

Series 500 – Student Personnel

The Good Conduct Rule Regulations set forth the expressly prohibited conduct for students participating in the activities programs and the specific consequences for committing the prohibited conduct. Coaches and sponsors may have other conduct expectations (inappropriate behaviors, truancies) not covered by these regulations and may impose consequences for students not meeting these expectations.

The appropriate building level activity coordinator, in conjunction with the building principal, shall affect the enforcement of this policy. To the extent possible, the periods of ineligibility shall be the same for equivalent violations and shall be enforced immediately following the conclusion of an investigation by the appropriate administrator. The periods of ineligibility will be applied within each of the following defined activity categories:

- a. Athletics and Cheerleading
- b. Fine Arts
- c. Clubs

At the beginning of each school year students shall receive a written copy and explanation of the Good Conduct Rule and Regulations. Students who wish to participate in activities and the public appearing events of co-curricular activities must return a form signed by them and their parents or guardians stating that they each have read and understood the Good Conduct Rule and Regulations. All coaches and sponsors of extracurricular activities and co-curricular activities which have public appearing events shall, at the beginning of their seasons, inform the students of the expectations of the Good Conduct Rule, their additional expectations, and the penalties for violating the rules. Students shall receive a written copy of the Good Conduct Rule and the additional expectations of their coaches and sponsors.

Prohibited Conduct

Students who participate in any extracurricular or co-curricular activity which has public appearing events will be subject to suspension from those activities if they violate the Good Conduct Rule at any time whether or not school is in session. Areas of violations which have pre-determined consequences include the following:

- I. Violations of Law
 - a. Committing an offense punishable by law as defined in federal and state statutes and municipal ordinances except for simple misdemeanor traffic violations.
- II. Tobacco Products
 - a. Acquiring, using or possessing a tobacco product.
- III. Alcoholic Beverages

Series 500 – Student Personnel

- a. Acquiring, consuming or possessing (alone or with others) an alcohol product.
 - b. Attending functions (without their own parent or guardian supervision) where alcohol is present and being used, and not immediately leaving such functions.
- IV. Illegal Drugs
- a. Acquiring, possessing, using, or selling (alone or with others) illegal substances or drug paraphernalia identified as being illegal by federal, state or local laws.
 - b. Attending functions where illegal drugs are present and being used, and not immediately leaving such functions.
- V. Steroids
- a. Acquiring, possessing, using, or selling steroids.

Actions, habits or conduct deemed to be degrading or detrimental to the ideals, principles or standards of the school and activities program but not covered above, will result in consequences as determined by the building level administrator.

A suspension from participation in activities will result when, following an investigation by the school administration, a preponderance of the evidence demonstrates that the Good Conduct Rule was violated. This suspension may result whether or not the student admits guilt, is charged with a violation, or is prosecuted in a court of law.

Consequences of Prohibited Conduct

A student who violates the Good Conduct Rule will be declared ineligible and suspended immediately from public appearing events in each of the defined activity categories. The length of the suspension shall be the stated number of events. Multiple events in the same activity but occurring on the same date, shall be considered one event. Events must be at the student's personal highest level of participation. During the period of suspension the student may not participate at other levels of the specific activity nor act in any official capacity in a public appearing event.

A student will be suspended within each defined activity category. The suspension will be considered served only if the student remains an active participant for the entire season of the activity. During the period of suspension, the student will be expected to practice or rehearse, attend home and away public appearing events, and perform such reasonable alternative activities as directed by the respective coach or sponsor. Sponsors of co-curricular activities shall not academically penalize a student who is suspended so long as the student completes the required alternative activities in a satisfactory manner.

- I. First offense: Violations of Law, Tobacco Products, Alcoholic Beverages, Illegal Drugs

Series 500 – Student Personnel

Suspended from 30 percent of the events within each defined activity category (a maximum of 12 events), or twelve (12) full months from the first day of ineligibility, whichever comes first. The suspension shall be completed and eligibility will be reinstated within each category, independent from the other categories.

- II. Second Offense within one year of the date of the first offense:
Violations of Law, Tobacco Products, Alcoholic Beverages, Illegal Drugs

Suspended from 60 percent of the events within each defined activity category. The suspension shall be prorated to the next activity within each category if fewer than 60 percent of the total number of public appearing events remain in a given act.

- III. Third and Subsequent Offense within two years of the date of the first offense: Violations of Law, Tobacco Products, Alcoholic Beverages, Illegal Drugs

Suspended for twelve (12) full months beginning on the first day of ineligibility.

- IV. Steroids

First offense is twelve (12) full months suspension from all athletic, cheerleading, fine arts, and club events beginning on the first day of ineligibility. Second steroids offense will be eighteen (18) full months.

Requesting Assistance for Suspected Substance Abuse

If a student, in good faith, suspects that he or she needs assistance in dealing with a personal substance abuse problem before it is known to the school, he or she may request assistance from the school administration, a guidance counselor, the student advocate, the student assistance team, or a coach or sponsor of an activity without fear of penalty under the Good Conduct Rule. The student must, at his or her own expense, enter and follow a prescribed program of assessment, evaluation or treatment provided by a non-school agency, and must make the activity coordinator aware of his or her participation in such a program by providing a written confirmation from the agency providing the program. Subsequent violations of the Good Conduct Rule by the student may or may not result in suspension based upon the decision of the activity coordinator and the agency or person in charge of the student's assistance program.

Transfer Students

Any student declared ineligible under his or her prior school district's Good Conduct Rule must complete the prior school district's period of suspension or the Newton Community School District's

Series 500 – Student Personnel

period of suspension, whichever is longer, before becoming eligible for extracurricular activities or public appearing events of co-curricular activities. The period of suspension shall not exceed one year from the first day of ineligibility, except for third and subsequent offenses for illegal drugs or steroids.

Appeal Procedure

Any student who is found by the administration to have violated the Good Conduct Rule may appeal this determination to the superintendent in writing within three (3) business days of being declared ineligible. The superintendent will hear the appeal and deliver a written decision within five (5) business days of the receipt of the appeal.

If the student is still dissatisfied, he or she may appeal to the Board of Directors by filing a written appeal with the board secretary within five (5) business days of the receipt of the superintendent's decision.

The Board of Directors will hear the appeal within ten (10) business days of the receipt of the appeal. The review by the board will be in closed session unless the student's parent (or the student, if the student is 18) requests an open session. The grounds for appeal to the Board of Directors are limited to the following: the student did not violate the Good Conduct Rule; the student was given inadequate due process in the investigation and determination; or the penalty is in violation of Board Policy. The Board of Directors shall deliver a written decision within ten (10) business days of the date of the hearing.

The student remains ineligible until such time as the suspension might be overturned.

If the Superintendent or Board of Directors reverses the decision of the administration, the student shall be immediately eligible and shall have any record of the ineligibility period and violation deleted from the student's record.

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