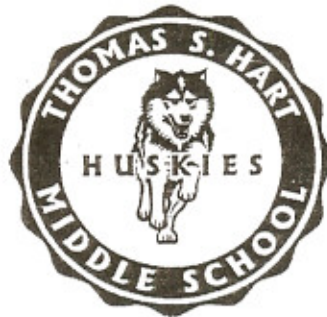


Student Handbook for Inter-Scholastic Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities



Pleasanton Panthers



Hart Huskies



Harvest Park Patriots



Amador Valley Dons



Foothill Falcons

Pleasanton Unified School District

4665 Bernal Avenue • Pleasanton, California 94566-7498 • (925) 462-5500

To Whom Does This Policy Apply?

Any student who wishes to participate in one or more of the activities listed below, must comply with the policy printed within this booklet.

Interscholastic Athletics

- Interscholastic Athletics
- Spirit Squad

Co-Curricular Activities

- Bands
- Color Guard
- Choir
- Debate/Speech
- Drama
- Stagecraft
- Leadership/Student Government

Individual School Programs

This policy sets global standards for the Pleasanton Unified School District. Each school may have its own procedures in complying with the spirit/intent of the District policy.

Pleasanton Unified School District INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS • CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Board of Trustees recognizes that interscholastic athletics and co-curricular activities enrich the educational and social development experiences of pupils. The District shall encourage and support pupil participation in interscholastic athletics/co-curricular activities without compromising the integrity and purpose of the educational program.

Interscholastic athletics are those programs that have all of the following characteristics (EC 35160.5):

- The activity is supervised or financed by the school district or school site.
- Pupils participating in the activity represent the school district or school site.
- The activity includes both preparation for performance and performance before an audience or spectators.
- The activity is not part of the regular school curriculum, is not graded, does not offer credit, and does not take place during classroom time.

Co-curricular activities are programs that may be associated with the curriculum in a regular classroom.

**Pleasanton Unified School District
Interscholastic Athletics and Co-curricular Activities
Administrative Regulations**

I. Academic Eligibility Requirements (applies to all interscholastic athletics and co-curricular participants)

In order to encourage and promote academic excellence, all pupils participating in interscholastic athletics/co-curricular activities shall demonstrate satisfactory progress in meeting the requirements for graduation by undertaking the prescribed course of study and meeting the standards of proficiency established by the District.

A program that has as its primary goal the improvement of academic or educational achievements of pupils is not subject to these eligibility requirements. (EC 35160.5(b) (5))

In order to be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics/co-curricular activities, a pupil in grades 6 through 12 shall have earned a minimum 2.0 (or "C") grade point average with no grade of an "F" in the preceding grading period (Quarter 1, Semester 1, Quarter 3, Semester 2) and be making progress toward graduation/promotion in order to try-out and participate. Students must, however, participate in co-curricular graded activities unless otherwise directed by the principal or designee. (See below for probation eligibility.)

The grade point average and determination of eligibility shall be based on quarter and semester grades. Eligibility will begin/end on the date grades are posted in the district records each grading period.

In the event a pupil finds that he/she is academically ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics/co-curricular activities in the first quarter of the forthcoming year, he/she may request that current summer school grades be added to the grades received in the spring semester and that the total spring semester with summer school grades be used to determine eligibility for the first quarter of the forthcoming school year.

The superintendent or designee shall determine which activities may not be entered into after the onset of the activity, assuming eligibility is achieved after commencement of the activity.

II. Probationary Period

- A. Pupils academically ineligible may seek a period of probationary eligibility (one quarter or semester grading period) immediately following the grading period in which ineligibility occurs provided the pupil's grade point

average falls in the 1.75 to 1.99 range and that the pupil has no more than one contributing grade of "F". Any pupil below this standard is not eligible for probation and will be dropped from the activity immediately. This period shall not extend beyond the next quarter grading period.

- B. Parents/guardians wishing to have their child placed on probation shall do so through the school administration during the period of probation application. Pupils granted probationary eligibility must meet the required standards (2.00 GPA and no F grades) by the end of the probationary period in order to remain eligible for participation. Any pupil, who falls below the above standards, while on probation, will also be removed immediately from the activity.
- C. Every pupil is eligible for one probationary period per academic year. Pupils who still fail to meet academic eligibility requirements at the end of the probationary period shall be deemed ineligible until academic eligibility standards are met on the next regular quarter or semester report card.

III. Behavior / Citizenship Eligibility

A pupil shall maintain a satisfactory record of conduct, citizenship, and attendance in order to remain eligible. With the privilege of representing school and community, comes the responsibility of upholding the highest standards and the six expected behaviors of good character – Responsibility, Compassion, Self-Discipline, Honesty, Respect, and Integrity.

IV. Review and/or Appeal

- A. If the pupil or the pupil's parent/guardian wishes to appeal the pupil's academic and/or citizenship ineligibility for interscholastic athletics/co-curricular activities, the case may be presented in writing to the principal. Questions regarding academic status should be addressed to the student's counselor.
- B. The school administrator/designee shall convene a review panel to consider the appeal. The review panel may be made up of:
 - 1. Athletic Director or Department chair or activity supervisor/sponsor
 - 2. Coach or Teacher from out-of-season activity
 - 3. Administrator
 - 4. Teacher (academic subject)
 - 5. Counselor
- C. The review panel shall convene within five school days after the appeal is received and as soon as it is convenient for those involved to meet. The

student and parent shall present their case to the panel. A decision by the panel will be rendered within 24 hours from the conclusion of the review.

- D. In the event that either party feels it is necessary to appeal the panel's decision, the next step would be an appeal to the school principal.
- E. In the event that either party feels it is necessary to appeal the principal's decision, the next step would be an appeal to the superintendent's designee (Senior Director, Pupil Services).
- F. The final step of appeal would be to the superintendent.

V. Pupils Eligible for Differentiated Standards

Pupils enrolled in Special Education, including those eligible for differentiated standards of proficiency under California Education Code Section 51215, are included in this policy. A differentiated standard is a standard other than that adopted by the local Board of Trustees for those pupils whose handicap precludes them from attaining the district's regular proficiency. No staff person or member of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team shall classify a pupil as eligible for differentiated standards of proficiency for the purpose of circumventing the intent of this policy.

Interscholastic Athletics

I. School's Responsibility

- A. Each school shall be responsible for distributing copies of the District's Student Handbook for Interscholastic Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities and the Interscholastic Athletics/Co-Curricular Activities Code of Conduct Agreement to all athletes.
- B. The student activities office of each school shall issue all materials related to clearances and eligibility.
- C. The athletic director and/or the principal shall be responsible for administration of clearances and eligibility requirements.
- D. The coach is responsible for convening a meeting with athletes and parents prior to the season for the purpose of reviewing these regulations and obtaining signatures on Interscholastic Athletics/Co-Curricular Activities Code of Conduct Agreement.

II. Eligibility Requirements for Participation in Athletics

Any pupil enrolled in the Pleasanton Unified School District who satisfies both the requirements of the California Interscholastic Federation and those of the District is eligible to try out for an athletic team.

A. North Coast Section, California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Eligibility Requirements

1. Age Limit - Ineligible if 19 prior to August 31.
2. Pupil is eligible for the first eight semesters of his/her high school attendance.
3. Any student transferring under the provisions of open enrollment (Board policy 5190) will have immediate eligibility subject to the following limitations:
 - a. Only one transfer is allowed during the student's high school career after the initial enrollment as a ninth grader in a four year high school.
 - b. The transfer must be completed during the first 15 school days of the new school year.
 - c. The transfer must not be a result of disciplinary action.
 - d. The receiving school must certify that no consideration was given to the athletic performance of the student in accepting the transfer. (See CIF Bylaws 22B)
4. A pupil who violates CIF amateur or award rules shall be barred from CIF competition in that sport.
5. A pupil on a high school team becomes ineligible if he/she competes in a contest on an outside team in the same sport during the high school season of the sport.
6. Any pupil taking part in a prohibited All-Star contest shall be barred from all CIF athletic contests.

B. Forms

The following must be filed with the student activities secretary prior to participation in an interscholastic sport:

- Verification of an annual physical examination.
- A PUSD Interscholastic Athletics/Co-Curricular Activities Code of Conduct Agreement signed by the pupil and the pupil's parent/guardian.
- Proper insurance forms.

C. Withdrawing from a sport

A pupil may withdraw from a sport without penalty only if the pupil confers with the coach and receives the coach's consent to leave the sport. Any pupil who leaves a sport without first receiving the coach's consent is ineligible through the end of the season or 30 calendar days, whichever is longer.

- D. Procedures regarding suspension of an athlete
1. The coach of the sport in progress or the principal/designee shall inform the pupil of the infraction.
 2. The pupil shall have the opportunity to explain his/her actions.
 3. After consideration of the facts of the incident, the coach, athletic director, or administrator shall take appropriate action which would include notifying the pupil's parents/guardians.

E. Other general regulations

1. The pupil assumes responsibility for all equipment issued to him/her. Restitution for lost equipment will be the responsibility of the athlete and/or his/her parents/guardians.

2. Transportation

Whenever possible, all athletes shall travel to and from athletic contests in transportation provided by the school district. All other means of transportation shall be approved by the site administrator in accordance with District policy.

All athletes shall remain under the supervision of their coach while attending a contest away from their school.

Athletes wishing to return home with parents in transportation other than District provided must have the coach's permission based upon written permission from their parents/guardians. Pupils may not transport themselves or other pupils to or from athletic events.

F. District requirements:

1. Conduct (Also see PUSD's Interscholastic Athletics/Co-Curricular Activities Code of Conduct Agreement)

During a season of sport, any athlete possessing, using, selling, or otherwise furnishing or being under the influence of any controlled substance (as defined in Section 1007 of the Health and Safety Code), alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind will be dropped from the team for 30 days on the first occurrence and removed from the team on the second occurrence. A review panel will be available if the case is appealed.

Cigarette smoking and/or use of tobacco products is prohibited. First offense will result in a one week suspension from the team or sport. The second offense results in a 30 day suspension.

Athletes removed from the team without returning by the end of the season are ineligible for any awards in that sport for that season.

A pupil may be suspended or expelled for acts enumerated in EC 48900 or 48915 and related to school activity or attendance which occur at any time, including but not limited to: (1) while on school grounds; (2) while going to or coming from school; (3) during the lunch period, whether on or off the campus; or (4) during or while going to or coming from a school-sponsored activity.

2. Citizenship

A pupil shall maintain a satisfactory record of conduct, citizenship, and attendance in order to remain eligible. With the privilege of representing school and community comes the responsibility of upholding the highest standards and the six expected behaviors of good character – Responsibility, Compassion, Self-Discipline, Honesty, Respect, and Integrity. Failure to do so shall result in the pupil being suspended or dropped from the team.

3. Teacher Recommendations

A teacher may recommend that an athlete be held out of practice or contest for any of the following reasons: class conduct, lack of academic achievement, or lack of participation in a class activity. The teacher, coach, and athletic director or an administrator will meet to determine the action to be taken.

4. Attendance

A pupil shall participate in a minimum of four periods of school in order to be eligible to take part in any athletic activity for that day. Two of those periods of attendance may be waived by the principal if the pupil is involved in a supervised school activity. If either of the above requirements cannot be met, then the pupil shall bring a note from his/her parent to the athletic director stating the reason for absence. At that time, the athletic director and the coach shall render a decision on the pupil's eligibility for participation.