

## **RULE 35. ACTIVITY/ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Board invites all students (hereinafter referred to as participants) who possess the ability, attitude, cooperative spirit, and desire to favorably represent our secondary schools to become candidates and participate in our interscholastic or extracurricular activities programs. For the purpose of this Code, interscholastic or extracurricular activities (hereinafter to include school-based meetings, practices, performances, games, and contests) applies to all Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), other state sponsored activities and all other Collier County Public School high school sponsored organizations, officers, participants and/or members on the following conditions.

Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right. There is a relationship between a participant's behavior on and off school property and the exercise of the participant's privilege to participate in these activities. Participants are representatives of their school and of their fellow students.

Students participating in interscholastic or extracurricular activities have higher visibility and greater recognition, assume leadership roles and become examples for their peers. This creates a duty and responsibility on the part of a participant to conduct himself or herself, on and off school property, in a proper manner. There is also a relationship between these activities and a participant's health, physical and mental ability, social competence and discipline. Appropriate behavior by a participant can contribute significantly to the overall character of participants and non-participants.

In order to maintain a high level of performance in interscholastic or extracurricular activities, all candidates are required to subscribe to and abide by the rules set forth in this *Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct*. However, coaches, music directors and club/class sponsors have the discretionary authority to deviate from the *Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct* only to establish additional standards and rules for their respective activities that are more rigorous and restrictive than those already outlined, if they are consistent with the philosophy of this Code. Such additional standards and rules must be reviewed and approved for their appropriateness by the Activities Coordinator and the Principal and must be clearly communicated in writing to all participants and their parents prior to the beginning of the activity, and before being applied to a participant for an unusual or special circumstance.

It is important that the participant understand that these rules are to be adhered to for as long as the participant is involved in an interscholastic or extracurricular activity throughout the participant's school career. Following a participant's first career participation in an extracurricular activity, wrongful acts that occur at any time in or out of school, 365 days a year, will be subject to code enforcement. It is important that the participant and parent understand that participation in these activities is a privilege, not a right, and in no way a requirement for graduation. Participants who believe they will not be able to adhere to the guidelines contained in this Code should make the decision not to participate in the interscholastic or extracurricular activity programs. It is with this understanding that we require our participants to exemplify outstanding character.

Participants pledge their support to the high standards of this *Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct* and agree to abide by the provisions of this Code, when they participate in one or more of the interscholastic or extracurricular activities covered by this Code.

In the event a participant fails to comply with these high standards, it shall be interpreted by the coach, music director, or sponsor as an indication that the participant does not have sufficient desire to participate in the chosen interscholastic or extracurricular activity program. Failure to comply with the Code may result in temporary or permanent suspension from interscholastic or extracurricular activities, as set forth below.

Copies of the Collier County Public Schools' *Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct* will be discussed and distributed to all participating students at their respective schools at the beginning of each activity period or school year, or at the time a student may initially transfer into a Collier County Public School. Parents will be invited to attend an activities meeting to receive information and discuss the Code.

#### **A. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Participants in interscholastic or extracurricular activities must attend their entire scheduled school day to be eligible to compete, and/or perform in activities on that day and report to school on time the next day to participate in the next event or activity. Exceptions to this requirement must be cleared IN ADVANCE by the activities coordinator after conferring with the Principal.
2. Only those students not currently suspended from interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activities, or suspended or expelled from school, pursuant to a district school board's suspension or expulsion powers provided in law, including F.S. 1006.07, 1006.08, and 1006.09, are eligible to participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities.
3. A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in that same sport at another school during that school year, unless the student meets the criteria in F.S. 1006.15(3)(h).
4. A student's eligibility to participate in any interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity may not be affected by any alleged recruiting violation until final disposition of the allegation pursuant to F.S. 1006.20(2)(b).
5. Students who participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities for, but are not enrolled in, a public school pursuant to F.S. 1006.15(3)(c)-(e) and (8), are subject to the board's Code of Student Conduct.
6. The provisions of this subsection apply to interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities conducted by charter schools and private schools, as applicable, except that the charter school governing board, or equivalent private school authority, is responsible for the authority and responsibility otherwise provided to district school boards.

#### **B. 2.0 CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENT AND CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

1. There is no appeal for students who do not meet the 2.0 cumulative G.P.A. academic requirements for the previous semester as stipulated by the FHSAA and the Collier County Public Schools in required courses for graduation.
2. It should be further understood that the coaches, music directors, and club/class sponsors will be the sole judges of membership and performance of candidates; and if, or to what extent, they are to participate.

## C. CONSEQUENCES OF SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE

**NOTE:** Consequences are imposed for code violations regardless of age, and must be served even if the violation(s) occur outside of the participant's active season. If no activities in which the student would participate are scheduled at the time of the Code administration, the participant shall be ineligible for the first calendar days and/or contests, as determined by the specific code violation, of the next regularly scheduled activity in which the participant would otherwise have participated.

### 1. TOBACCO/VAPES (e.g. Juuls, cigars, cigarettes)

A participant who uses and/or possesses any tobacco product, regardless of age, shall be in violation of the Code. If a violation of the Code for possession or use of tobacco occurs, then the following consequences will result:

- a. **FIRST OFFENSE** – A participant who commits a first offense will be ineligible for the next fourteen (14) calendar days from the time of administrative action. The first offense does not carry with it a suspension from practice(s). (Suspension from athletics/activities includes a suspension for one (1) contest).
- b. **SECOND OFFENSE** – A participant who commits a second offense shall be ineligible for the next twenty-one (21) calendar days from the time of administrative action. Additionally, a second offense carries with it a suspension from a minimum of three (3) contests. The second offense does carry with it a suspension from practice(s).
- c. **THIRD OFFENSE** – A participant who commits a third offense shall become ineligible from any interscholastic or extracurricular activity participation for one calendar year from the date of the administrative action taken.

### 2. "IN ASSOCIATION WITH" PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS\*, NARCOTICS, BEVERAGES CONTAINING ALCOHOL AND OTHER ILLEGAL DRUG USE

\*A performance-enhancing drug is defined as a drug or supplement used to boost athletic performance, ward off fatigue and/or enhance physical appearance.

\*A participant who is "in association with" alcohol and/or other controlled substances will be in violation of the **Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct**. "In association with" is defined as, "any participant who is in attendance at any location where alcohol or other controlled substances are being used illegally and who knew or had reasonable belief that such would be used, or who, without foreknowledge of such, chose to remain at the location after the illegal use became known to the participant."

- a. **FIRST OFFENSE** – A participant who commits a first offense will be ineligible for the next seven (7) calendar days from the time of administrative action. The first offense does not carry with it a suspension from practice(s).
- b. **SECOND OFFENSE** – A participant who commits a second offense shall be ineligible for the next fourteen (14) calendar days from the time of administrative action. Additionally, a second offense carries with it a suspension from a minimum of two (2) contests. The second offense does carry with it a suspension from practice(s).
- c. **THIRD OFFENSE** – A participant who commits a third offense shall become ineligible from any interscholastic or extracurricular activity participation for one calendar year from the date of the administrative action taken.

### 3. CONFIRMED POSSESSION AND/OR CONSUMPTION OF PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS, NARCOTICS, BEVERAGES CONTAINING ALCOHOL AND OTHER ILLEGAL DRUG USE AND DRUG PARAPHERNALIA.

A participant who is confirmed to have consumed and/or possessed any performance enhancing drug, alcoholic beverage or other illegal drug, and/or drug paraphernalia shall be in violation of the *Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct*. If a violation of the Code for consumption and/or possession of a performance enhancing drug, alcohol or illegal drug and/or drug paraphernalia occur, then the following consequences will follow:

- a. **FIRST OFFENSE** – A participant who commits a first offense, under this section, shall be ineligible from the time of administrative action as follows:  
Twenty-one (21) calendar days, and a suspension for a minimum of three (3) contests. The first offense does carry with it a suspension from practice(s).
- b. **SECOND OFFENSE** – A participant who commits a second offense, under this section, shall be ineligible from the time of administrative action as follows:  
Thirty-five (35) calendar days, and a suspension for a minimum of five (5) contests. The second offense does carry with it a suspension from practice(s).
- c. **THIRD OFFENSE** – A student who commits a third offense shall become ineligible for any interscholastic or extracurricular activity participation for one calendar year from the date of the administrative action taken. In order to regain eligibility, a student must also satisfy the requirements set forth in this section. Additional conditions, including but not limited to follow-up drug testing and/or a behavioral contract, may also be a prerequisite for reinstatement, at the discretion of the Principal.

#### 4. **RANDOM STUDENT DRUG TESTING**

- a. This section applies only to those students who are participating in an FHSAA-sponsored sport and/or cheerleading: Participants engaging in these activities must agree to submit to a random drug test, without prior warning, whenever called upon to do so by school administrators. The participant and his/her parent must sign a consent form to that effect before the student will be permitted to participate in any manner. The random drug testing program will be carried out under the authority of Board policy, and every effort will be made to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the students. A positive result of a random drug test will be considered sufficient evidence of a violation of section C.3. of the *Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct*, and consequences will be assigned in accordance with section C.3. of the *Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct*.
- b. If it is determined (at the time of sample donation or subsequent to lab testing) that a student has deliberately adulterated or contaminated the sample in some manner, or attempted to use a masking agent, the student shall be informed that he or she will be suspended from all interscholastic or extracurricular activities covered by this rule for one (1) calendar year from the date of notification. In order to regain eligibility a student must also satisfy the requirements set forth in C.3. of this rule.
- c. If a student refuses to submit to drug-testing when requested, after having submitted a duly executed consent form, the student shall be informed that he/she will be suspended from all interscholastic or extracurricular activities covered by this rule for one (1) calendar year from the date of notification. The student will be required to sign a form attesting that he/she is refusing to submit to testing and is aware of the consequences. In order to regain eligibility a student must also satisfy the requirements set forth in Section E. of this rule.
- d. When a student violates this rule, as described in this section (Random Drug Testing) regains eligibility, the student athlete will be subject to additional drug tests, at times that would not be previously disclosed to the student athlete. The student athlete will be subject to the additional drug tests for a period of time up to one (1) calendar year from the date of reinstatement to full eligibility.

#### **D. GENERAL MISCONDUCT**

When making a decision about general misconduct, it is important for our professional staff to emphasize to their participants that maintaining the highest standards of behavior at all times is of utmost importance and that "winning at any cost" is not an appropriate goal. The importance of maintaining good physical, moral and ethical behavior as well as a commitment to the core values of sportsmanship and citizenship are the strongest messages we can send

to our participants while they participate in our interscholastic or extracurricular activity programs.

1. The Principal shall suspend a participant for other violations considered to be unbecoming to the high standards of our interscholastic or extracurricular activity programs. These violations may include wrongful acts on and off school property, but are not limited to, commission of an act that would be a misdemeanor (other than a minor traffic violation) or a felony under the laws of the State of Florida, violation of the *Code*, disruptive behavior, violations of particular state or local membership rules (e.g., breaking team curfew, being late for meetings, practices, or contests), general disrespect toward the coach, sponsor, teacher, players or fans and unsportsmanlike conduct to the team or program. The coach, sponsor, or music director will report, as soon as reasonably possible, in writing to the activities coordinator, Principal and the parents stating the violation(s) and the reason(s) for the proposed suspension and/or loss of office of the participant. Suspension under this category may be both for practice and/or contests. The length of the suspension should be applied fairly and should be commensurate with the violation(s). The Principal may overrule a coach's, sponsor's, music director's or activity coordinator's suspension if it is deemed insufficient or inappropriate to the violation(s).
2. Any participant who is arrested or detained by any federal, state or local law enforcement authorities for a felony offense, or for what, if the participant were an adult would be considered a felony offense, shall be suspended from participation in all activities (including contests and practices) until a final determination of the charge(s) and adjudication. If, after consultation with the school District legal counsel, the state attorney's office indicates that felony charges, or what might be considered felony charges if the participant were an adult, will be dropped or reduced to a lesser charge, the student may be conditionally reinstated to participation. If a participant is adjudicated guilty or delinquent of the felony, or in the event that adjudication of guilt or delinquency is withheld, then the participant is subject to, depending on the charge(s), permanent ineligibility for the school calendar year activity period or the remainder of his/her high school activity period of participation or career.
3. Any student who is ejected from an athletic competition will be referred to mental health services as identified by the District.

### **PENALTY CARRY-OVER/MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS**

If any *Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct* violation occurs at or near the end of a particular activity period (such as sports season) the participant shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next activity in which the participant participates, even if that activity does not occur until the following school year.

1. The penalty clause applies school to school in the event a participant should move or transfer within our school District.
2. If a participant is involved in an incident in which multiple violations involving more than one category occur, each violation shall be dealt with and the penalties will be cumulative. The incident will be considered as one (1) *Code* violation.
3. A student who has been determined to have violated the *Code* on three separate occasions during his/her high school career (any combination of Section C, 1, 2, 3, 4, or Section D, 1, 2), shall be ineligible to participate in any interscholastic or extracurricular activity for one calendar year. Reinstatement to full participation will be determined by the Principal at the conclusion of the one-year suspension.

### **E. ASSESSMENT/PREVENTION/INTERVENTION**

In addition to the above suspensions, in order to regain eligibility, the participant must undergo an initial assessment through the David Lawrence Center or another facility of the parent's choice for any violations related to the following sections:

- C.3.a. – illegal use, consumption and/or possession of a performance enhancing drug, alcohol, controlled substance/drugs/drug paraphernalia (First Offense),
- C.3.b. – illegal use, consumption and/or possession of a performance enhancing drug, alcohol, controlled substance/drugs/drug paraphernalia (Second Offense) and
- Section 4. Random Drug Testing

Alternative facilities for this initial assessment must be pre-approved by the Department of Exceptional Education and Student Support Services (377-0521). An initial assessment through the David Lawrence Center may be arranged by calling DLC Children’s Outpatient/Assessment Services at 239-455-8500. The assessment report may include a recommendation that the student enroll and successfully complete a Prevention, Intervention, or similar substance education or treatment programs.

A student found in violation under Section C.3.a., First Offense, may be reinstated to active participation if he/she is actively enrolled in the recommended prevention or intervention activities, and provides documentation that he/she remains actively enrolled.

A student found in violation under Section C.3, CONFIRMED POSSESSION AND/OR CONSUMPTION OF PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS, NARCOTICS, BEVERAGES CONTAINING ALCOHOL AND OTHER ILLEGAL DRUG USE AND DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, Second and Third Offense, and C.4 Random Drug Testing, must enroll and complete all recommended activities before eligibility is reinstated.

Students must complete any prescribed program at the David Lawrence Center (239-455-8500) unless pre-approval is obtained from the Supervisor of Interscholastic Athletics to complete a comparable program through another certified AODA facility or a licensed substance abuse professional. Parents are responsible for all costs associated with completion of these programs.

A document entitled Substance Abuse Assessment and Recommendations is available in the Activities Office of each school. Students will submit this form when they appear for assessment.

The David Lawrence Center, or another facility pre-approved from the Supervisor of Interscholastic Athletics, will document implementation and completion of the recommendations of the assessment report, including completion of any required Programs. At the request of the student and one of his/her parents, a Certificate of Completion from the treatment facility indicating that all requirements of the program have been satisfied must be sent by the treatment facility to the Activities Coordinator along with the Substance Abuse Assessment and Recommendations. The participant is suspended indefinitely until these requirements are satisfied.

**Resources for help with drug and alcohol problems:**

Alanon/Alateen/Alcoholics Anonymous		239-263-5907
David Lawrence Mental Health Center	6075 Golden Gate Pkwy	239-455-8500
Narcotics Anonymous 24-Hour Club	475 Seagate Drive	239-597-3232

**F. DUE PROCESS AND RIGHT OF APPEAL**

**1. Due Process**

- a. After the initial report, the participant, parent(s), coach, music director or sponsor, and Principal will be notified as soon as possible by the Activities Coordinator that an alleged violation of the *Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct* has occurred. A brief and informal preliminary hearing will be held by the Activities Coordinator, with the necessary individuals, to gather information prior to official administrative action. At this hearing, the participant will be informed of the alleged violation(s), and a brief summary of the

facts supporting the alleged violation(s). The participant shall be given the opportunity to present his/her side of the story. When a student's initial drug screening indicates a positive result for the presence of one or more of the suspected substances, and the result has been confirmed by the MRO (Medical Review Officer, a licensed physician contracted by the District), parents/students may request that an analysis of the "B" sample be performed by the contracted lab or choose to have the "B" sample sent to another certified laboratory facility to perform confirmatory drug testing on the sample. If the confirmatory test is positive, this conclusion is not subject to appeal.

- b. If it is determined, by the Activities Coordinator, during the initial hearing, that a violation of the *Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct* has occurred, administrative action will follow according to the Code and in compliance with the student's right to Due Process and Right of Appeal, as outlined in this rule.
- c. The parent(s) and participant will be notified in writing of the *Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct* violation(s) and the decision, conditions, penalty or action that has been imposed.

## 2. Right of Appeal

- a. The parent(s) and participant shall have the right to appeal the initial decision of the Activities Coordinator to the Principal of the school. The request for an appeal must be based on new or additional information and submitted in writing to the Principal within five (5) calendar days after the original decision. If no new or additional information is provided, the appeal will not proceed.
- b. If an appeal is pursued in a timely manner, within five (5) calendar days from the receipt of the notice of appeal, the Principal will conduct an administrative hearing on the alleged violation.
- c. The Principal's decision, in consultation with the Associate Superintendent of School and District Operations, concerning the administrative hearing will be final and the record will be closed.

## G. STUDENTS TRANSITIONING FROM ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS

The Board recognizes the emergence of alternative programs designed to intervene where specific disciplinary or criminal conduct has indicated a need. It is also recognized that the community as a whole has an interest in supporting students who have successfully completed such programs by providing the students with the opportunity to become eligible to participate in an interscholastic or extracurricular activity. A student who has successfully completed requirements and/or graduated from one of our Alternative Programs or other state certified programs, and who is recommended for transition back to a Collier County Public School, will be given the opportunity to participate in such activities provided the student meets all academic requirements of both the Collier County Public Schools and the FHSAA. Students who have successfully completed an alternative program will not be subject to penalties related to criminal activities or Code of Conduct violations committed prior to their enrollment in an alternative program, which conduct formed the basis for the enrollment. However, written conditions shall be set forth and agreed to between the state or local alternative program administrator and the appropriate coach, advisor, sponsor, music director, activities coordinator and Principal before the student is granted the privilege of participating. If at any time during the activity period or season a violation of such conditions occurs, the participant is subject to disciplinary action consistent with the *Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct*.

## **RULE 36. 2.0 CUMULATIVE G.P.A. REQUIREMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTER-SCHOLASTIC OR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: F.S. 1006.15**

Interscholastic or extracurricular activities are intended to supplement the regular curriculum of the school and to provide enriching opportunities for students. As important as interscholastic or

extracurricular activities are for the growth and development of each student, they must remain supplemental to the student's learning and mastery of the basic skills in the regular curriculum. The increased requirements for graduation, college entrance, and eligibility for college scholarships indicate the community's emphasis on increased student performance. The following eligibility requirements shall apply for student participation in all interscholastic or extracurricular activities including athletics, student council, honor society, band, chorus, orchestra, debate, drama and competitive club activities.

In addition, the following eligibility requirements of the FHSAA as well as local rules, shall be required for interscholastic or extracurricular eligibility.

### **Academic Eligibility Requirements**

- a. A student entering the ninth grade who is promoted from eighth grade is eligible for the first term/semester.

**NOTE:** A term/semester is defined as one half of a school year (approximately 18 school weeks or 90 school days).

- b. All students must have a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.0 GPA or higher on a 4.0 un-weighted scale, or its equivalent, in all courses taken pursuant to F.S. 1003.4282 and 1003.4295, at the conclusion of each semester to be eligible during the following term/semester. A period of seven (7) calendar days beyond the last day of each term/semester is provided to determine academic eligibility during the current term/semester.

A student who is ineligible during the second semester of his/ her ninth-grade year or during the first semester of his/her 10th grade year because the student's cumulative high school grade point average was below a 2.0 at the conclusion of the previous semester and continues to be below a 2.0 at the conclusion of the semester of ineligibility may regain his/her eligibility for the following semester provided:

1. The student signs an academic performance contract with his/her school at the beginning of the semester in which he/she is ineligible that states, at a minimum, that the student will attend summer school, or its graded equivalent, AND
  2. Earns a grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 un-weighted scale, or its equivalent, in all courses taken during the semester of ineligibility.
  3. Once a student enters the 11th grade, and thereafter, he/she must maintain a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 un-weighted scale, or its equivalent, in all courses taken pursuant to F.S. 1003.4282 and 1003.4295 at the conclusion of each semester to be eligible during the following semester.
- c. All students must maintain satisfactory conduct, and the participation in extracurricular or interscholastic activities of any student who is convicted of or is found to have committed a felony or a delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, is contingent upon established and published Board policy. It is, therefore, up to the local Board to determine, through Board policy, if such misconduct disqualifies a student. (*See Rule 34 Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct.*)

A maximum of one full unit of credit earned in summer school (including any Virtual Education Programs) will be calculated to determine the previous term G.P.A. as well as the cumulative G.P.A. Credit earned during the regular school year in a Virtual Education Program, will be included in the calculation for the previous term to determine both local eligibility during the current term as well as cumulative grade point average. The Virtual Education program must be completed prior to the conclusion of the previous term to be included in the calculation of academic eligibility during the current term.

If a school (intentionally or in error) permits a student to participate in an athletic contest or competitive performing activity (in or out of county) while the student maintains less than a 2.0 G.P.A., the school is subject to all FHSAA by-laws and rules governing penalties and forfeitures. Any appeals will be heard by the Superintendent.