

**Columbus Public Schools
Extracurricular Code of Conduct**

The most important goal of the Columbus City School District's Extracurricular Program is to provide every participant the opportunity to grow mentally, morally, physically, and emotionally. To assure that the program can provide these opportunities, a degree of self-discipline is required of each participant. Self-discipline involves compliance with rules and regulations concerning personal behavior.

Rules promote order, safety, and assist participants to reach maximum performance potential. Every participant should adhere to the rules of the school, and act as a "good citizen" of that school and the community at all times. Dedication and personal sacrifice by each participant promotes a sense of group unity and common goals.

Compliance with the rules can help each participant learn values that carry beyond the extracurricular program and into daily living. In addition, research has shown that use and abuse of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol have harmful effects on the social and intellectual development of children and youth, and on their mental, physical, and emotional health.

It must also be remembered that participation in extracurricular activities is not a right but a privilege that may be regulated. Therefore, all students who participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular activities at any time must meet the following regulations from date of enrollment or date of participation, whichever comes first. Regulations concerning drugs and alcohol will be in effect for all athletes and other extracurricular participants at all times, including summers, while enrolled as a student in grades 6 through 12 in any school in the Columbus City School District.

The adopted policy of the Board of Education regarding drugs and alcohol as well as the Extracurricular Code of Conduct shall be publicized so that all students and their parents will be given notice that the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.

In order to make students and parents aware of expectations, it is suggested that a briefing be held to explain these regulations and expectations. Participants and parents, together with coaches and advisors are expected to attend.

Failure to comply with the regulations could jeopardize a student's whole extracurricular career.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. Comply with all eligibility requirements of the Columbus City School District and any governing agency, such as the Ohio High School Athletic Association, including but not exclusive to those requirements pertaining to age, scholarship, residency, and attendance.
2. Comply with the Expulsion, Suspension and Removal Regulations of the District.
3. Do not engage in criminal activity or violations of civil law.
4. Do not use and/or possess tobacco in any form (i.e. cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, etc).
5. Do not sell, distribute, use, and/or possess drugs (narcotic, hallucinogenic, intoxicant, or counterfeit drugs), controlled substances, alcohol or other intoxicants at any time.
6. Behave in a manner, which reflects positively on the school and the activity.
7. Comply with all additional training rules or other requirements set by the coach/advisor of the activity.
8. Participants in extracurricular activities are required to attend school at least ½ of their scheduled day at their assigned site(s) to be eligible to practice or participate on any given school day. To be eligible to participate during a weekend or on an official school holiday, the student shall have attended school at least ½ of their scheduled day at their assigned site(s) on the immediately preceding school day. This ruling does not apply to practice or events during summer, winter break or spring break.
9. Financial obligations resulting from equipment fees, replacement of lost or stolen equipment, and/or unpaid balances from sales projects, must be paid prior to participation in any present or future extracurricular activity.
10. In activities that require a physical examination, a completed physical examination card must be signed by a physician and parent. That card, plus an insurance card and emergency medical card must be turned in to the coach/advisor before a student can participate in any activity.
11. The above rules would apply to all students in the Columbus City School District.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

1. When a student is in suspected violation of any of the rules listed in the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, the principal and coach/advisor shall be notified in writing by an adult as soon as possible.
2. A hearing committee, consisting of at least one administrator, the head coach/advisor of the activity involved or his/her designee, and one non-coaching faculty member, will be established. At least one member of the committee will investigate the violation and report the findings to the other committee members. If the hearing committee feels action is warranted, the principal shall give a parent and the student written notice of the suspected violation, and of the time and place for a hearing, which shall be scheduled within 72 hours of the notification.
3. At the hearing the student will have an opportunity to discuss the circumstances concerning the incident and present information relevant to the incident.
4. The hearing committee shall make its recommendation for penalty assessment to the school principal. As a part of the penalty recommendations, the hearing committee shall recommend that a student in a leadership role who is found in violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct be removed from the leadership position in the sport/activity. The principal may modify the recommendation of the committee. The principal's written decision will be sent to the parent and the student.
5. Because of the adverse effects of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol and the District's commitment toward prevention/intervention, if a student is found in violation of the regulations concerning such, the hearing committee recommendations for penalty assessment shall follow the guidelines as listed in the Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

TOBACCO

In accordance with Rule 4 of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, possession or use of tobacco in any form (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco, etc.) is a violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct and will result in the following consequences:

SELF-REFERRAL POLICY:

If a student seeks assistance for dealing with a tobacco problem by self-referral to their coach/advisor and/or school administrator, and they agree to participate in a tobacco education program approved by the school administration, there shall be NO prohibition from extracurricular activities. Self-referral may not be used as a method to avoid consequences if a student has already been identified as having violated the Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

FIRST VIOLATION:

1. A student found in violation for the first time shall be prohibited from participation for 33 percent of the extracurricular events, based on the regular duration of the activity. If the student in violation agrees to go through a tobacco education program approved by the school administration, the penalty may be reduced to prohibition from participation for one scheduled extracurricular event.

Participation in practice may be allowed at the discretion of the hearing committee but the student may not travel with his/her activity group or sit with the group during the competition or performance. The participant must follow all training rules and requirements of the activity.

SECOND VIOLATION:

A student found in violation for the second time shall be indefinitely prohibited from participation in extracurricular activities. If the student in violation agrees to go through a tobacco education program approved by the school administration, the penalty may be reduced to prohibition from participation for a period not to exceed the remainder of the extracurricular events, based on the regular duration of the activity. Upon completion of the program, the student may petition the hearing committee to once again participate in extracurricular activities.

2. All additional violations will be treated the same as second violations.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL

A. SALE AND DISTRIBUTION

In accordance with Rule 5 of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, a student selling or distributing drugs (narcotics, hallucinogenic, intoxicants, or counterfeit), controlled substances, alcohol or other intoxicants at any time is in violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct and subject to the following consequences:

FIRST VIOLATION:

1. A student found to be in violation will be immediately prohibited from participation in extracurricular activities for a minimum of one calendar year from the date of violation.
2. The principal will contact the parent of the student in violation.
3. The principal will notify the Columbus Police Department. All evidence and pertinent information shall be submitted to the proper authorities.
4. The principal will normally recommend to the Superintendent the student be expelled.
5. After an initial 12 month period from the date of first violation, the student may petition to once again participate in extracurricular activities. The student must furnish evidence to the hearing committee of successful completion or continued successful participation in drug/alcohol rehabilitation and/or counseling program approved by the school administration. The hearing committee shall review application for reentry into extracurricular activities, taking into account the student's age, maturity, and history of appropriate behavior since the initial violation. A recommendation of approval or disapproval of the petition shall be made to the principal of the school by the hearing committee. The principal shall inform the student and the parent in writing of the decision.

SECOND VIOLATION:

1. A student found to be in violation for the second time shall be indefinitely prohibited from participation in extracurricular activities. After an initial 12 month period from the date of first violation, the student may petition to once again participate in extracurricular activities. The student must furnish evidence to the hearing committee of successful completion or continued successful participation in drug/alcohol rehabilitation and/or counseling program approved by the school administration. The hearing committee shall review application for reentry into extracurricular activities, taking into account the student's age, maturity, and history of appropriate behavior since the initial violation. A recommendation of approval (with specified re-entry date, if appropriate) or disapproval of the petition shall be made to the principal of the school by the hearing committee. The principal shall inform the student and the parent in writing of the decision.

THIRD VIOLATION:

1. A student found in violation for the third time shall be permanently prohibited from participation in extracurricular activities.

POSSESSION AND/OR USE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

In accordance with Rule 5 of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, except for supervised, doctor prescribed medications. A student under the influence, buying, using or possessing drugs (narcotics, hallucinogenic, intoxicants, or counterfeit drugs) or controlled substances, alcohol or other intoxicants at any time is in violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct and is subject to the following consequences:

SELF-REFERRAL POLICY:

If a student seeks assistance for dealing with a drug or alcohol problem by self-referral to their coach/advisor and/or school administrator, and they agree to participate in a drug/alcohol assessment approved by the school administration, and agrees to follow assessment recommendations, there shall be NO prohibition from extracurricular activities. Self-referral will not be considered as a violation. Refusal or failure to follow through with the assessment or the assessment recommendations will result in the incident being referred back to the hearing committee for investigation. Self-referral may not be used as a method to avoid consequences if a student has already been identified as having violated the Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

FIRST VIOLATION:

1. If a student is found to be in violation, the student will be prohibited from participation in extracurricular activities for one calendar year from the date of violation. If the student in violation agrees to go through a drug/alcohol assessment approved by the school administration, and to follow the assessment recommendations, the penalty may be reduced to 33 percent penalty from the extracurricular events based on the regular duration of the activity. Refusal or failure to take the assessment or to follow the assessment recommendations will result in the full year's penalty.

Participation in practice may be allowed at the discretion of the hearing committee but the student may not travel with his/her activity group or sit with the group during the competition or performance. The participant must follow all training rules and requirements of the activity.

SECOND VIOLATION:

1. A student found in violation for the second time shall be indefinitely prohibited from participation in extracurricular activities. After an initial 12 month period from the date of second violation, the student may petition the hearing committee of the school to once gain participate in extracurricular activities. The student shall have the opportunity to present to the hearing committee any evidence that a drug/alcohol assessment approved by the school administration has been successfully completed or that the student is in a continued successful rehabilitation and/or counseling program. The application for re-entry into extracurricular activities shall be reviewed by the hearing committee, taking into consideration the student's age, maturity, and history of appropriate behavior since the last violation. All recommendation of approval (with specified re-entry date, if appropriate) or disapproval of the petition shall be made to the principal of the school by the hearing committee. The principal shall inform the student and his/her parent in writing of the decision.
2. Any additional violations will be treated the same as second violations.

All cost for assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, or counseling shall be the responsibility of the student.

The above rules would apply to any school in the Columbus City School District. Transfer to another school in the Columbus City School District will not invalidate the penalties.

Violations are cumulative from grades 6 through 8 and grades 9 through 12 with respect to level of violation (first, second). A student found in violation in grades 6 through 8 shall have the opportunity to begin the 9th year with a fresh slate, i.e., no violations as yet charged against his/her 9th through 12th year record. Regulations concerning drugs, alcohol, and court convictions are in effect for the full calendar year.

Any remaining percentages of penalties for violations of drug and alcohol regulations not served in the regular activity duration shall be recalculated by the hearing committee and applied toward the next extracurricular sport/activity in which the student participates.

The above regulations for extracurricular activities are separate, above, and beyond any consequences invoked by normal school disciplinary codes.

The extracurricular programs are designed for the benefit of both the students and the school. Hard work, perseverance, and pride have been the earmarks of successful programs. Be proud and work together for successful school and education.