

GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY HIGH SCHOOL

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT



2021-2022

If you are going to participate in any extra-curricular activity during your high school career, please review this code with your parents. A signature page with the proper signatures must be on file in the office prior to participation.

Mission Statement

The Extra-curricular code is designed to state expectations of those students who choose to represent Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Unit School District #5. The Board of Education believes that extra-curricular programs are a means of developing wholesome attitudes and positive human relations, as well as offering participants enhanced learning opportunities. The Board of Education recognizes the participation in all extra-curricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Students participating in extra-curricular activities are representatives of the school and community; therefore, when they choose to participate in an activity, the expectations are high, both while in school and out of school on a year-round basis.

Covered Activities

The Board of Education recognizes the students participating in the following activities are representatives of the school and community, and such are subjected to the extracurricular code:

***All Interscholastic Activities**

Football	Boy's Track	Scholastic Bowl
Golf	Girl's Track	Speech Team
Volleyball	Baseball	Soccer
Tennis	Softball	Dance Team
Boy's Basketball	Cheerleading	Flags
Girl's Basketball	Wrestling	

***Performance-based Activities (academic eligibility only)**

Variety Show
Spring Musical
I.H.S.A. Band Competitions
I.H.S.A. Choral Competitions

Extracurricular and Athletic Activities Code of Conduct

This Extracurricular and Athletic Activities Code of Conduct applies, where applicable, to all school-sponsored athletic and extracurricular activities that are not part of an academic class nor otherwise carry credit for a grade.

Requirements for Participation in Athletic Activities

A student must meet all academic eligibility requirements and have the following fully executed documents on file in the school office before being allowed to participate in any athletic activity:

1. A current certificate of physical fitness issued by a licensed physician, an advanced practice nurse or physician assistant. The preferred certificate of physical fitness is the Illinois High School Association's "Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form."
2. A permission slip to participate in the specific athletic activity signed by the student's parent/guardian.
3. Proof the student is covered by medical insurance.

4. A signed agreement by the student not to ingest or otherwise use any drugs on the IHSA's most current banned substance list (without a written prescription and medical documentation provided by a licensed physician who performed an evaluation for a legitimate medical condition) and a signed agreement by the student and the student's parent/guardian agreeing to IHSA's Performance-Enhancing Substance Testing Program.
5. A signed agreement by the student and the student's parent/guardian authorizing compliance with the School District's Extracurricular Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy; and
6. Signed documentation agreeing to comply with the School District's policies and procedures on student athletic concussions and head injuries.

Illinois High School Association

Eligibility for most athletics is also governed by the rules of the Illinois High School Association and, if applicable, these rules will apply in addition to this Extracurricular and Athletic Activities Code of Conduct. In the case of a conflict between IHSA and this Code, the most stringent rule will be enforced.

Extra-Curricular Attendance Guidelines

1. Students are expected to attend all practices and games.
2. Students who are members of a team are expected to attend all games and practices held during school vacation periods and on Saturdays.
3. Students will be excused from such games and practices when parents give the coach prior written notice that their child will be involved in a family activity. Notice should be given as early as possible, but at least two days in advance. In case of an emergency verbal notice will be accepted.

Absence from School on Day of Extracurricular or Athletic Activity

A student who is absent from school after noon is ineligible for any extracurricular or athletic activity on that day unless the absence has been approved in writing by the principal. Exceptions may be made by the designated teacher, sponsor or coach for justifiable reasons, including: 1) a pre-arranged medical absence; 2) a death in the student's family; or 3) a religious ceremony or event.

A student who has been suspended from school is also suspended from participation in all extracurricular and athletic activities for the duration of the suspension.

A student who is absent from school on a Friday before a Saturday event may be withheld from Saturday extracurricular or athletic activities at the sole discretion of the designated teacher, sponsor or coach.

Travel

All students must travel to extracurricular and athletic activities and return home from such activities with his or her team by use of school approved transportation. A written waiver of this rule may be issued by the teacher, sponsor or coach in charge of the extracurricular or athletic activity upon advance written request of a student's parent/guardian and provided the parent/guardian appears and accepts custody of the student and must be signed by a school administrator. Oral requests will not be honored and oral permissions are not valid.

Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to all extracurricular and athletic activities and is enforced 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

This Code does not contain a complete list of inappropriate behaviors. Violations will be treated cumulatively, with disciplinary penalties increasing with subsequent violations. A student may be excluded from extracurricular or athletic activities while the school is conducting an investigation into the student's conduct.

Participation in an alcohol or drug counseling program will be taken into consideration in determining consequences for Code of Conduct violations.

The student shall not:

1. Violate the school rules and School District policies on student discipline including policies and procedures on student behavior;
2. Ingest or otherwise use, possess, buy, sell, offer to sell, barter, or distribute a beverage containing alcohol (except for religious purposes);
3. Ingest or otherwise use possess, buy, sell, offer to sell, barter, or distribute tobacco or nicotine in any form;
4. Ingest or otherwise use, possess, buy, sell, offer to sell, barter, or distribute any product composed purely of caffeine in a loose powdered form or any illegal substance (including mood-altering and performance enhancing drugs or chemicals) or paraphernalia;
5. Use, possess, buy, sell, offer to sell, barter, or distribute any object that is or could be considered a weapon or any item that is a look alike weapon. This prohibition does not prohibit legal use of weapons in cooking and in athletics, such as archery, martial arts practice, target shooting, hunting, and skeet;
6. Attend a party or other gathering and/or ride in a vehicle where alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances are being consumed by minors;
7. Act in an unsportsmanlike manner;
8. Violate any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism and reckless driving. Each case will be evaluated on an individual basis by the administration and coaching staff;
9. Haze or bully other students;
10. Violate the written rules for the extracurricular or athletic activity;
11. Behave in a manner that is detrimental to the good of the group or school;
12. Be insubordinate or disrespectful toward the activity's sponsors or team's coaching staff; or
13. Falsify any information contained on any permit or permission form required by the extracurricular or athletic activity.

Hazing is any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to belong to a team or group, regardless of his or her willingness to participate. *Bullying* includes cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication) and means any physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
4. Interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Coaches and Sponsors Rules and Guidelines

Coaches or sponsors may have additional rules above and beyond the extra-curricular code that have been approved and are on file in the Principal's office. A copy of these rules along with the consequences shall be given to each participant at the beginning of the activity. The coaches' and sponsors' rules will be enforced only during the season that the student participates in that activity.

Penalties

Conduct infractions will result in suspension from extra-curricular activities commencing on the date the infraction occurs or the administration learns of the violation. The parents/guardians will receive a letter notifying them of the infraction, the term of the suspension, including beginning and ending date. The letter will also include notice of their right to appeal and the procedures for appealing a suspension.

- Voluntary admission of a first infraction by a student or the student's parent wishing to seek help with a chronic alcohol, drug, or tobacco problem will not result in a suspension from extra-curricular activities, if they enroll in, and complete an approved program of treatment, at their own cost. The admission will be counted as a first offense.
- In order to promote honesty, any student who voluntarily admits guilt to a school staff member may have his/her suspension for a First Infraction reduced by ten percent (10%).
- Any student discovered lying to avoid punishment for a First Infraction or Second Infraction will receive an additional ten percent (10%) of additional suspension time.
- During suspension for a First Infraction, students will be required to participate with the team, travel to and from contests with the team bus, and sit with or near the team. The student may not attend the contests in uniform. It is strongly recommended that students, intent on seeking a reduced suspension for a Second Infraction follow this same procedure.
- A student is required to complete all requirements of an activity/season in order for a suspension to be fulfilled during said activity/season. If the student fails to complete the activity/season he/she will be required to serve the entire suspension during their next activity/season.
- If a student commits an infraction while serving a suspension for a previous infraction, the student must complete the first infraction suspension before the suspension for the second infraction may begin.

Due Process Procedures

Students who are accused of violating the Code of Conduct are entitled to the following due process:

1. The student should be advised of the disciplinary infraction with which he or she is being charged.
2. The student shall be entitled to a hearing before an appropriate administrator.
3. The student will be able to respond to any charges leveled against him or her.
4. The student may provide any additional information he or she wishes for the administrator to consider.
5. The administrator, with the help of other staff members if needed, may interview material witnesses or others with evidence concerning the case.
6. If the administrator finds, after reviewing the evidence, that the violation occurred, he or she will impose sanctions on the student, as follows:
 - a. Sanctions for violations other than drug and alcohol will be based on the nature of the offense and the number of offenses, and may include suspension from all extracurricular or athletic activities for one of the time periods described below:
 - A specified period of time or percentage of performances, activities or competitions;
 - The remainder of the season or for the next season; or
 - The remainder of the student's school career.
 - b. Sanctions for alcohol and other drug violations, including tobacco, nicotine and in any form, mood-altering or performance enhancing drugs, products composed purely of caffeine in a loose powdered form, paraphernalia or any other illegal substance, will be based on the following:

First Infraction

For a first infraction, suspension for at least thirty percent (30%) of the season's scheduled contests rounded up to the nearest whole game and fifteen hours of community service.

Second Infraction

For a second infraction a student will be suspended for one calendar year. The suspension may be reduced to fifty percent (50%) of the next season for which they are eligible, if the student completes a counseling program, approved by the administration, 6 appropriate for the nature of the offense and completes forty hours (40) of community service.

Third Infraction

Suspension for any third infraction may be for the remainder of the student's high school eligibility. After one calendar year, with no further infractions, completion of an approved counseling program, approved by the administration, and the completion of eighty hours (80) of community service, the student and his/her parent/guardian may appeal to the Interscholastic Athletic Appeals Committee for reinstatement. The student and his/her parent/guardian must both meet with the committee to evaluate the student's performance in academics and attendance. Unexcused absences and/or out-of-school suspensions may eliminate the student from further extra-curricular participation. The appeal in no way guarantees the re-establishment of eligibility. Each appeal will be evaluated on an individual basis.

7. The appropriate administrator will make a written report of his or her decision and rationale. The student may appeal the decision to the Principal or s Principal's designee.

All students remain subject to all the School District's policies and the school's student/parent handbook.

Appeals Committee

The Extra-Curricular Appeals Committee will be comprised of two district administrators and two nonparticipating coaches, one of whom will be chosen by the principal and the other to be chosen by the student in question. The committee will consider and handle all appeals, which may arise regarding the policies contained within the Code of Conduct. The purpose of the Appeals Committee will be to:

1. Determine if there has been an infraction of the Code of Conduct.
2. Determine if the Code of Conduct was appropriately enforced.
3. Review applications for reinstatement of students after third infraction of extra-curricular code.
4. The Appeals Committee will not have the authority to modify the contents of the Code.

To appeal an athletic suspension the student and his/her parents/guardians must submit, in writing, a request for appeal within seven (7) days of any suspension from extracurricular activities. The decision of the Appeals Committee will be final.

Participation in extra-curricular activities is to be considered a privilege and not a guaranteed right. To be competitive, proper conditioning and proper attitudes are 7 necessary. The foregoing training rules are those to which all students are expected to adhere throughout their high school career.

Drug and Alcohol Testing Program

The School District maintains an extracurricular and athletic drug and alcohol testing program in order to foster the health, safety, and welfare of its students. Participation in extracurricular and athletic activities is a privilege and participants need to be exemplars. The program promotes healthy and drug-free participation.

Each student and his or her parent/guardian must consent to random drug and alcohol testing in order to participate in any extracurricular or athletic activity. Failure to sign the School District's "Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Consent" form will result in non-participation.

If a test is positive, the student may not participate in extracurricular or athletic activities. A request for another re-test of a positive urine specimen is the financial responsibility of the student's parent/guardian. A student/parent/guardian may request a retesting of the urine specimen within 3 days of notification of a positive test. If this follow-up test is negative, the student will be allowed to resume participation in extracurricular and athletic activities. If a positive result is obtained from the follow-up test, or any later test, the same previous procedure shall be followed.

No student shall be expelled or suspended from school as a result of any verified positive test conducted under this program other than when independent reasonable suspicion of drug and/or alcohol usage exists. This program does not affect the School District policies, practices, or rights to search or test any student who at the time exhibits cause for reasonable suspicion of drug and/or alcohol use.

Cross-References:

PRESS 6:190, *Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities*

PRESS 6:190-AP, *Eligibility for Participation in Extracurricular Activities*

PRESS 7:240, *Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities*

PRESS 7:240-AP1, *Code of Conduct for Extracurricular Activities*

GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT #5

Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct Student/Parent Consent Form

I have read the GCMS Board of Education's Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct Policy for student participants, and I understand the Board of Education's policy and procedures and agree to follow said policy and procedures, as a condition of participation in extra-curricular activities. I understand that if I disobey the rules, I will be excluded from the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities as provided in the Board's policy and procedures.

Student Participant (print name)

Student Participant Signature and Date

Parent or Guardian Signature and Date