

# **I CAN Schools Athletic/Activity Program Code of Conduct**

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## **Preface/Philosophy**

Activity programs are activities in which students appear, perform, and/or compete as representatives of the I CAN Schools Network. Examples of these include, but are not limited to, athletics, cheerleading, and student council. Activities in which students represent I CAN Schools as an extension of a course requirement for which students receive a grade are governed by the Student Handbook and are not considered co-curricular activities. Examples of these include concert band and concert choir.

Activity programs provide the opportunity for all students to develop their talents to the highest level possible. Therefore, I CAN Schools is committed to offering a wide variety of activities. While it is difficult to measure, the educational value of activity program participation is important to our educational community. Students not only continue to develop physical, mental, and social skills, but also further develop positive values and attitudes that they will take with them into their adult life.

Students participating in activity programs officially represent I CAN Schools. Because of this, these students have privileges and bear responsibilities which are greater than those afforded to students not participating in activity programs at I CAN Schools. This code incorporates the standards and guidelines for eligibility and participation established by the I CAN Schools Network

The I CAN Schools administration reserves the right to make policies and decisions as needed to address specific issues that arise which may not be explicitly covered in this code.

**Scope of the Code of Conduct** The provisions outlined in this policy shall be in effect twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, for the duration of the season (first day of practice until the last game or awards ceremony/banquet; whichever is later) . This includes sports which commence before the beginning of the school year or extend beyond the end of the school year. For all other clubs and organizations, enforcement may begin with first meeting through the end of the school year. For an elected or appointed position, the activity program conduct may be enforced from the beginning of the election/appointment through the expiration of the term of office/season/activity. Violations are cumulative throughout one school year.

## **Eligibility Rules**

1. The athletic director will review eligibility for student athletes each grading period. All other activity program eligibility will be reviewed by the advisor. These determinations shall be final.
2. In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediate preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent which count towards graduation and must have earned a 2.0 grade point average or higher.
3. An ineligible student (for academic reason) may practice his/her co-curricular activity or practice with a team as agreed upon by the coach, player and parents/guardians, but may not participate in competition or performances.
4. Summer school and other educational options may not be used to substitute for failure to meet the academic standards during the last grading period of the school year.
5. Athletic participants must carry either school insurance or have a waiver form signed by a parent/guardian as a condition of participation in the activity program.
6. Students in grades 6 - 10 participating on a team sport must pay a I CAN Administration approved participation fee before the first contest as a condition of participation in the activity program. Fees are subject to change.
7. Students must follow all rules established by I CAN Schools administrators and staff, as a condition of participation in the activity program.
8. Students must demonstrate sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity as a representative of The I CAN Schools as a condition of participation in the activity program. Activity program participation is a privilege, not a right.
9. PE courses are NOT included for eligibility.

## **Attendance**

1. A student must be in school at least half the school day to practice, compete, or perform. If a student is not well enough to attend school, he/she is not well enough to participate in any activity program events. Students who are not in attendance for their scheduled day may forfeit their right to participate in the activity program. Exceptions to this are excused school trips and appointments that are approved in advanced by the athletic director, principal, or his/her designee.
2. If a student is truant from an assigned class period(s), he/she forfeits his/her opportunity to perform, or compete in the next scheduled event after which the administration becomes aware of the truancy.

3. Students may not compete, perform, or practice on days of an out-of-school suspension. Students may not attend an event on the days of an out-of-school suspension.
4. Students suspended from any activity programs are expected to remain as part of the team or group unless otherwise stated by the Athletic Director or his/her designee. Due to the diversity of the activity programs, it may be up to the advisor or coach to determine what level of involvement the student may have in the group and whether or not the student may be required to attend all contests and activities. Members of athletic teams may be required to attend all contests, practices, and team activities and be a non-participant during the time of their suspension. Athletes not in attendance at a contest or activity may not have the contest counted as one of the suspension contests.
5. Students displaying a pattern of habitual tardiness to school may be referred to the school principal and may not be allowed to practice or compete until the situation is resolved.
6. No events may be scheduled under the school name at private homes, business establishments, or other places unless approved by the Athletic Director or his/her designee.

#### **Activity Conflicts**

- The following guidelines should be used to determine a student's participation when a conflict arises: A performance (athletic event, contest, play, etc.) has priority over any practice or rehearsal. When two events of equal value conflict the student may choose to participate in the event of his/her choice without fear of penalty or consequence. Academic related events (i.e. events in which a grade is determined by a student's performance) supersede all other activities. Students are to inform coaches/advisors of conflicts as soon as they become aware. Extenuating circumstances can be brought to the attention of the Principal or his/her designee for further consideration.

#### **Equipment**

- All students are responsible for any school items issued to them and are responsible for the replacement cost of lost or damaged items.
- All rooms must be left in good condition and all borrowed property must be returned within 24 hours after the event.

#### **Student Handbook**

- While involved with any activity program, a student is subject to the enforcement of the student code-of-conduct outlined in the Student Handbook.

### **Code of Conduct Infractions and Consequences**

#### **Sport/Activity**

Students are expected to follow all school rules and to display high standards of behavior, including good sportsmanship, respect for others, and use of appropriate language and dress at all times. Students must refrain from any conduct at any time that would reflect unfavorably on him/her or the school. Conduct which would reflect unfavorably on a student or on the school includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. A criminal offense or violation of an ordinance having a statutory counterpart.
2. Possession, use, sale, transfer, distribution, purchase and/or being under the influence of any controlled substance/intoxicant or possession, use, sale, transfer, distribution or purchase of drug paraphernalia. Controlled substances/intoxicants include, but are not limited to: alcoholic beverages (note many non-alcoholic beers do contain alcohol), illegal drugs, mood altering substances, anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing substances or prescribed medications used in a manner other than that for which it was prescribed. For the purposes of this Code, "possession" means on one's person, in one's backpack, purse, locker, automobile or if the person otherwise has control of the item or the intent to control the item. "Possession" also means actual or constructive possession and sole or joint possession.
3. Discrimination, harassment, violence, aggression or threatening behavior to others.
4. Purchase, use or possession of tobacco products in any form.
5. Hosting, sponsoring, or organizing a party/gathering at which alcohol or drugs are being used, consumed or offered.
6. Representation of themselves or others, inappropriately or unlawfully on the internet. This would include blog sites, on-line profiles, instant messaging, etc.
7. Vandalism

Any situation or problem that may arise that is not specifically covered above may be reviewed by the I CAN Schools administration for possible action. Coaches/advisors may adopt appropriate rules and disciplinary action for violations

of team/activity rules; however, these rules must not be in conflict with the Activity Program Code of Conduct and must be approved by the building administration.

### **Disciplinary Procedures**

1. The Athletic Director (for athletics) or I CAN Schools Administrator (for activities) may meet with the student to determine the validity of any complaint.
2. The student and parent/guardian may be informed of the nature of the accusation, decision, and consequence and may be given the opportunity to present information related the validity of the complaint and such other relevant information.
3. The Athletic Director (for athletics) or I CAN Schools Administrator (for activities) may review the validity of the complaint and determine whether or not an investigation is warranted and what, if any, penalty may be assessed.

### **Consequences for Violation to the Co-Curricular Code of Conduct**

Failure to abide by the rules established by this Code and the Athletic Director, Principal, coach or advisor shall result in revocation of the privilege to participate. For any violation, the following guidelines are established setting forth the minimum penalty that shall be imposed. I CAN Schools Network expressly reserves the right to impose a penalty it deems appropriate for each individual situation and case. In addition, the policies and provisions of the I CAN Schools Student Handbook supersede all code penalties. A participant suspended or expelled from school shall be banned from participation in activity programs during that period of time. However, if the suspension is a shorter period of time than the Activity Program Code of Conduct dictates, the code penalty shall prevail. *A student must be academically eligible to participate before he/she may start serving a code violation.* Any student who is removed from an activity as a result of a violation will not receive a refund of his/her pay to participate fee.

### **Simultaneous Sport/Activity Consequences**

Students may participate in simultaneous activities; however, if a student incurs a violation, he/she shall be penalized according to the code for both activities.

Note: Parental permission does not over-ride the provisions of this code.

### **Penalties for Violation of Co-Curricular Code of Conduct**

#### **First Offense**

- A. Students found selling or distributing alcohol or drugs may, for the first offense, may be
  1. dismissed from the squad for the balance of the season
  2. referred to appropriate personnel for evaluation.
- B. Students found possessing or using tobacco, alcohol, or drugs of abuse in any form may, for the first offense, be
  3. denied participation in all athletic/activity OR contests/event for a minimum of 15 days (three school weeks.).
  4. required to attend a conference with parents or guardian, and other appropriate school personnel, within one week of the suspension from the sport/activity.
  5. required to participate in such plan as may be recommended by district or non-district personnel to whom the student has been referred for evaluation.
  6. dropped from the squad/activity group if he/she fails to complete steps 2 – 3 above.

C. In addition to the penalties listed above, any student who has committed a first violation may enter a probationary period of one calendar year dating from the date of the violation. If no further violation occurs during this probationary period, the previous violation may be expunged from his/her record.

#### **Second Offense**

D. Students determined to have committed a second offense under these rules (B, above) may be referred to the appropriate personnel and may be dismissed from the squad/activity group(s).

#### **Third Offense**

- E. Students determined to have committed a third offense under these rules (B, above) may be suspended from all sports/activity group(s) participation for the school year.
- F. Any student permanently removed from a sport/activity group(s) for a violation of these rules may appear before a review board before future participation in any other sport/activity group(s) may be permitted.

G. The review board shall consist of the building principal (or his representative); the athletic director and the head coach of the sport in which the student desire to participate. The parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student may be invited to attend the meeting of the review board.

#### **Subsequent Offenses**

H. Fourth and subsequent offenses may result in denial of athletic/activity group(s) participation for the duration of the student's school career, effective with the date of the offense or the date of awareness by school officials.

### **OTHER RELEVANT REGULATIONS/CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENTS**

#### **Special Awards Restriction**

Students who violate the Activity Program Code of Conduct may be ineligible for any special awards during the season of participation or any season in which the suspension is served. Consequently, any student found in violation must forfeit the right to any position of leadership and/or any special end of season award. This may include, but is not limited to: MVP, MIP, captain, position of office (president, vice president, etc.), all conference, etc.

#### **Hosting a Party**

Any person who has a gathering at their home/property where alcohol or drugs are being used may be given a penalty at the next highest level above the level they would normally be suspended. Example: If a student hosts a party and it is his/her first violation, since the party was at his/her home/property, he/she would be given a violation as his/her second offense.

#### **Severity Clause**

Any student who sells transfers and/or distributes alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, and/or unlawfully possesses or uses of a weapon may receive at least a one-year suspension from participation in an activity program.

#### **Suspended Students**

1. Penalties may carry over into a second sport season or activity program for that current school year if the suspension is not completed in the original season.
2. A student with suspension penalties must begin and end his/her respective season in order for the suspension to be completed. A student who is involved in both sports and activity groups and is suspended must complete both suspensions. Suspension from sport (contests) will occur immediately as would the suspension of the activity group if the student is involved in a sport at present.

#### **Unlawful Conduct**

Unlawful Conduct: Any civil or criminal infraction including but not limited to theft, willful damage to property, serious misdemeanors or felonies, that is determined by the Athletic Director and/or Principal to be a violation of the code or detrimental to or a discredit to the school may result in a suspension as prescribed in the Code of Conduct and at the violation level the student is currently.

#### **Process for Determining Violation of Rules**

1. Any complaint/referral concerning a violation shall be made in writing and signed by a student, an adult and/or by a police report and/or by a published newspaper account to the Building Principal, Athletic Director or his/her designee.
2. If during the course of an investigation the school administration is made aware of additional students who may have been involved in a violation the school administrators will take appropriate action as deemed necessary.
3. The Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, Principal or Advisor, shall investigate the referral and give the student involved an opportunity to present a response.
4. Where after an investigation by the appropriate administrator and/or advisor it is determined that a student in question did commit a violation, the student will be orally notified of the determination and penalty.
5. An attempt will be made by school administration to inform the parents after a decision has been made and the student has been informed of a code violation.

#### **Additional Penalty Information**

The penalties listed are the minimum penalties that may be enforced. The Network expressly reserves the right to impose a penalty it deems appropriate for each individual situation and case. Additionally, during a period of suspension, the student may be required to attend all practices and team functions to maintain his/her status as a team member, as determined by the Code/Advisor. A violation for activities with a limited schedule of events could result in exclusion from that activity.

I CAN SCHOOLS NETWORK  
NON-ALCOHOL AND NON-DRUG USE TRAINING RULES/POLICIES FOR THE ACTIVITY PROGRAM  
CODE OF CONDUCT

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The I CAN Schools administration reserves the right to make policies and decisions as needed to address specific issues that arise which may not be explicitly covered in this code.

TO THIS END, THE USE OF ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO IN ANY FORM, THE USE OF DRUGS OF ABUSE, OR A FINDING OF A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION THAT A STUDENT IS GUILTY OF A FELONY, MISDEMEANOR, OR OF BEING UNRULY, UNGOVERNABLE OR DELINQUENT SHALL RESULT IN MANDATORY SUSPENSION OF THE STUDENT FOR AT LEAST 15 SCHOOL DAYS (3 WEEKS), AND POSSIBLY, FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SPORTS/ACTIVITY SEASON IN WHICH THE INFRACTION OCCURS. In accordance with the rules set forth below in sections A through H, regulations or handbooks adopted pursuant to this policy shall contain the following rules:

- A. Students found selling or distributing alcohol or drugs may, for the first offense, may be
  1. dismissed from the squad for the balance of the season
  2. referred to district or non-district personnel for evaluation.
- B. Students found possessing or using tobacco, alcohol, or drugs of abuse in any form may, for the first offense, be
  1. denied participation in all athletic/activity OR contests/event for a minimum of 15 days (three school weeks).
  2. required to attend a conference with parent(s) or guardian(s), and other appropriate school personnel, within one week of the suspension from the sport.
  3. required to participate in such plan as may be recommended by appropriate personnel to whom the student has been referred for evaluation.
  4. dropped from the squad if he/she fails to complete steps 2 – 3 above.
- C. In addition to the penalties listed above, any athlete who has committed a first violation may enter a probationary period of one calendar year dating from the date of the violation. If no further violation occurs during this probationary period, the previous violation may be expunged from his/her record.
- D. Students determined to have committed a second offense under these rules (B, above) may be referred to the appropriate personnel and may be dismissed from the squad/activity group(s).
- E. Students determined to have committed a third offense under these rules (B, above) may be suspended from all sports/activities group(s) participation for the school year.
- F. Any student permanently removed from a sport/activity group(s) for a violation of these rules may appear before a review board before future participation in any other sport/activity group(s) may be permitted.

- G. The review board shall consist of the building principal (or his/her representative), the athletic director and the head coach of the sport in which the student desire to participate. The parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student may be invited to attend the meeting of the review board.
- H. Fourth and subsequent offenses may result in denial of athletic/activity group(s) participation for the duration of the student's school career, effective with the date of the offense or the date of awareness by school officials.

I have read the above **ACTIVITY PROGRAM CODE OF CONDUCT**, and understand that this is a 24-hour, 7-days a week commitment during a sports/activity season not to use drugs or alcohol in any form or any amount. I also understand that if I violate this policy I will be subject to the above rules and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have read and discussed the importance of this policy with my son/daughter. Therefore, I will do my utmost to assist him/her to comply with this policy and remain drug and alcohol free during his/her high school years.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date