

A-C CENTRAL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

District No. 262 considers it a privilege for a student to be a member of an extra-curricular activity. Participants must understand that to earn this privilege of participation, they are required to assume responsibilities above and beyond the responsibilities of the student body in general.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this code is to establish a uniform policy regarding participation, eligibility, training rules, awards, and other items relating to the administration of the extra-curricular programs in District No. 262.

Policies or regulations set forth in this code must be supported and enforced by all District No. 262 staff.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the extra-curricular programs are:

1. to place academic endeavors above all other considerations, and to place all extra-curricular activities second.
2. to develop in each participant a feeling of pride, a sense of accomplishment, a respect of others' feelings and attitudes, and a desire to participate within the ethics of the activity.
3. to encourage, build, and promote in every way possible improvement in the individual's moral character, spiritual well-being, and physical development.
4. to develop extra-curricular activities of superior quality by stressing cooperation, emotional control, constructive release of energy, and last but not least, stressing fundamentals.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Participation in an extra-curricular activity that involves interscholastic competition requires academic eligibility.

Weekly eligibility checks, as required by the Illinois High School Association and the Illinois Elementary School Association, will be conducted by the Principal or Athletic Director no later than Friday of each week.

For the high school, the grade reported by the teacher for the eligibility check will be the cumulative grade for the class for the semester. For the junior high school, the grade reported by the teacher for the eligibility check will be the cumulative grade for the class for the quarter.

Grades submitted for the weekly eligibility check by the teachers shall include all work completed for the period to date as of the close of school two (2) days prior to last attendance day of that week.

A high school student must be passing seven (7) of the eight (8) scheduled classes per week to be eligible for extra-curricular activities. A high school student must also have passed seven (7) of the eight (8) scheduled classes the previous semester in order to be eligible for extra-curricular activities during the current semester. According to IHSA standards, a high school student not meeting the academic requirement on the basis of semester grades shall be ineligible to participate the following semester. The only exception to the semester eligibility requirement is the first semester of the student's freshman year.

All Junior High students must be passing all subjects every week to maintain eligibility for participation in extra-curricular activities. At the junior high school the same rule applies to end of quarter and semester grades. A Junior High student not meeting the academic requirement on the basis of quarter or semester grades shall be ineligible to participate the following quarter or semester. The only exception to the quarter eligibility requirement is the first quarter of the student's fifth grade year.

A student who is declared to be ineligible due to weekly grades may, at coach/sponsor's discretion, practice and attend games (sitting with the team but not in uniform) with consultation and agreement with parent/guardians.

Ineligibility, based on the weekly eligibility check, shall run from Monday morning through Sunday night. Ineligibility, based on previous semester grades shall run from the first day of the semester until the first day of the following semester for the high school. Ineligibility based on the previous quarter grades shall run from the first day of the quarter until the first day of the following quarter for the junior high.

A student who has been declared ineligible for any three weeks of a season or semester, beginning with the first week of activity, may be removed from the club, organization or team at the start of the third week that he/she has been declared ineligible. This shall include members, managers, statisticians, video persons, players, and cheerleaders.

Any student removed from a club, organization or team for ineligibility shall forfeit any letters and/or wards for that season.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Requirements that are unique to membership in a given club, organization, or activity are listed in the description of that club, organization, or activity. (See Extra-Curricular Offerings section).

All students wishing to participate on any athletic team, or cheerleading squad must have a current physical exam (less than one (1) year old) on file in the school office BEFORE participating in a practice, contest, or activity associated with the team or squad.

After an injury or illness serious enough for a doctor to limit participation, a student must obtain a doctor's release before resuming participation in that activity.

Participants, who are physically able to attend practice, though unable to participate, are expected to attend for instructional purposes. However, Coaches/Sponsors may excuse injured/ill participants from any or all practices during the injury/illness. Doctor's excuses shall be honored by the Coach/ sponsor.

Students must be in attendance at least one-half (1/2) day in order to participate in an extra-curricular activity on that day or evening. (See Student Attendance section of this code for more details on attendance requirements.) Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the Principal in the case of extenuating circumstances. Students who leave school because of illness will not be allowed to participate in an activity the remainder of that day.

Students wishing to participate in athletics, cheerleading, and/or Marching Band must be enrolled in the school's student insurance program or provide a waiver signed by their parent/guardian stating that they have insurance protection.

PARTICIPATION FOR HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

Students who are being home schooled may, if the parent(s)/guardian(s) request, be permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities provided the student meets the following criteria:

1. The home school curriculum is accepted by the appropriate school for credit.
2. The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) are legal residents of the District.
3. The transcript tracking the student's progress in the home school curriculum reflects acceptable progress toward meeting the District's graduation requirements.
4. The student's weekly academic performance is monitored by the school to certify the student is passing the equivalent of twenty credit hours of work per week and is meeting the minimum academic eligibility standards of participation established by the District.
5. The student meets participation requirements established by the IESA/IHSA.
6. The request to participate was made by May 1 of the preceding year.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION FEES

Extra-curricular participation fees for the 2015-2016 school year are set as follows:

High School

For each participant in any IHSA sponsored activity the fee will be \$45 per activity for the first two activities with subsequent activities being free. This includes: Football, Cross Country, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Boys & Girls Golf, Volleyball, Wrestling, Swimming and Diving, Boys & Girls Track, and Cheerleading.

There will be a \$10 fee charged to all extra-curricular camp participants to defray the cost of transportation.

Team members of the Scholastic Bowl team, Group Interp and Speech team will pay a \$15 fee.

Marching Band members will pay a \$15 fee to cover costs associated with transportation.

No participation fees should be paid by participants in the following groups, since each activity is considered part of the curriculum. This includes Science Fair; Chorus (Organizational) and Band (Organizational).

Band members who use school-owned instruments must pay a \$25 fee in addition to the other fees outlined above. This is to cover the cost of maintenance, repair, and replacement.

Junior High School

For each participant in any IESA sponsored activity the fee will be \$40 per activity for the first two activities with subsequent activities being free. This includes: Cross Country, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Volleyball, Wrestling, Boys & Girls Track and Cheerleading.

The IESA participation fee for Golf is the student's responsibility.

There will be a \$10 fee charged to all extra-curricular camp participants to defray the cost of transportation.

No participation fees should be paid by participants in the following groups, since each activity is considered part of the curriculum. This includes Science Fair; Chorus (Organizational) and Band (Organizational).

Band members who use school-owned instruments must pay a \$20 fee in addition to the other fees outlined above. This is to cover the cost of maintenance, repair, and replacement.

Many extracurricular activities are available for middle school students. All students are encouraged to participate in these activities. Activities available to students are: Football, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Wrestling, Volleyball, Golf, Track, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Science Fair, Speech, Spelling Bee, and other academic contests.

High school extracurricular activities include: Football, Basketball, Softball, Wrestling, Volleyball, Track, Cross Country, Swimming, Golf, Baseball, Cheerleading, Scholastic Bowl and Speech. Band, Chorus, and FFA are extracurricular activities that also have a co-curricular component in which requires a grade for some activities.

A-C CENTRAL/PORATA EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CODE

EXTRA-CURRICULAR POLICY

I. Eligibility

- A. High School students must be passing all but one of the courses taken. In other words: 4 credit classes if they are taking 5; be passing 5 if they are taking 6; be passing 6 if they are taking 7 in the current semester to be eligible. Junior High students must pass all classes. Eligibility will be checked weekly during weeks with four or more school days.
- B. In accordance with the IHSA policy, from semester to semester and year to year, students, unless they are entering high school for the first time, shall have passed 4 credit courses for the previous semester.
- C. The period of eligibility/ineligibility for the current week will follow the check running Monday through Saturday.
- D. A-C Central / PORATA Co-op's academic eligibility standards meet and exceed the Illinois High School Association standards. A-C Central / PORATA Jr. High Co-op's academic eligibility standards meet and exceed the Illinois Elementary School Association standards.
- E. These eligibility standards apply to all extra-curricular participants.

Note: sponsors or coaches of all teams, organizations and clubs will submit to the office and to their participants, a list of their activities that are to be extra-curricular. Sponsors/Coaches of extra-curricular activities may, with the approval of the principal, set reasonable eligibility standards.

II. Attendance

Student must be present at least ½ day on the day of a game or event in order to participate in that event, unless prior approval has been granted by the Assistant Principal or Principal. Students absent the second ½ of the day will not be eligible to participate in a contest or practice.

III. Equipment

- A. Participants are expected to care for equipment and uniforms issued to them.
- B. The School district is to be reimbursed by the athlete within seven days of that sport's state tournament conclusion, for any equipment or uniform lost or damaged through the athletes negligence

- C. Students will sign a form listing all equipment and uniforms issued to them.

IV. Transportation

- A. All participants will travel to and from away events on the team bus. Cheerleaders, statisticians, etc. are to also travel only on school supervised transportation, such as the player bus or a fan bus, if provided. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of participation privileges for that event.
- B. Participants are expected to dress neatly and appropriately. Those who do not shall not travel with the team. Specific standards for dress shall be established by the Head Coach or sponsor in each activity.
- C. With written parental consent, their participants will be permitted to travel home from events with parents.

V. Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right.

VI. Any student accused of violating extra-curricular codes will be informed of the charges and given the opportunity to explain or respond.

VII. The following criteria will be used to determine activity hierarchy.

- A. A performance event takes precedence over a non-performance event or practice.
- B. A competitive event takes precedence over a performance or non-performance event.
- C. Co-curricular events take precedence over extracurricular events.
- D. Conference events take precedence over non-conference events.
- E. State level events take precedence over conference events.

Students that choose not to abide by this practice may be subject to consequences related to the team or program they were supposed to support. The only time a student may choose is when equal level events are in conflict with each other. In this case the student may choose without being subject to consequences. At all times, event schedulers will take into consideration the possibility of overlapping events and try, in advance, to determine conflict resolutions with the best interest of the students in mind.

ATHLETICS

I. Physical Examinations

- A. All athletes must have a current physical exam (less than one year old) on file in the school office prior to participation in a practice, contest, or activity associated with athletics.
- B. After an injury or illness serious enough to require doctor's care to cause a player to miss practice or a game, the athlete must have a physician's permit to resume participation.

II. Insurance

Prior to their practice an athlete must be enrolled in the school's student insurance program or provide a waiver signed by their parent or guardian stating that they have adequate insurance protection, and listing the name of the company providing the coverage.

III. An athlete may change from one sport to another sport in the same season if:

- A. it occurs before the first contest, meet or event and
- B. the athlete has mutual consent of both coaches involved and
- C. has the approval of the Athletic Director.

IV. All athletic disciplinary consequences incurred in Jr. High School will carry forward into High School if not completed by the end of the school term.

V. Student athletes that participate in one sport will not be allowed to start another athletic season until they are given clearance by the preceding sports' head coach. In order to gain clearance, athletes must return all equipment, uniforms, and pay any fees due to the district.

A-C CENTRAL/PORTA EXTRA-CURRICULAR RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Insubordination, poor sportsmanship, violation of individual coaches' rules, or anti-social behavior exhibited by participants is considered detrimental to the team and to school spirit. The participant shall receive not less than a reprimand and not greater than suspension for the season.
2. No smoking or use of tobacco products.
3. No drinking, involvement in alcohol related incidents or attendance of "drinking parties".
4. No use of drugs or involvement in drug-related incidents.
5. Consequence for violation of number 2 above:
 - A. For a first time offender, any athlete that self-reports within 72 hours of an athletic code violation may not be allowed to participate in the next 10% of that sport's contests. An athlete that does not self-report may not be allowed to participate in the next 20% of that sport's contests. Once a penalty is imposed it will be served without interruption until completion. If that season does not have enough contests remaining to complete the designated suspension, the remaining percentage will carry over to the next sport season. For purposes of consistency, the total number of season contests per athlete will follow IHSA guidelines for season limitations. Regular season tournaments will count as 2 contests. Post-season contests are not factored into the total number of season contests; however, suspensions may be enforced during the post-season. When figuring the number of suspension dates any decimal will be rounded to the next highest number. Dual level participant suspension enforcement will be determined by the high school administration. (ie. an athlete that participates in both varsity and JV level contests.)
 - B. Non-athletic extra-curricular participants will have consequences in place at the start of their activities. These consequences require administrative approval and will be provided to the students prior to participation.
 - C. A second violation may result in the student being removed from that team or organization for the remainder of the season or activity.
6. Consequences for violation of numbers 3 and/or 4 from above:

Option A:

 - For a first time offender, any athlete that self-reports within 72 hours of an athletic code violation may not be allowed to participate in the next 20% of that sport's contests. An athlete that does not self-report may not be allowed to participate in the next 33% of that sport's contests. Once a penalty is imposed it will be served without interruption until completion. If that season does not have enough contests remaining to complete the designated suspension, the remaining percentage will carry over to the next sport season. For purposes of consistency, the total number of season contests per athlete will follow IHSA guidelines for season limitations. Regular season tournaments will count as 2 contests. Post-season contests are not factored into the total number of season contests; however, suspensions may be enforced during the post-season. When figuring the number of suspension dates any decimal will be rounded to the next highest number. Dual level participant suspension enforcement will be determined by the high school administration. (ie. an athlete that participates in both varsity and JV level contests.)
 - The student and his/her parents will contractually agree to participate in the PORTA Student Assistance Program or other Intervention service which may result in the student undergoing a chemical dependency assessment including an urinalysis at an agency approved by the school and will follow the recommendation. The assessment and urinalysis will be arranged by a SAP core team member. The cost of this assessment and implementation of any recommendation will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian and student shall execute a release allowing the agency performing assessment and urinalysis to divulge the results to a SAP core team member or other service provider and to an administrator.

Option B:

 - The student may not participate on any team or in any organization for one calendar year.
7. A second violation of items #3 or #4 during the school year may result in the student not being allowed to participate on any team for one calendar year.

If a participant is released from the squad or organization for disciplinary reasons or quits the squad or organization, it shall be up to the coach or sponsor as to whether the participant may be reinstated the following year. The student, along with his/her parents, may have 10 days to meet with the coach or sponsor if he/she is dropped or quits the squad.

Any student convicted of a felony will not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activity for the remainder of the school year.

8. ANY EXCUSES FOR MISSING PRACTICES, GAMES, EVENTS OR REQUIRED MEETINGS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COACH OR SPONSOR BEFORE THE APPOINTED TIME OCCURS. For an unforeseen absence, report to the coach or sponsor on the first day back in school. Deliberate absence from practice could mean your dismissal from the squad. All dental and other appointments should not conflict with practice, unless an emergency arises.
9. Classroom behavior and general school conduct are related to extra-curricular participation. Serious or continued misbehavior may result in disciplinary action or ultimate dismissal from the team or organization. Students that receive out-of-school suspensions may not participate in games, events, or practice during the suspension period.
10. Rules are in effect from the first day of practice or the first day of school (whichever comes first for the student involved) and the last day of school or the last extra-curricular/athletic event (whichever comes last for the student involved) of the school year. Additionally, this policy will remain in effect during the summer months whenever a student is under the direct jurisdiction of the PORTA District (example: band trip, team sport camp, etc.).
11. Students involved in extra-curricular activities should be in attendance at least ½ day on the day of the activity in order to participate in the activity. Attendance the day following the activity is expected also. Any unexcused absence the day following the activity, the student will not be allowed to participate in the next event.

BLUEJAY PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

Responsibilities of Sportsmanship

The Player

1. Respect coach's decision
2. Treats opponents with respect.
3. Plays hard, but plays within the rules.
4. Exercises self-control at all times, setting the example for others to follow.
5. Respects officials and accepts their decisions without gesture or argument.
6. Wins without boasting; loses without excuses and never quits.
7. Always remembers that it is a privilege to represent the school and community

The Spectator

1. Attempts to understand and be informed of the playing rules.
2. Appreciates a good play no matter who makes it.
3. Cooperates with and responds enthusiastically to cheerleaders.
4. Shows compassion for an injured player; applauds positive performance; does not heckle, jeer, or distract players; and avoids use of profane and obnoxious language and behavior.
5. Respect the judgment and strategy of the coach and does not criticize players or coaches for loss of a game.
6. Respects property of others and authority of those who administer the competition.
7. Censures those whose behavior is unbecoming.

The Coach

1. Treats own players and opponents with respect.
2. Inspires in the athletes a love for the game and the desire to compete fairly.
3. Is the type of person he/she wants the athlete to be.
4. Disciplines those on the team who display unsportsmanlike conduct.
5. Respect the judgment and interpretation of the rules by the official.
6. Knows he/she is a teacher and understands the athletic arena is a classroom.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches

1. The treatment of our child; mentally, and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student athletes.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times for all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflict well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

Athletic Communication Guidelines

Procedure if a parent has a question in regard to his/her son/daughter's status on a team or during a given season. The Athletic Guidelines Committee has mandated that the procedure must be followed in sequence for proper communication to occur.

1. If a parent has a question, they should call the school to make an appointment to talk with the coach. The athlete will also be present at this meeting along with a mediator.
2. If there still seems to be a problem they should contact the Athletic Director/Administrator to schedule a meeting.
3. If there is no resolution at this point there should be a meeting with the Principal.
4. The next step would be a conference with the Superintendent.
5. After the above steps have been completed an inquiry to the Board of Education might be necessary.

****The only time that a coach would be expected to talk to a parent after a contest would be in the case of illness, injury, or some unexpected emergency.

Ten Commandments of Sportsmanship

1. "Golden Rule"-Do unto others as you would have others do to you.
2. Enjoy yourself and promote enjoyment for others.
3. Be responsible for your actions.
4. Have an open mind to others' weaknesses and have a forgiving attitude.
5. Have pride in one's performance and one's school.
6. Be a friend, not an enemy and create a positive environment.
7. Encourage others to do or to be their best.
8. Sportsmanship should be contagious.
9. Remember it is a privilege to participate.
10. Practice sportsmanship in all situations at all costs.