.
  - 1. An eighth grader must turn 15 years of age prior to September 1.
  - 2. A ninth grader must not turn 16 years of age prior to September 1.
  - 3. A certified copy of his/her birth certificate is required as proof of age.
  - 4. Seniors shall not be allowed to participate on junior varsity team.

## D. SPECIAL EDUCATION (Exceptions to Rule 2-F)

Students that have been tested, screened, and placed in accordance with their IEP in a Special Education certificate program ruled eligible under the exceptions will be assigned a date of entering the ninth grade corresponding to other students of that age and are subject to all other rules and regulations of the AZ governing activities for regular students, including attendance.

## E. APPEAL PROCESS

An appeal process shall be established to enable any participant determined to be ineligible to have his/her case reviewed upon request of the participant, his/her parents, or the sponsor. The process shall be as follows:

- 1. Appeal is to be initiated with the school principal.
- 2. The school principal shall convene a committee consisting of the principal, parent, the activity sponsor, and the teacher(s) who have awarded failing grades to the appellant. The committee will examine pertinent school records of the student, his/her attitude about school, and the presence of any extenuating circumstances affecting his/her performance.
- 3. If the appellant is not satisfied with the disposition determined by the committee, he/she may appeal to the Superintendent.
- 4. If the appellant is not satisfied with the disposition determined by the committee, he/she may appeal to the Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc. The decision of the Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc. shall be final.



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### F. TEAM MEMBERSHIP

1. Any student may try out for any team offered in the program, provided he/she meets the eligibility requirements.
2. All participants are expected to maintain high standards of attitude, appearance, conduct, and good sportsmanship. Participants must conform to all rules and regulations of the program. Failure to do so will result in a suspension or student's dismissal from the team.

### G. TRY-OUT PERIODS

1. Any candidate may try out for any interscholastic sport conducted in that sport season.
2. The coaches will meet their respective squad members at the beginning of each sport season and inform them of team plans and regulations.
3. At the Middle School level, there shall be no cuts. Any student who goes out for the team may participate in practices and be part of the team. Depending upon the level of competition, the coach may choose to use students who would not normally play in a scheduled game if he or she feels that the students not normally in the game can be competitive.
4. At the High School level in sports where "cuts" are required, the coach will post a final list of team members. Players are cut only for lack of ability, poor attitude, conduct, or absences from practice.

### H. EQUIPMENT/UNIFORM RESPONSIBILITY

Any athlete who fails to return school-issued equipment or uniforms or refuses to pay for equipment not returned, will be ineligible for practice or participation in any other sport until the account is settled. The High School shall require an upfront fee of \$25 to safeguard against equipment or uniforms that are damaged or not returned. Such fee shall be returned at the conclusion of the season. If the damage or loss is greater than \$25, the student or parents shall pay the difference.

### I. BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT

Poor sportsmanship during the game, flagrant arguing with the officials, or inappropriate language will not be tolerated. Any athlete displaying these behaviors is to be removed from the game, or if not in the game, from the playing area. Any athlete who has been disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct shall have the case referred to the Director of Athletics. Athletes shall not mingle with the opposition or



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get into arguments with parents, fans, or students from another district.

## J. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES/SMOKING

During the season of practice or play, a student shall not use, consume, possess, buy, sell, or give any beverage containing alcohol, marijuana, and/or any controlled substance.

## K. ATTENDANCE

Participation in an activity or sport is but one part of a student's educational program. It is understood that students will be present in school by the end of the third period, or eleven o'clock (11:00) a.m. A student cannot be dismissed from school before 11:00 and still practice or play. The 11:00 a.m. rule can be waived if dismissal or tardiness is a result of a family, legal, or medical matter. Any such waiver must be approved by the Principal. Any lateness for medical reasons must be substantiated by a written notice from the parent and will be presented to the Principal's Office upon the student's arrival at school. Team and activity members on suspension for any disciplinary infraction will not be allowed to practice or participate in any event for the day. In the case of assigned detention, students will be expected to attain this assignment before reporting to the practice. If a student is absent from school on Friday due to sickness, a doctor's excuse must be provided to participate in a Saturday game.

## L. APPEAL PROCEDURE FOR VIOLATIONS OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

A student may appeal any decision pursuant to the rules and regulations pertaining to his/her sport by submitting a letter in writing to the Director of Athletics within ten (10) days of the imposed penalty. The Director of Athletics, upon receiving the written appeal, shall convene the Athletic Hearing Committee and recommend the appropriate action. This committee shall consist of the appropriate principal, the athletic director, and the coaches of the team or teams involved. In the event that the student wishes to appeal the decision of the Athletic Hearing Committee, he/she may do so by submitting a letter in writing within ten (10) days of the Athletic Hearing Committee's decision, to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent shall review the case and recommend appropriate action. The decision will be final.

## M. INSURANCE

1. The Athletic Department does not have insurance on athletes, except for students participating in football.
2. The Athletic Department offers students the opportunity to purchase school insurance and/or varsity football insurance at the beginning of the school year. It



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is strongly recommended that all student athletes have insurance. The parent or legal guardian may sign an insurance waiver, taking full responsibility for his/her child to participate.

## N. LEAVING THE TEAM

1. Any student dropping out of a sport has an obligation to confer with the coach involved.
2. A participant, for any reason, that drops from a team will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the current sport season is completed. An exception may be granted if the leaving of the team is mutually agreeable and the Athletic Director is in concurrence.

## O. SUSPENSION

1. A participant that is suspended from a team for violations of rules and regulations stated in this document shall be ineligible to participate during the suspension.
2. Any student placed on out-of-school suspension may not participate or practice with the team during that period of suspension.

## P. INJURED PLAYER

1. The Head Coach of each sport is responsible for the safety of his/her players. An emergency plan shall be submitted by each Head Coach to the Athletic Director.
2. Parents are to be informed of an injury and any action that has been taken.
3. Any participant under the care of a doctor will not be allowed to participate without written permission from his/her doctor and parents.
4. Athletes who have been injured and taken to the hospital or clinic for medical assistance cannot participate in practice or competition unless a medical release is provided.

## Q. COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT

1. The coach should never place the value of a win above that of instilling the highest desirable ideals and character traits in his/her players.
2. The coach should always place the safety and welfare of the players above any personal prestige.
3. The coach should display good sportsmanship before during, and after a contest.





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5. Proper language should prevail in all situations.
5. Coaches and fellow-teacher relationships should be positive at all times. Contact with teachers or administrators should be done in a professional, ethical manner.
6. The coach should conduct himself/herself in a professional manner both on and off the field and represent the Shonto Preparatory School with integrity.
7. Coaches shall maintain accurate and current records on individual statistics. These statistics shall be kept on file.
8. It is expected that coaches will dress appropriately for all competitions and ask that students also follow team rules regarding dress on game days.

## R. PARENT SUPPORT

1. The Governing Board believes that the presence of parents at interscholastic athletic events is positive and beneficial to the student athlete and district.
2. It is expected that parents will conduct themselves in a manner that supports good sportsmanship. Parents are not to belittle coaches, chastise referees, fellow teammates, or participate in actions or statements that would embarrass the school district.
3. If a parent is asked to leave a game for inappropriate behaviors, he or she will not be permitted to attend the next home game. It shall be the decision of the principal, based upon Athletic Director and coach input that shall be the basis for any banning of parents from an athletic event.

## S. ATHLETIC AWARDS

The Shonto Governing Board of Education, Inc. recognizes that students should be rewarded for participation and achievement in interscholastic athletics; therefore, a system of awards shall be instituted by the Athletic Director and periodically reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools.

## T. CHAPERONES

- A. Female chaperones must be appointed whenever a male is coach of a team of females. Chaperones will only be required on away games or overnight trips.
- B. The Athletic Director is responsible for implementing this policy and enforcing its provisions on a daily basis.
- C. Secondary school administrators shall monitor this policy and its execution as it pertains to their students.



