

OLYMPIA MIDDLE SCHOOL/OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT ACTIVITY CODE

This Activity Code is adopted by the Board of Education of Olympia Community Unit School District #16 to apply to students in activities in grades 6-12. This policy applies in addition to other policies concerning student conduct, and imposes additional requirements on students in activities. It is intended to promote the health and safety of students, and to encourage the development of self-discipline and self-control in these students' activities. The Board finds those attributes to be necessary to make participation in activities successful and rewarding for individual students as well as for the teams in which they participate.

The Board finds that students and the public perceive students who participate in activities as representatives of the school and other students. They are provided certain privileges and services not available to other students. The Board determines that it is necessary for the maintenance of discipline and to promote exemplary conduct that additional and unique rules apply to activities and their participants.

The Board has determined that participation in activities is a privilege, not a right. If a student fails to comply with the rules and requirements set forth in this policy, the privilege to participate in activities may be lost in accordance with this policy.

The rules set forth in this policy apply to the student, commencing with entrance into the sixth grade, and continue to apply to the student until the completion of the student's high school career. These rules apply both in and out of season of the activities in which each student participates, during summers, holidays, and vacations, on and off campus, and whether or not misconduct occurs at a school or school-sponsored activity.

I. Definitions

Student Participant - a boy or girl in high school or middle school who participates in any of the following high school or middle school extra-curricular activities - all athletic teams, cheerleading, pom poms, speech, group interpretation, marching band, flags, jazz band, IHSA/IESA concert band, IHSA/IESA chorus, chamber choir, show choir, madrigal, school plays, scholastic bowl, FFA, and chess.

Suspension - Suspension means loss of the privilege to participate in contests or activities. During suspension the student will only be allowed to practice at the discretion of the coach/sponsor and under the direct supervision of the coach/sponsor. The student may also be required, as determined by the coach/sponsor, to attend all games, contests, or performances during the suspension. In addition, the student will not be allowed to attend any other school-sponsored extracurricular contests, performances, or dances either at home or away as a spectator for the duration of the penalty (or 30 days in the case of a calendar year suspension). During the term of the suspension, the student will not be allowed to be in uniform at the contests.

II. Required forms

Students desiring to participate in activities are required to have on file in the Activities Director's office, the following fully completed forms:

- A. Activities Release Form – Signed by a parent or guardian indicating the parent’s permission for the student to participate and signed by the student indicating that he/she agrees to abide by the provisions of the Activity Code and the IHSA/IESA Eligibility Rules.
- B. Physical examination – Results of a current physical examination completed within the last twelve (12) months indicating that a medical doctor has deemed the student physically able to participate. A student will NOT be allowed to begin a sports season unless his/her physical is valid through the ENTIRE season. (Ex. Water polo state finals are June 12. As students’ physical expires June 1 the student will not be allowed to begin the water polo season until a new physical is acquired.)
- C. Health Forms – Signed by a parent or guardian, and the student, these health and concussion information forms document the understanding of the inherent risks for concussions and the damage concussions can cause in adolescents. The forms also document the districts procedures and requirements in the case of a suspected concussion and provide consent to treat in a medically necessary situation.

III. Training Rules

Coaches/Sponsors have the authority to make and enforce team/activity rules and regulations. Students need to be made aware of such rules and regulations before participation in that sport or activity. Such rules and regulations can include, but are not limited to grooming, excused/unexcused absences, grades (beyond the school policy), and sportsmanship.

Coaches/Sponsors have the authority to impose discipline they deem appropriate with regard to activities, in their discretion, for violation of school rules or team/activity rules and regulations. Students shall be orally notified of any penalty to be imposed for violation of team/activity rules, but students shall be permitted to with the coach/sponsor to discuss the situation prior to the time the penalty is imposed.

A. Prohibited Conduct

1. Use, possession, distribution, purchase, sale or being under the influence of alcohol illegal drugs, or look alike drugs, or knowingly being in attendance at gatherings where these substances are used or possessed by minors, or the use, possession, distribution, purchase or sale of tobacco or drug-related paraphernalia AT ANY TIME DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR is prohibited. Consequently, students who are in attendance and aware of illegal alcohol or drug use at a gathering and do not leave immediately, will be considered in violation of the code.
2. Any conduct defined as gross disobedience or misconduct in the student handbook or the policies of the Olympia School District is prohibited.
3. Stealing of any equipment or the property of others is prohibited.
4. Any commission of a criminal offense AT ANY TIME DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR is prohibited. Conviction of a criminal offense is conclusive evidence that the student committed the offense. Other evidence may also demonstrate that an offense occurred, but mere arrest or charge is insufficient in and of themselves to show that the student committed the offense.

B. Penalties

1. Except as provided below, the first violation of Part III Training Rules, A, Prohibited Conduct, numbers 1-4 shall be punishable by a suspension range of 1 of the scheduled contests/performances in that season, to as much as an entire season. A minimum penalty of 1 contest/performance will be assessed. If the remaining contests do not permit the full penalty to be imposed in that season, the penalty will be carried over and applied to the participant's next activity. For example, the penalty is 5 contests/performances, but only 3 contests/performances remain, the remaining percent will be assessed in the next activity. If the student-participant quits the next activity, or is removed from the team by the coach or sponsor, the remaining percent of the original penalty will carry over to the next activity.
2. A subsequent violation of Part III Training Rules, A, Prohibited Conduct, numbers 1-4 within one calendar year (365 days) from the occurrence of the first (1st) violation shall be punished by a suspension from all activities for a period of ONE CALENDAR YEAR (365 days). The penalty will be imposed on the day the Activities Director renders his decision, and run for one calendar year (365 days). Upon the request of the student, the Activities Director, as provided below, may review the suspension after six (6) months.
3. If the Activities Director determines that a first violation of Part III Training Rules, A, Prohibited Conduct, numbers 1-4 is flagrant; it may impose a penalty as if the violation were a second violation.
4. The Activities Director may require, at the expense of the student, an assessment and/or counseling before a student is allowed to return to participation. Proof of the assessment/counseling must be provided to the Activities Director.
5. The punishments set forth in Part III Training Rules, B, Penalties, numbers 1-4 above may be modified on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Activities Director.

C. Request for help

1. Any student who voluntarily admits to a problem, which is a violation of the activity code and comes forward desiring help in seeking treatment, before a known violation of the activity code, under the discretion of the Activities Director, may be exempt from 1st offense penalties through completion of and treatment program approved by the Activities Director, and/or counseling at their own expense.

D. Violation Procedures

1. If the administration receives information or reports from any source that a student has violated any of the training rules as provided in this Code, the administration shall promptly investigate the charge.
2. If there is sufficient evidence to believe a violation may have occurred, the administration shall:
 - I. Interview the student notifying them of the charge and requesting a response.
 - II. If the student denies the charge, give an explanation to the student of the evidence and facts leading to the charge; and

III. Give the student an opportunity to respond or present an explanation of the event.

3. If the administration determines the allegations are true, the administration may issue disciplinary consequences consistent with the penalties outlined in Part III Training Rules, B, Penalties. The administration shall notify the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) of the violation and of the imposed penalty.
4. If the student disagrees with the administration's action, a meeting of the Activity Code Committee shall be convened. The Activity Code Committee shall consist of coaches/sponsors, which will be appointed by the administration with representatives from the selected areas listed below. Any coach/sponsor of these activities will be considered for appointment. The High School or Middle School administration and the coach/sponsor of the activity the student was involved in are invited to attend as non-voting members. The purpose of the Activity Code Committee shall be to determine whether or not the student committed the misconduct, and if so, whether the penalty is appropriate for the violation. A quorum of seven (7) members is needed to make decisions concerning violations.
5. The Activity Code Committee shall consider any relevant evidence, including any aggravating or mitigating factors, in determining what penalty is appropriate. The student and/or their parent(s) or guardian(s) shall be given an opportunity to address the Activity Code Committee. The penalty imposed by the Activity Code Committee shall be in accordance with Part B.
6. If the student disagrees with the finding of the Activity Code Committee, the appeal process is the same as any student suspension, which is detailed in the student handbook.