

High School Performing Arts and Athletics Participation Protocols

High school students are afforded many opportunities to participate in after-school activities that serve as significant pathways to intellectual, physical, and social growth. Often students discover they have multiple interests and talents and participation in these activities sometimes coincide. [Policy 8090: Non-School-Hour Curricular Programs](#) provides clarity for what to do when these activities coincide. The following protocols are offered as best practices to accommodate student participation in both a performing arts activity and an athletic activity. Before a student is required to choose between an athletic practice or contest and a performing arts rehearsal or performance, the following considerations should be taken into account.

Student & Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

- Although students are encouraged to participate in various after-school activities, they should evaluate whether their choices are realistic. Students should consult their parents/guardians, teachers, and coaches before making a commitment to participate in groups that have conflicting schedules.
- Communicate any conflicts with coaches and teacher/sponsor at the beginning of the athletic season and plan a clear course of action/procedure for participation in both activities in accordance with the policies and guidelines in this document.

Teacher, Coach, and AAM Responsibilities:

- This document should be included with the course syllabus and distributed to all parents/guardians and students at the beginning of the academic year and athletic seasons.
- Class and team rosters should be shared as early as possible to navigate conflicts.
- Although conflicts are inevitable, teachers and AAMs should collaborate when setting performance and contest calendars in an effort to reduce the impact of conflicts. Possible solutions to mitigate impact include:
 - Schedule changes, when possible
 - Change performance/contest start times
 - Switch JV & Varsity game times

Conflict Resolution

Before a student is required to choose between an athletic practice or contest and an after-school performing arts rehearsal or performance, the following protocols should be followed.

- Performing Arts Rehearsal vs. Athletic Practice = SPLIT OVERLAPPED TIME ¹
- Performing Arts Dress Rehearsal vs. Athletic Practice = PERFORMING ARTS
- Performing Arts Dress Rehearsal vs. Athletic Game = ATHLETICS
- Performing Arts Performance vs. Athletic Practice = PERFORMING ARTS
- Performing Arts Performance (required) vs. Athletic Contest = PERFORMING ARTS
- Performing Arts Performance (voluntary) vs. Athletic Contest = EITHER w/out PENALTY

In the event a conflict arises due to unplanned rescheduling (ie. inclement weather), the above guidelines still apply.

HCPSS Policy 8090 Non-School Hour Curricular Programs

Per [Policy 8090](#), conflicts that cannot be resolved fall under Required Activities and Voluntary Activities.

- Required Activities – “Those non-school-hour activities mandated by a curricular program.” The after-school curricular activity takes precedence over the extra-curricular activity. The student cannot be penalized for missing an extra-curricular activity while attending an after-school curricular activity.
- Voluntary Activities – “Those non-school-hour activities that are scheduled and for which student participation is not required.” The student must make a choice, and is free to make that choice *without penalty or pressure*.

¹ Split overlapped time is when a student misses the same amount of time from both activities. For example, if the student had to split time between a practice that starts at 2:40 and a performing arts rehearsal that ends at 4:00, there is an overlap of one hour and 20 minutes; hence, the student would need to attend the rehearsal until 3:15 and arrive at the practice by 3:25 (10 minutes is provided for transition between activities).