

Peninsula School District's Parent/Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook Activities Code of Conduct

Rev. 9-3-13

1. CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DEFINED

Co-curricular activities require a great commitment from students, advisers, coaches and parents. Programs at this level stress personal dedication, drive and determination, while teaching the student participant to accept obligations to the group, teammates, advisers, coaches, the student body and the community. Co-curricular activities are a privilege, and participation is completely voluntary. They promote enjoyment, a high level of motivation, and the pursuit of excellence. Co-curricular activities shall include all school-approved student activities which occur outside of the normal school day.

Students participating in co-curricular activities in the Peninsula School District are considered to be in positions of leadership. They represent the school and community. Goals for participants are to:

- a. Promote and contribute to the goals of the total education program;
- b. Achieve optimum physical and emotional health and wellness;
- c. Exhibit sportsmanship and fair play; and
- d. Encourage participation and develop self-esteem.

This Activities Code is designed to establish a reasonably high standard for participants in co-curricular activities rather than to be punitive and deny access to such activities. Such a standard is a necessary method to help students prevent and solve behavioral problems relating to tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. The Code is designed to support students in their choice to avoid participation in illegal and unhealthy activities, and to support parents in their efforts to guide children into healthy lifestyles. These rules incorporate by reference the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (W.I.A.A.) 2013-2014 Handbook.

A student who engages in exceptional misconduct (exceptional misconduct is defined as so serious in nature and/or so serious in terms of the disruptive effect upon the operation of the school(s), that students may be subject to a suspension for a first-time offense) while involved in school athletics or activities is subject to discipline provided for in the Activities Code *and* may also be subject to discipline provided for in the Student Code of Conduct for the same offense.

Students in grades 6-12 participating in co-curricular activities shall abide by the following rules during the calendar year, effective on the first day of the co-curricular activity. Participating students must be regular members of the school they represent in order to participate in an interscholastic athletic activity. Students are a “regular member” of a school if they are enrolled half time or more, exclusive of interscholastic athletic activities. (See W.I.A.A. rule 18.5.0)

1. As a condition of participation in co-curricular activities, participants will agree in writing to abide by all rules set forth below. Parents, guardians and/or legal custodians shall indicate in writing that they have received a copy of the rules and understand and accept them.

2. Participants will maintain satisfactory academic progress by earning a minimum 2.0 grade point average and by passing all but one class for the semester preceding the co-curricular activity.

3. Participants will be present the entire school day on which a co-curricular activity is scheduled. Exceptions will be made for family bereavement or emergencies; pre-arranged, school-related or school-approved activities; and doctor, dental or legal appointments (written documentation from the physician, dentist, etc., must be provided prior to the activity). The student is expected to attend all classes on the day following the activity.

4. Participants will abstain from the use, possession, transmission or illegal sale of any tobacco product throughout the calendar year.

5. Participants will abstain from the use, possession, transmission or illegal sale of alcohol or other illegal drugs or substances purported to be alcohol or other illegal drugs throughout the calendar year. To be clear, this includes summer vacation and all other breaks. Therefore, the expectation is that a student will abide by this stipulation 365 days a year while participating in co-curricular activities.

6. Participants will not engage in behavior which enables or condones the illegal use of alcohol or other drugs by other students. Examples include:

- Promoting, attending, or remaining at illegal parties, activities, and events, or knowingly being in proximity when illegal activities occur; *Note:* The term “knowingly” is interpreted to mean knowingly remaining in surroundings with a reasonable suspicion that illegal activity *may be* occurring. In that circumstance, a student has a duty to either withdraw or thoroughly investigate and rule out occurrence of illegal activities.

7. Participants will abstain from the use, possession, transmission or sale of anabolic steroids or other legend drugs throughout the calendar year.

8. A participant is expected to attend all scheduled practices, meetings, contests and performances, whether or not school is in session. If it is found necessary to miss such, prior arrangements must be made with the adviser/coach.

9. School-owned equipment checked out by a participant in any co-curricular activity is his/her responsibility. The loss or misuse of this equipment will be the financial obligation of the participant. Individuals will not be allowed to participate in any co-curricular activity or receive awards until this obligation is fulfilled.

10. An athlete who has been injured and has had medical treatment cannot participate until a signed medical release is presented to the head coach. The release will be kept on file by the athletic director.

11. Completion of the activity season is required in order for the student to be eligible for a letter or other team individual awards (exception: injury which limits participation). No awards shall be given to any student suspended for the remainder of the season as the result of an Activity Code of Conduct violation or a suspension from school.

12. Participants are required to travel to and from contests with the team/group when transportation is provided for this purpose. When transportation is provided by the school, the only permitted exceptions to traveling via school transportation include:

- Injury to a participant which would require alternate transportation; written parental permission is obtained in advance, or personal contact between the parent and coach/advisor has been made resulting in prior approval. The release of the student must be approved by a designated school official. The student may then be released to a parent. Permission may be granted only for that parent or guardian's student.
- When overnight team travel is required, conduct in violation of the athletic code or team rules may result in a student-athlete being sent home. In this instance, the parent/guardian will be responsible for any expenses related to transporting the student safely home if they are unable to make arrangements themselves to pick their student-athlete up.

13. Participants will not engage in any "exceptional misconduct," as defined by the Board of Directors in the Student Responsibilities Policy 3200P, Sub-Section B.

14. The school coach has the authority to set and enforce team rules & expectations, district sportsmanship expectations, and district policy related to private/club coaches.

- **Any student athlete** who joins a school team must accept the full authority of the coaches who are employed by the school district and are expected to take his/her direction. Each athlete is subject to the rules and guidelines established by the team coach at the beginning of every season. Failure of an athlete to follow such instruction could result in loss of eligibility, letter points, or possible dismissal from a school team. Behaviors or attitudes determined to be detrimental to the team may result in a player being suspended from participation, or in exceptional cases, removed from the team. Any decisions to remove a student permanently from participation will be made by an administrative team that will include at the minimum, the principal, building athletic director, and respective coach/advisor.
- **High levels of sportsmanship** are expected of all participants involved in team sports and activities in the Peninsula School District. WIAA rules (18.27) for any player ejected from a competitive event will be the minimum consequence enforced. A school reserves the right to set a higher sportsmanship standard and may therefore administer a more severe consequence when deemed appropriate. A team made up of the principal, building athletic director, and coach/advisor will make any decisions regarding specific ejection consequences after consideration of specific incident circumstances.
- **Private/Club coaches** may not participate in either school practices or school competitions. The private coach may be a spectator at any practice or competition, but will not be allowed to communicate with any athlete for any reason while the student is under the authority of the school coach. Failure to comply may result in removal from the practice or competition by school officials.
- **The school coach**, the private coach, and the parents of the student athlete are encouraged to discuss any issues of disagreement regarding the student's training, preparation and performance. However, the school coach has the final authority to make decisions on any issue dealing with the school team.

2. ACTIVITIES CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

a. General Consequences

Students participating in co-curricular activities who violate rules of student conduct will be suspended from competition or performance as a consequence. If

necessary, the suspension will carry over to the next activity or season in which the student participates. Parents or guardians will be notified of action(s) taken.

b. Satisfactory Academic Progress

A student shall have passed 5 out of 6 classes (WIAA 18.7.0) while earning a minimum GPA of 2.0 in the immediately preceding semester/trimester in order to be eligible for competition during the succeeding semester/trimester. The record at the end of the semester/trimester shall be final, except for those credits earned in a regular, accredited summer school program or alternative educational program accepted by the school district.

Academic Suspension Period (WIAA 18.7.6) - A student who failed to make the grade requirements shall be placed on suspension. The student shall be ineligible during the suspension period. If, at the end of the suspension period, the student is passing in the minimum number of classes required above, the student may then be reinstated for interscholastic competition.

A. The suspension period for high school students shall be from the end of the previous semester through the last Saturday of September in the fall or the **first five (5) weeks** of the succeeding semester/trimester.

B. The suspension period for middle level students shall be from the end of the previous semester through the **first three (3) weeks** of the succeeding semester/trimester.

C. Each student is eligible on Monday of the week following the end of the suspension period. Three or more teaching days shall constitute a week.

Support will be available to students to assist their return to academic compliance and reinstatement to competition or performance. Each student is eligible on the day following successful completion of the probation period. School holidays do not count as class minutes.

Schools may choose to use weekly progress reports as one method to determine academic eligibility of co-curricular participants for their return to competition or performance.

Schools shall monitor the academic progress of co-curricular participants during the co-curricular activity period.

c. Tobacco Use

When it is determined by the administrative team that a student has used, possessed, sold or transmitted any tobacco product, the following consequences will occur:

1st Offense: Suspension from co-curricular competition or performance for the next event or activity, or a comparable suspension for non-athletic activities. The student is required to attend a tobacco-cessation program.

2nd Offense: Suspension from co-curricular competition or performance for the next two events or activities, or a comparable suspension for non-athletic activities. A student who is participating in an approved tobacco-cessation program may be reinstated after serving the suspension as long as he/she continues to follow the provisions of the program. *

Subsequent Offense: Suspension from co-curricular activities, competition or performance for the next four events or activities, or a comparable suspension for non-athletic activities. A student who is participating in an approved tobacco-cessation program may be reinstated after serving the suspension as long as he/she continues to follow the provisions of the program and on approval of the Principal. *

** This encourages participation in a tobacco-cessation program while clarifying the consequence to be served.*

d. Attendance Consequences

The consequences of unexcused absence are the following:

1st Offense: Suspension from co-curricular competition or performance for the next event or activity, or a comparable suspension for non-athletic activities.

2nd Offense: Suspension from co-curricular competition or performance for the next two events or activities, or a comparable suspension for non-athletic activities.

Subsequent Offense: Suspension from co-curricular activities, competition or performance for the next four events or activities, or a comparable suspension for non-athletic activities.

e. Illegal Use, Sale and/or Possession of Legend Drugs (RCW 69.41.020-050) and Controlled Substances (RCW 69.50)

When it is determined by the administrative team that a student who is found to use, sell and/or be in possession of one or more legend drugs or alcohol in the manner defined in the PSD Student Responsibilities Handbook (Possession or Use, Alcohol, Drugs or Drug Paraphernalia and/or Student Rights, Searches of Students and Personal Property, Identification of Student Alcohol Use), or has abused alcohol or drugs in such manner at any other time or place during the chronological (not school) year, the student shall immediately become ineligible

for competition/activity in the current sports/activity program and will be subjected to the following consequences:

1st Offense: Suspension from co-curricular competition or performance for 40% of the season of athletic competition or one activity (e.g. band, choir) performance. This suspension may be modified to 20% with alcohol and drug treatment if the student agrees to submit to substance abuse assessment and follow the approved treatment plan prior to returning to the co-curricular activity. When an assessment is conducted, the administrative team shall consider the recommendation of the substance abuse counselor. Parents will be invited to attend a post-assessment conference, if permissible under state law and regulations.

Subsequent Offenses: Suspension from all co-curricular activities for one calendar year beginning on the date of the second offense. The student will be required to retake a substance abuse assessment and follow the treatment plan designated by the administrative team. The administrative team shall consider the recommendations of the assessment counselor. If a participant provides ongoing verification of compliance with assessment and treatment recommendations he/she may be reinstated on probation contingent upon continuing compliance. Reinstatement will be only by approval of the Principal. The affected student may request the Principal to consider probation but the Principal need not do so. The Principal need not express specific reasons for refusing to allow probation. When probation is granted, all other similarly situated students must be offered the same opportunity. When the Principal intends to offer probation, he must notify both the Superintendent and the District Athletic Director, of the terms and conditions of probation prior to implementation. The terms of probation shall be developed collaboratively by the Principal, District Athletic Director, and Superintendent or designee. The probation, if granted, may include some suspensions from co-curricular activities or none at all. When probation is granted and when a violation of the probation occurs, the Principal may amend the probation or revoke it altogether. The student has no appeal from a Principal's choice to deny probation, choice of terms of probation or length of probation or decision to revoke probation. The foregoing provisions as to first and subsequent offenses carry over from year to year from the student's sixth grade year through the student's 8th grade year and from the students 9th grade year through their 12th grade year or last year in this school system.

f. Anabolic Steroids

When it has been determined by the administrative team that a student has used, possessed, sold or transmitted anabolic steroids, the provisions of this code will apply in addition to the eligibility regulations determined by the WIAA.

1st Offense: The participant will be ineligible for co-curricular participation for the current co-curricular activity season. The student must take a substance abuse assessment and follow the treatment plan designated by the administrative team

prior to returning to co-curricular activities. The administrative team shall consider the recommendations of the assessment counselor. Parents will be invited to attend the post-assessment conference if permissible under state law and regulations.

2nd Offense: The participant will be ineligible and prohibited from participation in any WIAA member school co-curricular activity for a period of one calendar year from the date of the second offense.

3rd Offense: The participant will be permanently prohibited from participation in any WIAA member school co-curricular activity.

g. Enforcement

All members of the community should be alert and aware of the behavior of students, and should follow up on concerns brought to their attention by reporting to District personnel. District personnel shall report alleged violations to building administration, who will be responsible for reporting to a designated District office administrator. In cases of exceptional misconduct or a violation of the activities/athletic code, schools of similar level will coordinate consequences for the purpose of consistency. If the school disagrees with another school's interpretation of a violation or consequence, building administrators may seek an interpretation/decision from the District administration.

h. Voluntary Reporting/Treatment

Students who recognize they have a drug, alcohol, tobacco, or anabolic steroid problem, and of their own volition (and prior to any informal or formal report of their first drug, alcohol, steroid, or tobacco offense) seek counseling or assessment, and follow the provisions of the treatment program, may receive additional consideration when it comes to determining consequences concerning eligibility. The intent of this “self-reporting” policy is NOT to create a means by which students may avoid discipline. Only a student with no other prior drug/alcohol violations may receive consideration for leniency regarding eligibility. If the administrative team deems the “self-reporting” is or was being used to avoid discipline, the student will be disciplined according to Board policy.

i. Administrative Team

For purposes of enforcement of the Activities Code of Conduct, the administrative team will consist of a building administrator, the building athletic director, and other personnel as designated by the Principal.

j. Reporting

Building administrators will submit an end-of-semester report of all activity under this Code to the Superintendent and the Board. The reports will be of sufficient scope and detail to satisfy the Superintendent and the Board.

k. Notice and Due Process

When parents and/or students are notified of an alleged violation of the Activities Code of Conduct and the consequence(s), such notice shall be in writing and include a description of the disciplinary grievance procedure. The building principal, following recommendations from the coach or activities adviser and/or building athletic director, will impose Activities Code of Conduct discipline. Activities Code discipline (or suspension) will remain in affect pending appeal.

Timelines: An appeal must be made in writing to the school principal within three business days of the date the disciplinary consequence was put into effect. During the time the appeal is being considered, the student alleged to be in violation of the activities code may not participate. If dissatisfied with the outcome of the appeal to the principal, a parent/guardian may request a review by the District Athletic Director. If it is determined that a hearing is necessary, the Academic Officer of K-12 Education Programs, or designee, will hear any appeal of Activities Code discipline.