

Appendix J: Student Activity Code of Conduct

I. Introduction

The Cherokee County School District has determined that participation in interscholastic/extracurricular activities is a privilege for students enrolled in the School District. A student participating in such activities is considered to be a school leader and, with leadership comes additional responsibility. Consequently, students must adhere to the standards and expectations contained in the School District's Activity Code of Conduct. As such, if a student violates these standards, schools may withdraw the privilege of participating in these activities, regardless of whether the violation occurred at a school-related or non-school-related activity. Schools may also withdraw the privilege of participating in these activities if the student violations occur outside of the scope of the activity's "season"; or, beyond the scope of the school day or year.

II. Student Infractions and Standards of Behavior

Student Infractions: Any student who commits the following infractions may be suspended or permanently dismissed from the team:

- 1.) Hazing other students—school clubs and student organizations will not use hazing or degradation of individual dignity;
- 2.) Missing practice, rehearsal or activities (unless excused by the coach or sponsor);
- 3.) Skipping class and/or truancy;
- 4.) Acting in an unsportsmanlike manner when representing the school;
- 5.) Violating team curfews (as established by the coach or sponsor);
- 6.) Any behavior which results in discipline by the school administration; and
- 7.) Any behavior which, in the opinion of the administration, reflects in a negative manner on the team, activity, athletic program, or school.

Standards and Expectations for Behavior: Students participating in interscholastic/extracurricular activities must comply with the following standards and expectations for behavior:

- 1.) Establishing and promoting a positive self-image for the program, school, and School District;
- 2.) Exhibiting good sportsmanship;
- 3.) Supporting team/activity rules developed by the activity's coaches or sponsors;
- 4.) Adhering to the School District's Student Discipline Code;
- 5.) Observing all standards and guidelines established by the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Constitution and by-laws; and
- 6.) Obeying local, State, and Federal laws governing behavior and conduct. *

Note: Provisions for dealing with starred () items above are contained in Section V of this document.*

III. Dispositions for Student Infractions and Standards of Behavior

Dispositions for student infractions and violations of standards and expectations of behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Additional practice or conditioning time;
- Conferencing between sponsor/parent or sponsor/student athlete;
- Loss of position or awards privileges;
- Suspension and/or removal from team.

IV. Suspensions for Student Infractions and Standards of Behavior

Applying Suspensions: Relative to suspensions, progressive discipline processes will be utilized to create the expectation that the degree of discipline will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior, as well as consideration given to each student's previous discipline history and other relative factors.

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|--------------|--|
| 1st Offense: | Amount of suspension will be at the discretion of the Principal |
| 2nd Offense: | Suspension will be a minimum of twice the suspension for the first offense |
| 3rd Offense: | Permanent suspension |

Reporting Suspensions: Parent/guardian will be notified of the student's suspension. A suspension report will be filed with the Office of Student Activities and Athletics.

Transferring of Suspended Student Athletes: Students suspended from activities will not regain eligibility by transferring to another school within the School District.

V. Dispositions and Guidelines for Chemical Use and/or Student Arrests

Reporting of Chemical Use and/or Student Arrests: A student (or his/her parent/guardian) is responsible for informing a school official, which may include the Principal, Athletic Director or his/her Head Coach or sponsor, of misconduct involving chemical use and/or a student arrest. This report must occur within five calendar days of the incident or the student faces disciplinary action up to, and including, partial or permanent suspension.

Confirming Student Arrests: Student chemical use and/or arrests that are verified through a reliable source (school administrator, teacher, coach/sponsor, staff member, parent of involved student, School District Police Department, etc.) will be appropriately investigated by the school administration or designee.

Penalties for Chemical Use, Alcohol/Drug Related and/or Other Non-Felony Offenses: An athlete who is in violation of Chemical Use and/or arrested for, charged with, or found guilty of a misdemeanor shall receive the consequences as outlined below:

- 1st Offense: The student will lose a minimum of 30% of the current season or the next season in which the athlete competes. The penalty will be immediately assessed to the athlete's next competition.
If the offense happens prior to the season starting, the athlete may be permitted to try-out for the activity but will then serve the suspension at the start of the season. During the suspension, the student may practice with the team if the coach/school permits. Practicing and team travel during the suspension is a local school decision.
- 2nd Offense: The student will be suspended from all practices/competitions for one calendar year from the date of the incident. In the event a student's calendar year suspension results in reinstatement to activities during the season of an activity which requires tryouts, the student will be permitted to participate in tryouts at the same time as his/her peers.
- 3rd Offense: The student will lose the privilege to participate in extracurricular activities for the remainder of their high school career.

Suspension Guidelines:

- 1.) When assessing a suspension, only GHSA regular season and playoff games will count towards the suspension. Although scrimmages are considered practices and do not count towards the overall game suspension total(s), the player will also forfeit participation in any scrimmage(s).
- 2.) If a student is suspended, playoff games count towards the game suspension (i.e.: a football player caught with alcohol after the 9th game of the season and the team qualifies for state, the student would serve a 30% suspension, in this case 3 games.) In this scenario, the student would be suspended for the 10th game, 1st and 2nd rounds of playoffs, if applicable. If the team were eliminated, the student would sit for the 10th game and the 1st game of the following season.
- 3.) Suspensions for one-sport athletes: if a suspension occurs out of season, the student will serve the imposed suspension the following year.
- 4.) Suspensions for multi-sport athletes: a suspension may carry over from one sport to another. For this rule to be applicable, the student must have played the 2nd sport the previous year, with a freshman student serving as an exception. A student may not play a second sport to avoid serving a suspension in their primary sport. The CCSD Athletic Director will make the final determination in these cases.

Suspension totals are based on the number of varsity games allowed according to GHSA By-Laws. Partial numbers are rounded up. Suspension per sport will be:

| <u>Sport</u> | <u>GHSA Varsity Games</u> | <u>Missed Games (30%)</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Baseball | 30 | 9 |
| Basketball | 25 | 8 |
| Cheerleading | | |
| • Competition | 6 | 2 |
| • Football Sideline | 10 | 3 |
| • Basketball Sideline | 25 | 8 |
| Cross Country | 10 | 3 |
| Football | 10 | 3 |
| Golf | 12 | 4 |
| Gymnastics | 10 | 3 |
| Lacrosse | 18 | 6 |
| Literary Competition* | | |
| One Act Play* | | |
| Soccer | 18 | 6 |
| Softball | | |
| • Fast Pitch | 26 | 8 |
| • Slow Pitch | 16 | 5 |
| Swim | 10 | 3 |
| Tennis | 18 | 6 |
| Track | 12 | 4 |
| Volleyball | 18 | 6 |
| Wrestling | 20 | 6 |

*Discretion of the Principal

Suspensions of activities not considered under the prevue of GHSA competitions will be at the discretion of the Principal.

Addressing Felony Arrests and/or Convictions: Felony arrests constitute an immediate suspension from activities. Relative to that arrest, any subsequent felony conviction of a student may result in a permanent dismissal from activities.

Guidelines: A student who is arrested, indicted, convicted of, or charged with a felony or act that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult should be automatically suspended from interscholastic/extracurricular activities. Students will not be permitted to participate in preseason activities. All felony DUI offenses will be dealt with according to these guidelines.

Duration: The student shall remain suspended from extracurricular activities until:

- 1.) The charges are completely dismissed;
- 2.) The charges are reduced to a misdemeanor, in which case the student would be subject to penalties outlined for misdemeanor infractions;
- 3.) The student is found not guilty; or
- 4.) The student serves his/her consequence as outlined below:

Once the student successfully completes the consequences assigned by the judge or agreed to by the student, including probation or diversion, the student may be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities. The student is responsible to provide evidence that all sentencing and/or fines have been satisfied, including, but not limited to, probation and/or community service have been satisfied.

VI. Duration of Code of Conduct

The Student Activity Code of Conduct will be in effect year-round.