INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Board believes individual students may benefit from participation in interscholastic sport activities. The experience of self-discipline required in individual or team sports and the opportunity to learn additional skills and knowledge increase the value of the school experience and contribute to emotional and physical growth.

The first consideration in all activities is the best interest of the participants and should be achieved without unreasonable interference with the other obligations of the school community and the families of the participants.

The Board recognizes the potential boost to overall school and community morale a well organized and well conducted athletic program offers. Too great an emphasis on winning or too consistent a record of losing are both harmful to the desirable attitude of ideal sportsmanship. It is in the best interest of the individual, the school and the community to lend emphasis to the concept of ideal sportsmanship.

Expenditures for the athletic program are raised and approved as part of the district budget. Revenue from contests where an admission is charged are accounted for in the general school budget and transferred to the district budget at the end of each season. Coaches will submit budgetary requests to the athletic director and the principal for review and/or modification. No expenditures for the athletic program in excess of the budget may be made without approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

The district shall make a concerted effort to offer equal opportunity in sports activity for both sexes.

The Board establishes these conditions:

1. Participation is voluntary. Students in grades 9-12 are limited to high school activities, and students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are limited to programs within those grade levels.

2. The interscholastic program is an integral part of the school program and is under the direct supervision of the principal.

3. All athletic teams shall adhere to the local policies and rules. These local policies and regulations may set standards that exceed those of the NHIAA which governs interschool athletics at Salem High School.

4. In addition to the NHIAA eligibility rules, and to be eligible for the first day of practice and competition, a student shall:

   a. Obtain and return to the Director of Athletics certification of a registered physician indicating approval to participate in athletics, on a school physical examination form.

   b. Provide evidence of coverage by a voluntary school accident insurance policy. A written notice signed by parents indicating adequate home coverage supersedes this requirement (football players shall be covered by a school district policy). Such notice to be returned to the Director of Athletics.

   c. Complete and return, to the trainer, a school eligibility form including the emergency information forms.

   d. Attend with parent/guardian a meeting scheduled by the Director of Athletics for the purpose of participating in a program designed to explain the rules and regulations for interschool athletics and the inherent dangers associated with the activity. Parent/guardian attendance at a meeting is mandatory for eligibility.
e. Earn minimum credit requirements after the first year as outlined below:

- Grade 9 to Grade 10 7 credits
- Grade 10 to Grade 11 14 credits
- Grade 11 to Grade 12 21 credits
- Graduation from Grade 12 28 credits

In addition, students must be passing a minimum of 3 courses at all times to gain and maintain eligibility.

f. Should a student earn the necessary credits in summer school or during the first half of a school year and is recognized as having advanced to the next grade level by the school, they become eligible for interschool athletics at that time.

5. A student is ineligible for participation when:

a. Absent from school on the day of an event, or the day preceding a weekend or holiday event. The principal may grant an exception because of truly unusual circumstances.

b. A student is under suspension (inclusive of in-school suspension).

c. A student fails to account for and return, or provide financial reimbursement for uniforms or equipment loaned during an activity.

d. A player leaves the bench during an activity when a fight or disruption occurs.

e. A student has exhibited behavior that is detrimental to the concept of sportsmanship and, in the judgment of the principal, will reflect discredit upon the school.

6. When separate grade level teams exist, usually students shall be limited to participation at that grade level. The principal, in consultation with the athletic director, coach(es), and parent(s), may grant an exception when truly unusual physical attributes and skills make it apparent that the best interest of the student would be served by the exception. Such exceptions to be reported in writing to the Superintendent of Schools and the Salem School Board when the exception is granted.

7. A student is limited to participation in one sport activity each playing season. A student who has participated in one sport activity for more than ten (10) calendar days will not be permitted to try out for any other sport until the season's schedule for that sport has been completed.

8. A student/athlete is prohibited from participating in another sport for five (5) calendar days between the end of one sport season and another.

9. Sunday practice sessions are prohibited. Also prohibited are organized practice sessions outside the sport season as scheduled by the NHIAA and for major holidays Labor Day, Christmas and New Years Day. Varsity teams may participate on Sunday in an approved interschool championship and/or tournament game, and games postponed because of severe weather and poor playing conditions may be rescheduled on Sunday.

10. Fund raising activities for all interschool athletics shall be limited to one "Booster" organization.

11. A coach shall not have an association with team or potential team members for the purpose of planning, producing or play at any time other than within the season limits defined by the NHIAA. Further, a coach or other representative of the school shall not require participation in a sport or a training program for a sport outside the NHIAA defined sport season.

Except for two (2) one-hour meetings to elect captains, collect or issue equipment and/or other organizational matters, the demands on student athletes are limited to the NHIAA defined season.
12. In the event of an injury to a student/athlete, the school employed trainer shall determine if and when they can return to practice or playing. A student/athlete in the care of a registered physician may participate only when released by the physician for participation.

Should a student/athlete be hospitalized or have an injury or illness that causes practice and games to be missed for fifteen (15) or more consecutive days, they must have the written consent of a physician to resume participation.

13. The only persons permitted on or in the area of a team bench, during a contest, are school district employees unless an exception is made in writing by the building principal.

14. Woodbury School student/athletes competing in baseball may also play for the Salem Little League providing they do not pitch or catch for both teams.

15. It is the intent of this school district to allow student/athletes the opportunity to participate in interschool sports based on their demonstrated skill and behavior during the approved NHIAA season for each sport. Therefore, student/athletes shall not be pressured nor unduly encouraged to participate in off-season activities related to sport. A coach is obligated to advise student/athletes of the intent of this policy.

It is the policy of the School Board to foster the academic rigor of school as the first priority for student/athletes. Therefore, practice sessions shall not begin prior to 30 minutes after the end of the last class of the school day and, except for the first week of a season, are to be limited to no more than 2 1/2 hours including time to shower following practice.

It is also the intent of the School Board for student/athletes and their families to have the option of participating in school activities or a family activity during school vacations or national holidays without penalty. That is, they may lose a starting position and need to earn it back, but they are not to be made ineligible.

At no time is a student's academic grade to be affected by the fact they participate in athletics.

The participation in non-sanctioned athletic contests, all star games, or games for commercial or charitable purposes is prohibited since activities are in violation of the spirit and letter of the rules of the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association. Contests approved by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association are acceptable.

The Board encourages the maximum number of players on any squad play in scheduled contests and has a high expectation that all players on junior high, freshman, and junior varsity teams will play a reasonable period of time in all contests.

The Superintendent of Schools may establish rules and regulations considered necessary to maintain the spirit of these policies. ANY EXCEPTION TO POLICY NOT GRANTED HEREIN MUST BE MADE BY THE BOARD.