

Dear Parents and Students of the Baltic School District,

Beginning in June 2017, the Baltic School Board and administration began discussing possible changes to our Co-Curricular Activity Rules Policy commonly referred to as “training rules.” After much discussion over six months, the School Board approved a final version of the policy that will take affect November 27, 2017, which coincides with the beginning of the 2017-18 basketball season. The policy is six pages in length, so in being cost conscious, we are not running copies of the entire policy for every student. Instead, we have this one page summary of major changes in the policy, and we direct you to the Baltic School website at www.balticschool.org where the entire revised policy is in the Quick Links section on the left hand side. Since the changes in policy are fairly significant and potentially could affect all students in grades 7-12, we are asking every 7-12 student and their parents/guardians to read the revised policy, sign at the bottom of this sheet that you have been informed of the policy change, and return the form to school by November 27, 2017. Students will not be allowed to participate in practices or events after Nov. 27th until a signed form is returned. Failure to return the sign-off sheet does not exempt a student from being subject to the policy. If you have any questions, contact Superintendent Bob Sittig or Activities Director Steve Gunderson.

School Activities Definition

The policy governs all school activities including, but not limited to, athletics, band, vocal, cheerleading, drama, FFA, FCCLA, NHS, oral interpretation, royalty candidates, student council, quiz bowl, and robotics. A school activity event is defined as a public presentation, performance, or competition associated with participation in a school activity with exceptions made for performances, activities and field trips that are considered to be part of a course curriculum such as pep band performances.

Major Changes to the Policy

1. The previous policy was only in affect for the school term, but the revised policy is in affect year around including summers.
2. Being charged with committing a crime against person or property is now considered a violation of this policy and thus subject to a suspension from participation.
3. A student who self-reports a first violation may have their suspension reduced by half.
4. In the previous policy, a suspension was for a set period of time. The revised policy requires a student to sit out of minimum number of events, two events for a first offense and six events for a second offense, before a student is allowed to resume participation.
5. The new policy requires a student to meet with a Baltic School counselor after a first offense, and to participate in a screening with a certified chemical dependency counselor and complete any recommended accredited intensive prevention or treatment program at student/parent expense before returning to participation after a second or third offense.
6. The other changes are procedural in nature related to the implementation of the above changes.
7. The previous policy referred to South Dakota Codified Law on controlled substance (drug) offenses and included an excerpt of the law, where the new policy includes the entire State law at the end of the policy.

All 7-12 grade students and their parents/guardians must sign below and return this form to the secondary school office by November 27, 2017. Students will not be allowed to participate in practices or events after Nov. 27th until a signed form is returned. Failure to return this sign-off sheet does not exempt a student from being subject to the policy.

Students signature	Year in school	Date
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Parent/guardian signature	Date
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