

CENTER POINT-URBANA SCHOOL DISTRICT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT AND GOOD CONDUCT POLICY/CODE FOR CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

2020/21

1. Statement of Philosophy

A) Encouragement of Participation - The Board of Directors of the Center Point-Urbana School District encourage students to participate in the program of co-curricular activities that are offered, recognizing that such activities are of significant educational benefit. These educational benefits are as follows:

- a) The development of good citizenship and moral character.
- b) The development of personal habits aimed at lifetime success.
- c) The promotion of the image and identity of the school and community.
- d) The training for successful life-long careers.

B) Participation is a privilege - by legal interpretation, participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege extended to students by the citizens and taxpayers of the district.

C) Participation carries responsibilities - this privilege carries with it a corresponding responsibility to represent the school and community in an appropriate manner. The Directors recognize that participants in co-curricular activities are respected and emulated by the community as a whole. Therefore, a Good Conduct Code is established to set forth behavioral expectations of those students involved in co-curricular activities. Those expectations shall be applicable on a year-round basis.

2. Coverage

A) All junior high and secondary students who participate in one or more co-curricular activities shall adhere to the Good Conduct Code and eligibility requirements.

B) Co-curricular activities covered shall include all athletics, cheerleading, annual staff, debate, clubs and organizations, band and jazz band, chorus and swing choir, speech, drama, participation council and senate, class officers, flag squad, royalty, National Honor Society, academic competitions, dance team, commencement and prom speakers, Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), and other similar co-curricular activities that might be added to the program.

C) Students are responsible for good conduct and eligibility requirements once they have started participation in any activity and remain responsible until they have completed their high school eligibility.

D) In an effort to give a student a "clean slate", a student's Code of Conduct record will be wiped clean at the conclusion of the last day enrolled at the middle school level. The student's high school Code of Conduct record will begin immediately upon the completion of their middle school classes. In other words, a student's first violation in high school will be treated as a first offense even if the student has previous violations in middle school.

E) Conduct prohibited by the Good Conduct Code:

- a) A student shall not use, possess, sell, distribute or be in attendance without the accompaniment of their parent/guardian where minors use, possess, sell or otherwise distribute alcohol, other controlled substances, mood altering chemicals or "look alike" substances that appear to be alcohol or controlled substances, nor shall the student violate any state or local law involving said substance.
- b) No student shall use, possess, sell or otherwise distribute tobacco, nor violate any other state or local law involving said substances. A criminal conviction is not necessary for the application of this policy.
- c) No student shall be in possession or distribute pornographic materials.
- d) A student shall not be in violation of statutory law that is of the degree of serious misdemeanor or greater. A criminal conviction is not necessary for the application of this policy.
- e) No student shall engage in any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system (excluding minor offenses such as traffic or hunting/fishing violations), regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted, or adjudicated for the act(s).

3. Eligibility Requirements

A) Scholastic Eligibility -

a) **HIGH SCHOOL** - At the end of each term, all students' academic eligibility status will be examined. Any student previously eligible academically could be declared ineligible. In order for students to be eligible to participate in school sponsored activities, a student must meet the State eligibility requirements.

b) **MIDDLE SCHOOL** – 7th & 8th Grade students must pass (F is failing) all courses during the school year. Grades will be checked for ineligibility at every mid-term and every quarter throughout the year. An ineligibility lasts for ½ a quarter. Eligibility will be reviewed in one week increments by the 7th and 8th grade teachers in that class. If they are found to be passing they will be allowed to participate again at that time. If not, they will not be allowed to participate until the next mid-term or quarter, whichever comes first. Students will continue to practice for the activity, but will not be eligible to perform in contests. For example, if a student earns an F in math at the mid-term of the first quarter, they will be ineligible to participate in contests during the next week upon notification. The grade in math will be checked every week until the quarter ends. If it is an F, the student will not be allowed to participate in contests for the next week. The grade will be checked every week during this 4 1/2 week period, if the grade is above an F, participation will occur, below and F, ineligibility. Students who have incomplete grades at the quarter or semester will be declared ineligible until the schoolwork is completed unless there are unusual circumstances for the incomplete grade.

B) **Physical Examinations** - No student shall participate on an athletic team activity without filing a doctor's certificate of good health with the sponsor of the activity.

C) **Insurance Coverage** - No student shall participate in an athletic activity until it is known that he or she is adequately covered by insurance. Students who do not purchase school insurance must file a waiver signed by the parent and/or guardian to verify that they have insurance coverage.

D) **Acknowledgment and Adherence to Good Conduct Code** - No student shall participate in any activity until the student and his or her parent and/ or guardian have completed and returned the Activities Participation Form acknowledging the responsibilities placed upon them by the Good Conduct Code. Students participating in any activity covered by the Center Point-Urbana Good Conduct Code will have one calendar week, after their practice/activity begins, to turn in a signed *Acknowledgment of Eligibility Requirement and Good Conduct Code*. Anyone not meeting this requirement will not be allowed to practice or participate in any activity until their requirement is met.

4. Determination of Violation of Good Conduct Code

A) A student may be considered in possible violation of the Good Conduct Code by:

- a) his/her own admission
- b) being charged or reported by law enforcement officials
- c) being observed by school personnel or school administrators
- d) being found guilty by the administration based on a preponderance of evidence.

B) The following steps shall be used to determine if a student has violated the Good Conduct Code:

- a) Step one: An informal meeting with the student and co-curricular activity sponsor to discuss the alleged violation.
- b) Step two: The sponsor and student shall meet with the principal/activities director on an informal basis to review the information in step one. The student may present evidence and arguments as to his or her innocence. If the principal/activities director determines that the student is in violation then the parties shall implement the prescribed penalty.
- c) Step three: If the student and/or parents are not satisfied with the principal/activities director's determination, they may request an information hearing with the superintendent. They must request the hearing in writing within 3 days of the meeting with the principal/activities director. All parties shall appear before the superintendent and present their side of the issues.
- d) Step four: If the student and/or parents are not satisfied with the superintendent's determination, they may request a hearing before the board of education. The request must be made in writing within 3 days of their meeting with the superintendent. The student shall remain ineligible while appeal(s) continue.

5. Implementation of Discipline

Continuation of activity involvement while under performance suspension.

- a) Students who are declared ineligible are required to continue practice/rehearsal and remain a

member of good standing in their group. **Definition:** Being in good standing is defined as a student activity participant who adheres to all team, school and state good conduct guidelines.

b) If a student is declared ineligible, he /she will be ineligible for the percentage of activities in which he/she is currently in-season or if not in an activity with four or more performances will be assigned to a 20 hour community service program.

c) Should a student drop from an activity to avoid being disciplined for a violation, the discipline will be tabled until such time that the student elects to again participate in any activity.

d) A community service program will be developed with the student to complete the number of hours needed to satisfy eligibility status. Community service work may not be done for relatives or friends or places of current or previous employment. The service may not be done for pay and must be done outside the school day and time of their co-curricular activity. The sponsoring community service agent must verify the satisfactory nature of the student's service with the sponsoring coach/director in which activity the student is involved.

6. Nature of Consequences

A) First violation in two calendar years

Suspension activation and length

Once a determination has been made of a student's violation of the school's good conduct policy, an ineligibility period will begin. This period of suspension will begin immediately if the student is currently participating in any co-curricular activity. If the student is not participating in any co-curricular activity, the period of suspension will be held until that student's next involvement with a co-curricular activity.

The suspension from co-curricular contests or performances to be missed will be four weeks. This four week suspension period will be waived if this suspension would cause the student to miss more than 25% of that activity's contests/performances.

If the student is in multiple activities and these activities hold their contests and performances at different times throughout the year, then the student is considered to have completed the suspension period of 4 weeks or 25% of contests for the first activity having contests or performances. The student is eligible for all activities after this length of suspension.

Note: as athletics is often layered with freshmen, junior varsity, varsity reserve, and varsity levels of performance, it will be determined at which level the athlete was performing or would have performed. The athlete would then activate a four week period or 25% of his/her suspension with the first or next game at that level of performance. The athlete will not participate in any other level of competition until that level's time or percentage of events has been completed.

Staggered activities time of performances implication

By this definition of suspension, a student might possibly be suspended for only fine arts or just athletics. If a student is in band in the fall, that student would be suspended for the appropriate length of time or percentage of performances. If the student does not compete in any athletics until basketball, then that student would not miss any performances of that sport as the student has already activated and completed the suspension through the band activity.

If a student is in multiple activities such as band, football, choir and honor society, then whichever activity has the first performance will activate the four weeks or 25% suspension. Any performances in the other activities during the four weeks period will also cause the student to be suspended from participating in those 25% of performances for those activities as well. **If the four weeks expires prior to the 25% of performances being suspended in all activities, then percentage of suspended performances is overruled and the student has completed his/her ineligibility by length of time not through suspension of performances.**

End of activity's season with an unfulfilled suspension

If a determination of a violation occurs with less than 25% of the season's performances remaining, then a time period of four weeks is in force from the time of the determination of a violation. If the student has satisfactorily cooperated and participated in that activity's practices and satisfactorily met the coach or director's expectations, then that student will regain eligibility at the conclusion of this four week period of suspension.

Reinstatement conditions

If the student has also completed the self-improvement program then eligibility for all activities is restored. This is the other component of our good conduct policy, which is necessary to be completed before full eligibility is restored.

Activities covered under suspension percentage

The various co-curricular activities have a large range in the number of performances or participation. These numbers range from one event for Model U.N. or two for the play or musical to more than forty for softball and basketball. Due to this large variance of performance numbers and events, only those activities, which have more than three events or performances, will be covered by the suspension percentage.

Those activities with three or fewer performances/events will be required to do a forty hour community service program before eligibility will be restored to the student. This would be in those cases where the student is NOT involved in any other activities which require a loss of contests/performances.

B) Second violation in two calendar years

Suspension activation and length

After a determination has been made of a student's violation of the good conduct policy, the student will lose 75% of an activity's performances. For activities with 3 or fewer performances the student will complete a 40-hour community service project. Upon completion of the suspension of performances or service and the self-improvement program's ten points, the student is then eligible for all activities.

Staggered activities time of performances implication

By this definition of suspension, a student might possibly be suspended for only fine arts or just athletics. If a student is in band in the fall, that student would be suspended for the appropriate percentage of performances. If the student does not compete in any athletics until basketball, then that student would not miss any performances of that sport as the student has already activated and completed the suspension through the band activity.

If a student is in multiple activities such as band, football, choir and honor society, then whichever activity has the first performance will activate the 75% suspension. Any performances in the other activities during the student's 75% suspension period will also cause the student to be suspended from participating in those performances as well. However, once the suspension of 75% of an activity's performances have been completed, the student becomes eligible for all other activities he/she is currently participating in, regardless of whether any suspension from a performance has occurred in those other activities.

End of activity's season with an unfulfilled suspension

If a determination of a violation occurs with less than 75% of the season's performances remaining, then a time period of eight weeks is in force from the time of the determination of a violation. If the student has satisfactorily cooperated and participated in that activity's practices and satisfactorily met the coach or director's expectations, then that student will regain eligibility at the conclusion of this eight week period of suspension.

Honesty provision

The honesty provision allows a student to become eligible earlier if the student has been honest upon first questioning. This honesty provision will not miss more than 50% of the performances or less than 33% of the performances depending upon the fraction of performances for that activity.

Activities covered under suspension percentage

The various co-curricular activities have a large range in the number of performances or participation. These numbers range from one event for Model U.N. or two for the play or musical to more than forty for softball and basketball. Due to this large variance of performance numbers and events, only those activities, which have more than three events or performances will be covered by the suspension percentage.

Those activities with three or fewer performances/events will be required to do a twenty hour community service program before eligibility will be restored to the student. This would be in addition to

the self-improvement program and in lieu of a suspension from a performance or event.

C) Third violation in two calendar years

Suspension for one year from all activities upon the decision of ineligibility by the administration will be activated.

D) Fresh Start Provision:

If a student remains free of violations for TWO calendar years from the time of the last violation, he or she will return to the first violation state for any subsequent violation.

E) Smoking Cessation Program:

Completion of a professional directed smoking cessation program, such as the American Cancer Society, and as approved by the administration, may be accepted towards completion of a Self-Improvement Program. This alternative educational program will only be considered upon the student's sincere acknowledgment of a smoking habit.

F) Professional Program:

Upon parental request, a professionally recognized and legitimate program will be considered by the administration as to its acceptability and relevance to the individual's situation and Self-Improvement Program. The administration will determine to what degree the proposed program will satisfy the requirements of the Self-Improvement Program.