

Cobb County School District Student/Parent Athletic Handbook

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Athletic Code of Conduct

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

IDF-R Interscholastic Activities

7/1/15

RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:

Participation in interscholastic/extracurricular (extracurricular) activities in Cobb County School District (District) schools is a privilege. Students participating in these activities are considered to be school leaders and role models who represent their school and more importantly, depict its character. With leadership comes additional responsibility and student participants must adhere to high standards of conduct. When students violate these standards of conduct, the District may withdraw the privilege of participation in interscholastic/extracurricular activities. The purpose of this code of conduct is to establish a minimum expectation of behavior.

RULE:

A. PROCEDURES:

1. Time in Effect:

Except as specifically provided, the following behavioral expectations and prohibitions apply 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, in and out of the specific extracurricular season, on or off school grounds, and through the use of school or outside technology resources.

2. Parental/Self Reporting of Law Enforcement:

Parents/guardians and/or students must report any charges against or arrest of a student or student behavior in which law enforcement is involved, to their high school administration or coach within two weeks (14 calendar days) of the arrest or behavior. The two week time frame includes weekends, school holidays and summer vacation. Failure to report arrest, charges or behavior may result in additional consequences which may include, but is not limited to, doubling of the student's consequences for the behavior in question.

3. Provisions:

- a. Sponsors/Coaches should investigate policy violations and report to the school administration. The Principal or designee should make all determinations of penalties, in consultation with the coaches, sponsors and the District Athletic Director, as appropriate.
- b. Unless otherwise specified, periods of suspension from activities does not include preseason workouts and other preseason activities. Such student's ability to participate in preseason activities will be determined by the Principal or designee in consultation with the coach. During the student's period of suspension the student cannot have contact with the team during any team activities.
- c. Students cannot attempt to evade the intent of the Rule by joining a new sport specifically to allow their suspension days to run their course. If a student athlete participates in a sport that he/she had not been previously involved with, he/she must complete the season of the new sport in good standing in order for the suspension days to count.
- d. Transferring from one District school to another does not relieve the student from the consequences for a violation of this Rule. Should a student choose to transfer outside of the District, the designated school administrator or the school athletic director will contact the new school to inform them of the violation and the resulting penalty. The District may also honor the activity consequences from other private or public school systems.

4. Notification:

a. Elementary/Middle Schools:

In addition to providing students with copies of the appropriate Student Code of Conduct (Administrative Rules JCDA-R [Elementary], JCDA-R [Middle]), elementary and middle schools should make participants in extracurricular activities aware of this Administrative Rule.

b. High Schools:

In addition to providing students with copies of the appropriate Student Code of Conduct (Administrative Rule JCDA-R [High]), each high school should provide written notification of this Administrative Rule to all participants in extracurricular activities.

B. ALCOHOL/ILLEGAL DRUGS/INHALANTS:

The District believes very strongly that use, possession, selling or buying over the counter drugs or products to get high; alcohol; illegal drugs; or prescription drugs in an unauthorized manner at any time is an offense. Such use, possession or distribution by extracurricular participants is banned. **All misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI) offenses will be dealt with according to this section. All felony DUI offenses will be dealt with under Section D, below. Offenses are cumulative at the high school level.**

- **1st Offense:**

- Suspension from extracurricular activities, including practice and regular season, a minimum twenty-five (25) calendar days; plus
- Suspension from a minimum of 30% of the regular season contests/performances; plus
- Student must complete the GRIP (Gaining Results in Intervention and Prevention Program) which consists of one four hour Saturday session attended by the student and the parent, or another comparable program. If the student cannot attend the program until after the suspension is lifted, they must still attend the program in order to be eligible to compete in their next extracurricular/athletic season. Failure to attend or complete the program as required may result in continued extracurricular/athletic ineligibility beyond the initial suspension.
- If offense is during the off season, the first offense suspension will begin on the GHSA start date for the next season with which the recognized athlete is affiliated.
- If the student has not completed his suspension at the end of the season, the remaining days will be completed at the beginning of the next affiliated GHSA activity.

- **2nd Offense:**

Suspension from extracurricular activities for a minimum of one calendar year. The student will not be permitted to participate in preseason activities or practice.

- **3rd Offense:**

Permanent suspension from extracurricular activities, including preseason activities and practices.

C. TOBACCO [IN-SEASON USE]:

- **1st Offense:**

Suspension from all extracurricular activities for two (2) school days/

- **2nd Offense:**

Suspension from all extracurricular activities for five (5) school days and must sit out 10% of games/matches/performances/competitions.

- **3rd Offense:**

Suspension from all extracurricular activities for ten (10) school days and must sit out 20% of games/matches/performances/competitions.

- **4th Offense and Subsequent Offense:**

Suspension from all extracurricular activities for ninety (90) calendar days.

D. FELONY:**1. Guidelines:**

- a. A student who is arrested for, indicted for, convicted of, or charged with a felony or act that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult shall be automatically suspended from interscholastic/extracurricular activities;
- b. Students will not be permitted to participate in preseason activities;

c. DUI:

All felony DUI offenses will be dealt with according to this section.

2. Duration:

a. 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 may be subject to penalties outlined in Section E, below, or Section B, for alcohol offenses;
- (3) The student is found not guilty; or
- (4) The student serves his/her consequences as outlined below.

b. 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. Evidence that the probation period has expired, fines have been paid and/or community service has been completed is required.

c. If a student has been arrested or charged with an offense, but the matter has been expunged, sealed, removed from a student's record, treated as a "first offender" action, or the behavior has not been prosecuted (nolle prosequi), that student may present or obtain documentation as required by the school to determine the circumstances of the matter and appropriate eligibility consequences, as determined at the discretion of school administration. Such incidents will be reviewed on an individualized basis and a legal determination in the matter may not be sufficient to change the student's consequences.

E. MISDEMEANORS:

1. A student who is arrested for, charged with, or found guilty of a misdemeanor shall receive consequences as outlined below. However, minor offenses that result in fines alone may be dealt with as a violation of Section F(7) below.

- o 1st and Subsequent Offenses:
- o Minimum suspension from extracurricular activities for one (1) school day up to a maximum of permanent suspension from extracurricular activities.

2. Drug/Alcohol/DUI:

Any student who is accused of a misdemeanor alcohol/drug offense or a misdemeanor DUI will receive consequences as outlined in Section B above.

3. If the student produces proof that the charges are completely dismissed or the student is found not guilty, these consequences may be lifted. If a student has been arrested or charged with an offense, but the matter has been expunged, sealed, removed from a student's record, treated as a "first offender" action, or the behavior has not been prosecuted (nolle prosequi), that student may present or obtain documentation as required by the school to determine the circumstances of the matter and appropriate eligibility consequences, as determined at the discretion of school administration. Such incidents will be reviewed on an individualized basis and a legal determination in the matter may not be sufficient to change the student's consequences.

F. OTHER OFFENSES:

A student who commits the following offenses may be suspended or permanently dismissed from the team or activity. The head coach in conjunction with the school administration will determine consequences for the following:

1. Hazing:

School clubs and student organizations shall not use hazing or degradation of individual dignity (Administrative Rule JHC-R [School Clubs/Organizations and Student Organizations]);

2. Missing practice, rehearsal or activities (unless excused by the coach, teacher, or sponsor);
3. Truancy and/or skipping classes;
4. Acting in an unsportsmanlike manner when representing the school;
5. Violating curfew as established by the coach;

6. Any act at school or away from school, which results in any discipline by school administration; or

7. Any act at school or away from school which, in the opinion of the Principal reflects in a negative manner on the school, athletic program, or activity.

Adopted: 9/28/00; 8/11/04

Reclassified an Administrative Rule: 9/1/04

Revised: 8/10/05; 6/10/09; 4/14/10

Revised and re-coded: 1/7/13 (Previously coded as Administrative Rule JICDD)

Revised: 7/1/13; 7/1/15

Legal Reference

O.C.G.A. 20-17-0002 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

O.C.G.A. 20-02-0160 Determination of enrollment; determination of funding

O.C.G.A. 20-02-0315 Gender equity in sports

O.C.G.A. 20-02-0316 Athletic association defined; high school athletics

O.C.G.A. 20-02-0411 School fund kept separate; use of funds; separation of school taxes; investments

O.C.G.A. 20-02-0086 Operation of school councils; training; membership; management; roles and responsibilities

Rule 160-5-1-.18 Competitive Interscholastic Activities in Grades 6-12

20 USC 1681 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

Attendance

Students will be permitted to participate in conditioning, tryouts, games, or practice of extracurricular activities only if they have been in attendance at least one-half of the school day. **Exceptions must be approved by the principal or his/her designee.**

Students in ISS **may not** attend or participate in conditioning, tryouts, practice or games that day (CCSD Admin rule JDD-R). If ISS ends on Friday, students can play Saturday.

Students under **out-of-school** suspension **may not** attend or participate in conditioning, tryouts, practice, or games until they return to class (GHSA rule). Example: If suspension is through Friday, student cannot play on Saturday. Suspension is considered ended when student is physically readmitted to the classroom.

Students who are not making satisfactory progress in their classes may be prohibited from leaving class early for a game even though the team has received administrative approval to leave.

Cobb County high school coaches have the authority to require high school student athletes to attend or participate in high school practices and contests over outside events.

GHSA Eligibility

1.21 To be eligible to participate and/or try-out for a sport or activity, a student must be enrolled full time in grades 9-12 inclusive at the school seeking eligibility for that student.

(a) Enrollment is defined as follows:

(1) Fall Semester: when the student participates in a practice or contest before classes begin, or the student attends classes.

(2) Spring Semester: when the student attends classes.

(b) The student must be in regular attendance.

(c) The student must be taking courses that total at least 2.5 Units that count toward graduation.

1.30 – AGE to be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities, a student must not have reached his 19th birthday prior to May 1st, preceding his year of participation.

1.41 Students must have a certificate of an annual physical examination on file at the school prior to participating in any athletic try-outs, practices, voluntary workouts or games that indicate the students are physically approved for participation.

(a) Physical examinations will be good for twelve (12) months from the date of the exam. EXCEPTION: Any physical examination taken on or after April 1 in the preceding year will be accepted for the entire next GHSA school year.

(b) The physical exam must be conducted by a licensed medical physician, doctor of Osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant.

(c) The exam must be signed by an M.D., D.O., or by a Physician's Assistant, or an Advance Practice Nurse who has been delegated that task by an M.D., or D.O.

(d) The GHSA requires that member schools use the latest edition of the pre-participation physical evaluation form approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics, et. al., found on the GHSA website.

1.51 To be eligible to participate, practice, and/or try out in interscholastic activities, a student must be academically eligible. A student is required to pass classes that carry at least 2.5 Units counting toward graduation the semester immediately preceding participation.

1.53 Students must accumulate units towards graduation according to the following criteria:

(a) First-year students (entering 9th grade) are eligible academically. Second semester first-year students must have passed courses carrying at least 2.5 units the previous semester in order to participate.

(b) Second-year students must have accumulated five (5) total units in the first year, AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 units in the previous semester.

(c) Third-year students must have accumulated eleven (11) units in the first and second years, AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 units in the previous semester.

(d) Fourth-year students must have accumulated seventeen (17) units in the first three years, AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 units in the previous semester.

(e) Students may accumulate the required units for participation during the school year and eligibility will be reinstated at the beginning of the next semester.

1.62 A transfer student who has established eligibility at a former school in grades 9-12 shall be immediately eligible at the new school if:

(a) The student moved simultaneously with the entire parental unit or persons he/she resided with at the former school, and the student and parent(s) or persons residing with the student live in the service area of the new school. This is known as a “bona fide move.”

For more information concerning GHSA eligibility please visit www.GHSA.net/constitution

Extreme Weather Conditions

Hot Humid Weather

Schools must follow the statewide policy for conducting practices and voluntary conditioning workouts in all sports during times of extremely high heat and/or humidity that **will be signed by each head coach at the beginning of each season and distributed to all players and their parents or guardians.**

For more information please see www.GHSA.net/practice-policy-heat-and-humidity or www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/athletics/

Extreme Cold Temperatures

The local school principal, or designee, will make the final decision as to whether outdoor practice will be allowed. Any game cancellations due to extremely cold weather will be the responsibility of the two competing team's administrations.

Informed Consent and Insurance (Athletics)

No student shall be allowed to participate in conditioning, tryouts, practice or contest until an informed consent form, signed by the parent/guardian, has been placed on file at the school. It is a local school decision on whether this is done by hard copy or the online Athletic Registration system accessed through ParentVue.

The CCSD provides the opportunity for optional/additional insurance coverage. More information on this coverage is available from the Athletic Directors of the Local Schools.

Participation

In the Cobb County School System 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders are the only students who are eligible to participate in school sponsored extracurricular activities. 8th graders are ineligible for all high school athletic activities. (IDE-R)

Seniors are not eligible for participation in junior varsity activities.

Students will not be required to attend conditioning activities during the season when they are participating in another school sponsored sport.

Weight/strength/speed training during the off season/summer may be encouraged but not required as a prerequisite for participation in a sport.

Students competing on fall/winter teams will not be expected to try out for a winter/spring team until the first team completes its season. (Exception: agreement by both head coaches involved and the local school Principal.)

Students who quit a team will not be allowed to start "working out" with the next sport until the regular season of the team he/she quit is completed.

Transportation

Transportation may or may not be provided by the Cobb County School District. In the event transportation is not provided by CCSD, transportation will be the student's responsibility. Student drivers should not drive other students to/from practices/competitions. When parents and students volunteer to drive their own vehicles on school system business, such as sporting events or other school activities, the Cobb County School District does not provide liability insurance or medical insurance; the volunteer is the liable party.

Concussion Management

Concussions at all levels of sports have received a great deal of attention and a state law has been passed to address this issue. Adolescent athletes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussion. Once considered little more than a minor “ding” to the head, it is now understood that a concussion has the potential to result in death, or changes in brain function (either short-term or long-term). A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. Continued participation in any sport following a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, as well as increased risk for further injury to the brain, and even death. Player and parental education in this area is crucial. Please read carefully the Concussion Awareness Form using the link below.

For more information see www.cobbk12.org/centraloffice/athletics

Student-Athlete Social Media Guidelines

Given consideration to accessibility and use of social media in today’s society, the Cobb County Schools Athletic Department is recommending guidelines to assist our athletes in developing the skills needed to make positive decisions while using social media outlets. The need to understand what is social media appropriate, and what is not is paramount, as many employers and colleges now view potential candidate’s social media activities before asking them to join their organization. This is specifically evident in collegiate athletics where students have had scholarships revoked, served suspensions, and are occasionally removed from teams.

The below guidelines should be used to assist student athletes with deciding what to post on social media outlets. They provide a set of parameters to stay within when deciding to post statements and photos. Coaches will assist by being a resource athletes can turn to for advice.

Guidelines:

1. Social Media use should not violate the CCSD Student Code of Conduct, JCDA (High).
2. Post should not be demeaning or disrespectful to teammates, coaches, peers or other institutions.
3. Post should not contain profane, vulgar, obscene or offensive language.
4. Photos should not contain nudity, be vulgar, obscene or offensive in nature.
5. Photos or written post should not contain or reference illegal acts.
6. Post should not cast a negative image or negative perception of the athlete, team, or school.

Parents and Sportsmanship

When your son/daughter enlisted in one of our interscholastic athletic activity programs, he/she has committed to certain responsibilities and obligations. Likewise, we feel you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. We would encourage you to join your school's Booster Club(s) to help provide the financial and volunteer support essential to your school's interscholastic athletic activities program, and we would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with expectations of parental involvement and sportsmanship.

Parent/guardian expectations:

1. Stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
2. Show courtesy and respect to visiting teams, visiting parents/fans, and officials.
3. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials and accept their decisions without showing inappropriate emotions.
4. Do not confront coaches at the game – arrange another time to speak to them or the Athletic Director.
5. Do not use profane language or gestures.
6. Help your child set realistic goals. The primary value of athletics is the opportunity for self-development allowing them to develop life-long values and self-esteem.
7. Remember an athletic contest is only a game – not a matter of life or death for a player, coach, school official, fan, community, state or nation.
8. Parents and supporters understand that inappropriate behavior may result in criminal trespass charges which would prevent them from coming back on campus to watch their child's activities.

*Let the players play
Let the coaches coach
Let the officials officiate
Let the fans cheer positively!*