

Students

Participation in Athletics

The New Fairfield Board of Education supports a well-rounded, comprehensive education for every student. To this end, students who wish to participate in athletics are encouraged to become involved in other extracurricular and co-curricular activities as well. A co-curricular activity is one that is associated with either learning and/or an academic grade (i.e., D.E.C.A., National Honor Society, Latin Club).

It shall be considered a privilege to be a member of a New Fairfield team and/or to participate in other extracurricular/co-curricular activities. To retain this privilege, students involved in extracurricular athletics and co-curricular activities must abide by rules established by coaches, activity faculty advisors, and the school administration.

No students should be denied participation in a sports activity if they choose to be involved in other school activities in accordance with the following protocol:

- Student athletes are expected to be present for athletic practices and games during vacations. If they must be absent and miss a game, they must sit out a game. For every two practices missed, they must miss a game. This also applies to student athletes who have been suspended from school and, therefore, missed practices and/or games. To ensure safety, upon return from such an absence, a coach can require the student athlete to spend a reasonable number of days conditioning before returning to practice or games. The player would resume his/her membership on the athletic roster. Any absences from practices or games that are associated with other school activities must be related to curriculum and/or learning (i.e., a trip to an amusement park for Physics instruction would be acceptable, whereas a trip to an amusement park with a club for recreation would not be an acceptable reason). Athletes who attend co-curricular activities which are associated with learning cannot be penalized from participation in his/her athletic sport when he/she returns. In rare cases when conditioning is needed for the athletes to safely participate, that decision should be made at the discretion of the athletic trainer and/or a qualified professional other than the coach approved by the Principal. This professional must sign a statement that the athlete is ready to participate after he/she is in satisfactory physical condition to appropriately participate. A medical physician's statement will be acceptable in lieu of the athletic trainer or other professional's statement to participate;
- If student athletes are required to attend all games and practices during vacation, for every game that a student athlete misses, the student will sit out one game. For every two practices that a student athlete misses, the student will sit out one game.

Students

Participation in Athletics (continued)

It should be understood that students must make choices about extracurricular and co-curricular involvements, particularly when they involve major commitments of time and attendance. Students who choose to participate in athletics will not be able to assume major roles in other activities, such as drama productions, because their inconsistent attendance would be a detriment to the team.

Unresolved questions related to athletic participation shall be taken to the Principal or his/her designee within a reasonable amount of time for final resolution.

Students do not have the right of due process before being excluded from an extracurricular activity.

Legal Reference: *Farver v. Board of Education of Carroll County*, 40F
 Supp. 2d 323 (D. Md 1999)