

IDF-R Interscholastic Activities

7/1/20

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:

Parents/guardians and/or students must report any violation of this rule or the District's Student Code of Conduct to their high school administration or coach within two weeks (14 calendar days) of the violation. The two-week time frame includes weekends, school holidays and summer vacation. Failure to report a violation 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 Rule JCDA-R), 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), 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/post season, for a minimum twenty-five (25) calendar days; plus
- Suspension from regular/post season contests to equal a minimum of 30% of the number of 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]:

Student possession or use of tobacco, or tobacco product substitutes (e.g., tobacco look-alikes), cigarette look-alikes (e.g., electronic cigarettes), hookahs and hookah lookalikes (e.g. electronic hookahs), vaping devices, or vaping cartridges is prohibited.

• **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 G.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. 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.

G. 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; 7/25/16; 7/1/18; 7/1/20

Legal Reference

O.C.G.A. 20-17-2	Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
O.C.G.A. 20-2-160	Determination of enrollment; determination of funding
O.C.G.A. 20-2-315	Gender equity in sports
O.C.G.A. 20-2-316	Athletic association defined; high school athletics
O.C.G.A. 20-2-411	School fund kept separate; use of funds; separation of school taxes; investments
O.C.G.A. 20-2-86	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