

PICTOU ACADEMY SPORTS ELIGIBILITY POLICY

To be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity at Pictou Academy, students must maintain an academic performance standard of passing at least three of the four courses or two of the three (five of the six for grade nines) they are taking in which they are enrolled, as well as not skipping any classes or having two out of school suspensions. Any student failing two or more courses in any of the four reporting periods or has been caught skipping a class / been on out of school suspension immediately becomes ineligible. The fourth report period, the end of year report, renders some students ineligible to begin any activities the following school year.

The responsibility to monitor the students is shared between the athletic director/administration and the various staff advisors/coaches. When a student becomes ineligible, he/she may request a hearing with the athletic director/administration to request re-installment. The athletic director/administration has three options: immediate reinstatement (rarely occurs), maintain the ineligibility until the next reporting period (more common), or a probationary period permitting the student's participation conditionally (most frequent).

The athletic director and administration will meet frequently in the weeks following reports to deal with the students, giving priority to those in "the middle of the season." The student appearing before the athletic director/administration is expected to come prepared to make a case for reinstatement, including information from his/her teachers, a plan to improve his/her marks, behaviour, etc.

For most students, the result from the appeal process is a probationary period (usually lasting until the next report) that includes a requirement that the student submit a weekly report from teachers (see attached sample). Students who do not reach the minimum three of four standard (five of six for grade nines) or shows improved behaviour in the subsequent reporting period are rarely given a second probation period.

The emphasis is on improving the student's academic performance and behaviour by implementing a system of accountability. The "hook" is, of course, the student's desire to remain active in extra-curricular, and for the great majority of those affected, it results in much-improved attitudes, self-discipline, marks, etc.