

Orono High School Statement of Purpose



We serve several communities enriched by the presence of a university. These communities offer a rich educational and cultural resource with people willing, capable and eager to join us in the education of our youth.

We are an agent of the family, community and state. We recognize, accept and are dedicated to meeting our responsibilities as an educational and social institution.

We respect students as individuals and are committed to identifying and helping them build upon their unique strengths and aspirations in assisting them to reach their potential. We are committed to our students' intellectual, physical, social and emotional growth, and we will provide a safe, supportive and stimulating environment in which growth will be encouraged.

We will develop competent citizens who are effective communicators and resourceful caretakers of the world and the environment.

We recognize that as adults, our students will live in a world very different from ours and from our vision of their future. Therefore, we believe students will be best prepared by an education fostering academic excellence, responsibility, respect for quality, adaptability, independent thinking, ethical behavior and a view of learning as an exciting, rewarding, life-long process

Coaching/Advising Philosophy

Learning can take place in a fun and positive climate. By stressing personal development for each participant, instilling in them the desire to succeed, and having them accept the challenge of becoming as good as they can be, you will develop a climate conducive to success. (Although policies and procedures are intended to set minimum guidelines for participation, administration and coaches/advisors may establish additional rules and procedures.)

Co-Curricular Values Statements:

1. Students have the opportunity to participate in co-curricular activities
2. Students participate at a level commensurate with each student's maturity and ability
3. Students have qualified adult leadership
4. Students participate as a student and not as an adult
5. Students share in the leadership and decision-making of their activity participation
6. Students participate in a safe and healthy environment
7. Students prepare properly for participation in sports
8. Students have an equal opportunity to strive for success
9. Students will be treated with dignity and respect
10. Students have fun

Co-Curricular Activities at Orono High School

RSU 26 believes that participation in interscholastic activities is an important and valuable aspect of the total school experience. The purpose of co-curricular activities is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual student. Participants in our programs will be expected to display the proper ideals of teamwork, ethical conduct, and fair play; to show and encourage respect to opponents, fellow players and coaches/advisors, and officials/judges. Finally, we strive to encourage a winning spirit without losing sight of the above ideals.

CONCUSSION PRE SCREENING: Students wishing to participate in a sport must be pre screened for concussion management purposes entering grades nine and eleven. The certified athletic trainer and/or school nurse will conduct the SCAT-5 prior to the first countable contest of the sport season. The SCAT-5 form is located at the front office or on the school website and must be signed by the parent and returned prior to the testing.

Registration

Before any student can participate, they must have the following items completed:

White Emergency Card: This includes emergency information that would be needed should an injury occur. These cards are available at the Orono High School main office.

Co-curricular Compliance Form: This form is found at the conclusion of the Co-Curricular Contract and must be signed by both student and parent/guardian indicating their knowledge and understanding of rules and regulations governing our program.

Preparticipation Physical Evaluation (PPE): This must be completed by the student's physician and family prior to participation in an activity. This form only applies to athletic participation.

Both the Co-Curricular Compliance form and the Preparticipation Physical Evaluation forms are available through a link in our Student Handbook or can be accessed through the Orono High School website: ohs.rsu26.org.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for interscholastic activities, students must meet all the requirements set by the Maine Principals Association, MMEA, and those of Orono High School.

Academic Eligibility

It is expected that students participating in co-curricular activities will continue to prioritize their academics. Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, grade checks will be completed by the athletic director and administrator more frequently. Student grades will be reviewed within each quarter at approximately the two week, progress report, four week and end of quarter points. A student not passing at least five courses at a grade check will be required to fulfill the following expectations/process:

At a student's first ineligible academic check they will be placed on "**Watch.**" This will include communication from the athletic director or administrator to the student, coach/advisor and parent/guardian(s). Students will be offered assistance in improving their grades through after school academic support, scheduled meetings when necessary, conversations with their teachers and frequent check-ins. If the student's grades improve by the next grade check they will be removed from the Watch list until they become ineligible once again.

If however, a student remains ineligible by the next grade check they will be required to complete an **Eligibility Action Plan (EAP).**

Eligibility Action Plan (EAP) Process

This process provides the student with a set of concrete actions (conditions) designed to improve academic performance while allowing the student to continue participation in cocurricular activities. This process contains the following steps:

1. The Athletic Director/Administrator notifies the student of the need to develop an EAP. An EAP meeting time is established and the following people are notified: the coach/advisor, parent/guardian, school counselor, and, as appropriate, the teachers, and/or other special personnel. Those attending the meeting are determined by the student and administrator.
2. An EAP for the student will be collaboratively developed that both identifies and addresses the particular issues which led to their ineligibility. If agreement cannot be reached collaboratively on the contents of the EAP, the administration shall make the final decision on the contents on the EAP contract. An EAP contract will be completed and signed by the student, the coach/advisor, the administrator, the parent/guardian, and the school counselor. Final decisions are the responsibility of the administrator. Copies will be distributed to the appropriate people.
3. Upon completion of the EAP, the student will be allowed to participate in practices and rehearsals. After one week of compliance with the EAP, and if they are passing the required classes and failing no more than one class, the student will be granted probationary eligibility and may then participate in performances and competitions. If however, the student is not passing the required classes or failing more than one class, they will continue the EAP status (meaning not compete) for another week. This will continue until the student's grades meet the requirements.

This weekly check for ineligibility continues for the remainder of the season.

****** If a student is not passing the required classes at either the progress report or end of quarter grade checks, they will immediately begin the EAP process even if they weren't previously on Watch.

****** A student's eligibility at the beginning of the season is determined on their grades at the most recent grade check.

****** If unexpected or unanticipated circumstances or situations arise, specific plans or adjustments will be made by administration in accordance with the individual student, their parent/guardian(s) and any other necessary staff.

Guidelines for Athletes Joining a Team

Athletes will not be permitted to join another athletic team after the first week of each season has ended. The only exceptions to this rule are as follows:

- 9th Grade Student or New Students - A 9th grade or new student who had not had the exposure to a variety of activities and may have made a decision that did not fulfill their needs would need to request a transfer from the athletic director by the first week of the season for consideration. A decision for transferring will be made by the athletic director in consultation with the coaches involved.
- Transfer Students - The transfer student would be eligible as long as both schools' principals signed the MPA waiver of transfer form agreeing that the student did not transfer solely due to co-curricular purposes.

Guidelines for Leaving a Co-Curricular Activity

When a student at Orono High School makes a decision to participate in an activity, the staff and administration assume a season-long commitment from the student. If for some reason a student wishes to leave the activity, the following procedure should be followed:

- A. The coach/advisor should meet with the student to discuss reasons for their desire to leave, maybe there are problems that they are not aware of.
- B. The coach/advisor should then talk to the student's parents/guardians to explain what has happened.
- C. The coach/advisor should inform the athletic director/administrator of the problem as soon as possible so that the administration will be aware of what is happening. If necessary the athletic director or administrator will contact the parent/guardian to further discussion.

Student Behavioral Expectations

Chemical Use Policy

The Orono High School Administration recognizes that substance abuse is a significant health problem for many adolescents. The use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs affect the development of skills related to extracurricular activities and can negatively affect behavior, learning, and the development of each individual. In an effort to deter the use of alcohol, drugs, nicotine, and other illegal substances by RSU 26 students, RSU 26 prohibits the following conduct at any time during the co-curricular season. The co-curricular season is defined as the time from the first official practice date to the end of the season banquet or awards program.

Prohibited Conduct:

1. The use, possession, or sale of alcoholic beverages, drugs, nicotine and other illegal substances by a student participating on a school team/production;
2. Situations in which a student participating on a school team/production hosts or promotes an event where they know (or reasonably should know) that one or more minors are consuming alcohol, drugs, nicotine or other illegal substances;
3. Situations in which a student participating on a school team/production attends an event where they know (or reasonably should know) that one or more minors are consuming alcohol, drugs, nicotine or other illegal substances and where they do not immediately take steps to extricate themselves from the event in a prompt manner (for example: by calling their parent/guardian to come pick them up).

A. First Offense: Confirmed use or in the presence of the above substances during the season of the co-curricular activity will necessitate a suspension from co-curricular participation. A student will not be allowed to practice or otherwise be a member of the team until a parental/guardian-administrative conference is held. Following this conference the student could return to the activity but would be suspended from game/performance participation for up to two weeks. However, during the investigation process if a student chooses to accept responsibility, be accountable for their involvement and be respectful to those involved, the suspension from game/performance participation may be reduced to one week. Should the infraction occur during vacation, or pre-season periods when no games/activities are scheduled, another suitable consequence will be determined by the administration. In addition, the school administration **may** require that students participate in some form of chemical education/awareness/counseling or assessment program as part of the consequences. Refusal or failure to complete this requirement could result in a longer period of suspension or termination of participation.

B. Second Offense: For any confirmed second offense during the academic/athletic school year, the student will not be allowed to participate in any school sponsored co-curricular activities for the remainder of the co-curricular activity season (including practices, games/performances, banquets/awards ceremonies, and awards/accolades). The parent/guardian(s) and student will be made aware of this during the meeting of the first offense.

C. Third Offense: For any confirmed third offense during the academic/athletic school year, the student will not be allowed to participate in any school sponsored co-curricular activities for a full calendar year. This includes any team activities remaining in the current season (including practices, games/performances, banquets/awards ceremonies, and awards/accolades). The parent/guardian(s) and student will be made aware of this during the meeting of the second offense.

Self-Referral: In the event that a student comes to a coach/advisor seeking help with a problem related to chemical use, the coach will inform the administration. A strategy will be developed which will provide the student/athlete with appropriate help. Parent/guardian(s) will be involved in developing this plan. In cases of self-referral, there will be no punitive action provided the student actively participates in the program developed.

1. Mandatory meeting will be set up with a counselor.
2. Follow any recommended plans of therapy.

(Any violation of the program developed will result in the student being held accountable following the above outlined offenses.)

Athletic Player Ejection Rules

The Maine Principals' Association has specific guidelines in regards to ejections from contests due to unsportsmanlike conduct. Any athlete or coach ejected from a contest will be suspended for the remainder of that game and the next game as a minimum. Further administrative or team consequences may also follow the MPA suspension. Any athlete that is a multi-sport athlete and is ejected in the final game of a season, will be held to the MPA rule of sitting out the first regular season game of the next sports season.

Any player that is ejected a second time from a contest will result in automatic dismissal from the team.

Any unsportsmanlike conduct that leads to a red card, technical foul, blatant unsportsmanlike conduct, etc., will result in the athlete being suspended for the remainder of that contest. This is an administrative rule at Orono High School.

Social Media

Orono High School utilizes social media to promote our programs, both in team and individual accomplishments. Social media can be a very effective and efficient way to distribute information regarding practice, rehearsal and competition schedules, team meetings, and other relevant and important information.

We expect our coaches/advisors and students to conduct themselves in a manner that would not bring negative attention to our programs or school community. Following the OHS Code of Conduct & Acceptable Use Policy as outlined in the Student Handbook:

- If social media is used in an inappropriate manner on a school issued laptop, the student will be subjected to consequences outlined in the OHS Student Handbook.
- If the student uses social media in an inappropriate manner on their own personal electronic device and it is brought to the attention of a coach/advisor or school official, the student will be subjected to discipline rendered by administrators or the coach/advisor. Those consequences could range from the following:
 - Verbal reprimand
 - Game/event or multiple game/event suspension
 - Dismissal from the team/group
- The above consequences may not be exhaustive and may require additional responses depending on the severity or seriousness of the content involved on social media. Examples include: verbal, sexual, threatening or harassing language directed to another student in our school or in an opposing school, and behavior that is detrimental to the program such as derogatory comments directed at an opposing team or player(s).

RSU26 wants and encourages our students to be socially responsible while representing our programs. This will be highlighted during our Sports Information Nights/Arts Information Meetings held prior to each season and also reiterated by our staff in the teams first meeting.

Hazing

Hazing is defined as any action or situation, including harassing behavior, that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any school personnel or a student enrolled in school or any activity expected of a student as a condition of joining or maintaining membership in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers the student, regardless of the student's willingness to participate in the activity. See RSU 26 policy ACAD. Administration is committed to ensure that this type of behavior will not be tolerated in our co-curricular activities. Any confirmed offense will result in suspensions and possible removal from those activities.

****Also, any of the above violations could result in the following:**

- Non-consideration of any individual, team, league or state level postseason recognition
- Non-consideration of any school related awards (i.e. Burpee Award, Athlete of the Year)
- Temporary or permanent removal of a Wall of Fame Poster

General Rules and Policies

Attendance

Students absent from school shall not practice, participate, or compete on that day. To be eligible for practice, games, rehearsals or competitions a student must be at school no later than 9 A.M. on the day of the activity. Students who are out of compliance with the school tardy policy, without an acceptable excuse, may not be allowed to participate even if they make the 9 A.M. cut-off. ***(Doctor's appointments will be excused as long as a note accompanies or a parent/guardian contacts the school upon student arrival at school. Any other special appointments or circumstances will be decided upon by the administration.)***

Attendance at practices, rehearsals and competitions are mandatory and an expectation of all students unless otherwise arranged by the coach/advisor. Communication and arrangements must be made PRIOR to missing a practice, rehearsal or competition (except in very extenuating circumstances). Any consequences are at the full discretion of the coach/advisor. Excused absences such as family emergencies, recognized religious holidays, sickness, planned absences for personal/educational purposes or other health related issues will be treated as excused and not subjected to any consequence. However, if the absence is for an extended period of time which results in an excessive amount of practice time and conditioning, a player may be held out of competition for the sake of safety of the athlete.

Detentions

Any student who receives a detention (teacher or office) must serve the detention before practicing, rehearsing or participating in a competition. If a student skips any detention for any purpose, they will be subject to further disciplinary action which may include suspension from practice, rehearsal or competition. This will be at the administration and coaches/advisors discretion.

Injuries

All injuries (no matter how slight) must be immediately reported to the coach, advisor, or certified athletic trainer. The coach/advisor must fill out an injury report form and return it to the main office if the athletic trainer is not available or was not in attendance when the injury occurred. This form is available in the main office.

Transportation

All students are required to travel to and from out-of-town contests with the team/group through school provided transportation. Permission to return home with parent/guardian(s) after an away contest may be granted on special occasions by the athletic director/administrator 24 hours in advance of the trip by written notice, text or email providing the opportunity for the administrator to respond.

Some Orono High School students play their home contests or have practices at off-site facilities. Hockey takes place at Alford Arena, swimming takes place at Old Town High School, and golf takes place at Penobscot Valley Country Club. Indoor track meets and some practices take place at the New Balance University Field House while most of the practices take place at the YMCA. Transportation is not provided to these venues with the exception of indoor track due to times of practice at the YMCA and proximity to the school.

Students are expected to comply with all school rules when on the bus traveling to any extracurricular or co-curricular event. The coach/advisor is responsible for proper behavior by students on the bus. Generally, the driver is responsible for seeing that all safety rules are followed. The coach and the driver should, therefore, work together to ensure a safe, restrained environment.

Coaches/advisors should tell students and parent/guardian(s) in advance if stops are to be made (for example to McDonald's on away trips, etc.) It is the coaches/advisors discretion whether to stop for food but it is recommended that teams do not stop on school nights unless under unusual circumstances.

Coaches/advisors should report any problem related to transportation to the athletic director/administrator. They will then contact the transportation supervisor.

The athletic director will develop the transportation schedule for all sports, whereas the transportation director will arrange transportation for all other co-curricular activities. Coaches/advisors should make their wishes known regarding departure time to and from the activity.

Athletic Senior Night Recognition

Orono High School will conduct Senior Night recognition ceremonies for all athletic teams on the last home game of the regular season. This ceremony will be held prior to the start of the game, unless otherwise agreed upon in advance. The senior and immediate family members will be recognized with a flower for each student.

****Senior Night is not affiliated with playing time during the game. This remains exclusively up to the coaches discretion and is dependent on game circumstances.***

Recognition Banquets

Any Orono High School student that has been recognized for an award at the school, conference, regional, or state level, must attend the awards banquet unless there is an excused reason preventing them from doing so that is communicated with the coach/advisor ahead of time. The school will pay for

any student and their coach/advisor(s) to attend the banquet. Failure to meet this requirement may result in the student losing recognition at their own end-of-the-season banquet. Attire at these special banquets will be formal. Jeans, t-shirts, hats, and sneakers will not be acceptable.

****Any student that violates the chemical use policy or comes under disciplinary action following the last competition of the season may be removed from any team or individual recognition depending on the severity of the circumstance. This is at administrative discretion after a full investigation has been completed.**

Parent/Guardian & Staff Communication Policy

If at any time, the student or the parent/guardian has a concern, please take the following steps to try to resolve the issue:

1. Encourage the student to go directly to the coach/advisor to discuss the concern.
2. Respectfully request a meeting with the coach/advisor to discuss the concern. (Administrator may be present.)
3. Request a meeting with the athletic director or administrator.

Please note: Issues concerning playing time, solos, casting decisions, game or practice strategy are decisions that our coaches/advisors are empowered and qualified to make. While there may be differences of opinion on these issues, we ask that you remain respectful and supportive of their decisions on these matters.

Another individual or individuals on the team other than your own student is an unacceptable issue to discuss.

Athletic Trainer Coverage

Orono High School does provide a nationally certified athletic trainer at all home contests. The athletic trainer also provides coverage on non-game days for treatment and follow-up procedures to our students.

The athletic trainer has the final say on an athlete's condition to return to play during any contest or practice. Once an athlete has received further medical attention, they may not return to participation without written documentation from a physician or qualified health care provider. Orono High School provides the services of an automatic external defibrillator machine which will be present at all athletic functions. Orono High School also utilizes the SCAT-5 program for concussion evaluation and post treatment. All students will have the opportunity to be pre-tested at least twice in their four years to provide better analysis when an injury to the head occurs.

Athletic Managers

Orono High School athletic teams are always seeking students who have a fondness for athletics in a supportive role. Managers can provide assistance to the coaching staff in a variety of ways:

1. Assistance in practice drills
2. Practice and game video
3. In game/post game statistics
4. Media relations for game results
5. Pre/post game maintenance

Managers of varsity teams will receive their letter. Managers of sub-varsity levels will receive a certificate of participation.

Please detach this page and return it to your coach/advisor.

CO-CURRICULAR COMPLIANCE FORM

SPORT/ACTIVITY _____

I _____ have read, understand, and agree to comply with the preceding rules and regulations covering co-curricular **activities** at Orono High School. **(I also understand that there are potential physical risks in the activities that I choose to participate in.**

Student Signature _____

I have read and understand the attached rules and regulations covering co-curricular activities at Orono High School. **In signing this compliance form, I accept the responsibility of notifying the school of any violations of the rules and regulations mentioned herein.**
(I also understand that there are potential physical risks in the activities that my son or daughter chooses to participate in.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

