

# COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 99

## ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY CODE

### I. Purpose

District 99 considers athletics and activities to be very important components of the comprehensive high school program. These experiences greatly enhance a student's involvement with and enjoyment of his/her high school career, and contribute to a well-rounded and multi-faceted individual. Important goals of the athletic and activity program are also to give students direction in developing healthful living habits, self-discipline, leadership, teamwork, and respect for rules and regulations. It is the intent of District 99 coaches and sponsors of co-curricular activities to assist students in developing healthful habits, and to facilitate access to support services when needed.

Participation in student athletics/activities is considered an extension of, although separate from, the regular school day. While the regular curricular program is a right afforded each student, participation in the co-curricular program is a privilege (see District 99 Board of Education Policy 7.31), and as such carries substantially increased expectations beyond those applicable in the daily classroom situation. The Athletic /Activity Code is established for young persons taking part in these programs.

By electing to participate in an athletic or activity program, the student is choosing to extend their school day, as well as the expectations for appropriate behavior and conduct. This code is considered to be in effect, at all places and times, 24 hours per day, 12 months per year. Annually, students participating in co-curricular activities will be required to sign a form agreeing to adhere to this code of conduct.

### II. Minimal Expectations

- A. Daily attendance at school, team/activity practices, and contests.
- B. Students must be passing 2.5 units of credit to continue participation in school-sponsored activities. A student who is not receiving passing grades in 2.5 units of credit on a weekly basis will be suspended from participation in all school-sponsored activities for the subsequent seven (7) calendar days. Students in such situations may be expected to participate in practices. A student must earn 2.5 units of credit at the end of one semester to be eligible to participate in any school-sponsored activity in the subsequent semester.
- C. Adherence to all other rules set forth by the coach or sponsor, in the Student/Parent Handbook, District 99 Athletic Handbook, and in the Illinois High School Association By-Laws.
- D. Conduct becoming a District 99 representative, including demonstrating respect for persons and property.
- E. Refrain from "hazing" or "initiation" activities. These activities are subject to consequences noted within item A23 in the District 99 Discipline Code as well as Section III of this Athletic/Activity Code.
- F. Refrain from the possession, use or being under the influence of tobacco, performance enhancing substances, any illegal or controlled substance including alcohol, unlawful drugs, prescription drugs not prescribed for the student, "look-alike drugs," or any other

substance not prescribed for the student and intended to be used, or used, to achieve a high or altered mental state or physical state.

- G. Refrain from presence at gatherings of students where the student knows or reasonably should know that any of the substances identified in Section F above are present.
- H. Attendance by parent/guardian and student, at least annually, at a school sponsored “Healthy Lifestyle” program prior to participation in extra-curricular activities/athletics. Parents are expected to attend all seasonal meetings that specific athletic or activity coaches or sponsors may schedule to discuss expectations of specific programs.

### **III. Procedures for Breach of Code**

- A. If a violation occurs in IIA or IIB, the coach or sponsor will determine the appropriate disciplinary action. In all cases, all relevant IHSA rules will apply. The requirement to be passing at least five (5) classes weekly is monitored by weekly, automatic teacher verification.
- B. If a violation occurs in IIC, IID, IIE, IIF, or IIG, the building administrator responsible for Athletics or Activities may confer with relevant coaches or sponsors and other needed staff, to determine whether the violation occurred, the appropriate disciplinary action, if any, and/or assistance or intervention opportunity. The coach or sponsor of the activity in question serves to provide information only. In cases where the student participates in more than one sport or activity, respective sponsors or coaches may be consulted. For violations of IIF and IIG, the Student Assistance Coordinator will become involved. Both the parent/guardian and student will be invited to attend a meeting to respond to the reported violation and the proposed disciplinary action.

It should be noted that compliance with point IIIH noted previously is expected. Failure of parent/guardian and student to attend a Healthy Lifestyle session may result in suspension from the activity until satisfied.

- C. When a student is involved in a general school disciplinary incident that requires action, a single decision will be made by the appropriate school authority. A violation at a particular point in time can potentially impact any/all activities or athletics for the current and/or next season. The consequences will be applied to both the athletics and activities in which the student is involved.
- D. In certain circumstances, due to time constraints, a violation of the Athletic/Activity Code by a student may result in immediate action.
- E. The steps involved to appeal disciplinary action after the building administrator responsible for Athletics or Activities has made his/her decision in such cases would be meeting with:
  - a. Principal
  - b. Superintendent (or designee)
  - c. Board of Education (through designated hearing officer)

#### **IV. Consequences for Breach of Code**

- A. The minimum penalty for the first violation for use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or other substances (as noted in IIF) will be suspension from 25% of the contest/activity schedule. For the first offense only, if a student undergoes a substance abuse evaluation at a recognized treatment facility, and follows through with the recommendations, the 25% penalty may be reduced to a 10% penalty. District 99 staff will be in contact with that facility regarding the follow through by the student.
- B. For other violations these actions may take place:
  - 1. Refer the student to the appropriate personnel for counseling. If an external intervention program is available that is relevant to the situation, participation in this program may be considered when assigning the penalty.
  - 2. Issue a warning letter and place it on file.
  - 3. Place the student on probation in the sport or activity.
  - 4. Place the student on suspension in the sport or activity.
    - a. Suspension may carry over from one season to the next, or from one sport/activity to another, including in the same season.
    - b. If the violation occurs out of season, suspension shall begin with the next season in which the student participates.
    - c. If a school suspension results from a violation of the Student Athletic/Activity Code, penalties will run concurrently if reasonably possible. An athletic/activity suspension may run longer than the concurrent school suspension.
  - 5. During an out of school suspension, the student may not participate in any sports or activities-
- C. Subsequent, repeated, or severe violations of items outlined in Section II of the Athletic/Activity Code or the Student Discipline Code may result in the student being suspended from the activity for the current season or longer.

#### **V. Voluntary Admission for Violations Under Section II, F**

The purpose of this provision is to allow the student to seek help and be accountable for their decisions. At any time, the student may voluntarily admit a personal code violation prior to school officials' knowledge. In these cases, the student may continue uninterrupted eligibility when it is verified that enrollment in and continuing participation is taking place in a school recognized substance abuse program. The voluntary admission will be counted as one code offense. Voluntary admission may be used by a student one time during high school. All evaluations and treatments will be at parent/student expense. The consequences stated in IV, B above may also be applied.