

## UNDERSTANDING FOR PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### *Community High School District 218*

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#### *Foreword*

Participation in interscholastic athletics/activities at all high schools in CHSD 218 is a privilege extended to the student body by the Board of Education. Students participating in athletics/activities act as representatives of the school district and are expected to display exemplary conduct. Students participating in the extra-curricular program or those who publicly represent CHSD 218 as competitors are subject to the rules or regulation clarified in the Code of Conduct. Students and their parents/guardians should remember that athletics and activities are a year-round commitment and that the Code of Conduct is in effect 365 days a year. It is the student's responsibility to be knowledgeable of the school rules, as well as the Code of Conduct, which is available in the office of the Assistant Principal for Athletics, the Assistant Principal for Activities and the school website. In addition to other possible disciplinary consequences, students who violate school rules and the provisions of the Code of Conduct may be prohibited from publicly representing any high school in CHSD 218. The objective is to hold students to a high level of conduct as a condition of participation, and to encourage students to make positive and healthy choices.

This information is prepared for the benefit of students and parents of CHSD 218. In addition to this information, there are other requirements and commitments that are asked of participating students. When applicable, Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and South Suburban Conference (SSC) requirements must also be met. Both parents/guardians and coaches are expected to be responsible for requiring that participants adhere to this policy.

#### Code of Conduct

1. Students must set an example of good sportsmanship at all times and are to encourage parents, friends, and teammates to abide by the rules of good sportsmanship at all times. The highest respect must be extended to officials, competitors, and fans. Visiting teams and spectators are guests of District 218. Each student must recognize that one's behavior, language, and appearance reflect not only on his/her reputation, but that of the team/activity and the high school as well.
2. Students are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:
  - Do not question the authority of the officials.
  - Know and adhere to the rules of the sport.
  - Do not engage in verbal abuse.
  - Report violations to the coach.
  - Talk to the officials only through the coach.
  - Respect a school's property and facilities.
  - Walk away from trouble. If trouble occurs, report it to the coach.

#### Discipline

1. Any objectionable behavior will be reviewed by the building administrative team to determine the category of the offense. This may result in both athletic suspension as well as school discipline.

2. It is the obligation of the students to give notice to the school administration **within seven calendar** days if civil authorities are involved with an athletic/extra-curricular participation code violation.
3. A student may be suspended by the coach for a violation of team rules or a display of poor sportsmanship. A student may be suspended from a team or activity by the Athletic/Activity Director for violating the Code of Conduct. During a school suspension, a student is not eligible to attend any competitions or practices on the day(s) of suspension. During any athletic/ activity suspension, the student is expected to be at all practices and competitions.
4. If a student is not eligible for competition in one sport for any reason, including disciplinary actions, he/she is not eligible to participate in another sport during that same season.
5. Students should not engage in the following :
  - Possession, consumption, purchase or sale of tobacco products.
  - Possession, consumption, purchase or sale of alcohol.
  - Possession, consumption, purchase or sale of steroids.
  - Possession, consumption, purchase or sale of drugs, “look-alike” drugs, or drug paraphernalia.
  - Vandalism, theft or possession of stolen property.
  - Acts of violence.
  - Reckless acts that endanger the health, safety or welfare of others.
  - Students are not to engage in any act that brings discredit to the school.

In addition to the above rules any student who knowingly disregards or fails to act on a coach’s/sponsor’s directive may be subject to suspension or dismissal from the team or activity.

#### Suspensions

#### **OFFENSE CATEGORY 1**

- Minor altercation -including but not limited to verbal argument, hallway disruption, dangerous horseplay, posturing
- Repeated misbehavior
- Violation of good conduct
- Being present at an occasion unsupervised by your parent where minors are in illegal possession, consumption, purchase or sale of alcohol, steroids, illegal drugs, look-a-like drugs or paraphernalia.

\*When a student seeks out a coach or sponsor and admits to being present at such an occasion consequences may be reduced.

#### Consequences

- First Offense – Suspension from sport or activity for one-tenth (10%) of their total season.
- Second Offense – Suspension from sport or activity for one-half (50%) of their total season.
- Third Offense – Suspension from sport or activity for one entire season (100%).

## **OFFENSE CATEGORY 2**

- Possession, consumption, or purchase of tobacco, alcohol, steroids, drugs, “look-alike” drugs or drug paraphernalia.
- Vandalism, theft, or possession of stolen property.
- Acts of violence.
- Reckless acts that endanger the health, safety or welfare of others.

### Consequences

- **First Offense** – Suspension from complete season, regardless of sport or activity.

A student may reduce the suspension for the first offense from one athletic season to one-third (33%) of one athletic season if he/she is cooperative with the investigation and chooses to:

- 1.) Participate in a school sponsored or community agency program for substance abuse, anger management, or decision making to provide an opportunity for transformative learning. If the offending behavior involves substance use the student must participate in the evaluation/assessment and follow through with the recommendation(s) of a district-approved evaluation. Both the assessment and follow-up are at the personal expense of the parent/guardian/student. The assessment must be performed by a district-approved, certified drug and alcohol counselor. Documentation of the assessment and follow-up must be provided to the school nurse and the Athletic Director. The suspension will not be complete until this documentation is received within the athletic suspension period.

### AND/OR

- 2.) Participate in a minimum of 10 hours of community service. This service must be approved by the Athletic Director and be completed within the athletic suspension period. Community service includes but is not limited to working at a non-profit organizations, charities, churches, etc. Documentation of the community service must be provided to the Athletic Director within the athletic suspension period. The suspension will not be complete until this documentation is received.
- **Second Offense** – Suspension from all sports and activities for one calendar year. Participation in an anger management program or a substance abuse evaluation/assessment in cases of possession, consumption, purchase or sale of tobacco, alcohol, steroids, drugs, “look-alike” drugs or drug paraphernalia.
- **Third Offense** – Suspension from all athletics and activities for the remainder of their career in District 218.

## **OFFENSE CATEGORY 3**

- Sale or distribution of illegal alcohol, steroids, drugs, “look-alike” drugs, or drug paraphernalia.
- Hazing
- Bullying

### Consequences

- **First Offense** – Suspension from all sports and activities for one calendar year.
- **Second Offense** – Suspension from all sports and activities for the remainder of the student’s career in District 218.

## Hazing/Bullying

Athlete shall not engage in any action that may be considered hazing or bullying of another individual. The discipline for such actions will be evaluated based on the severity of the incident and determined by the athletic director and school disciplinarian.

- *Hazing* - a person commits hazing when he or she knowingly requires the performance of an act by a student or other person in a school, for the purpose of induction or admission into any group, organization, or society associated or connected with the school. If the act is not sanctioned or authorized by our school, including but not limited to texts, emails, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media outlets; and the act results in bodily harm to any person.
- *Bullying* - is a form of aggression and it occurs when a person(s) willfully subjects another person to an intentional unwanted and unprovoked, hurtful, verbal and/or physical action that results in the victim feeling oppressed, frightened or injured. Bullying can also take on the forms of hazing, psychological intimidation or sexual harassment.

While bullying is often characterized as repeated harmful actions by a bully, it can also manifest itself in a single episode or incident. School authorities have the responsibility to determine if bullying tactics are being used and proceed as necessary with appropriate interventions and/or disciplinary actions to change the behavior of the bully.

### NOTES AND CLARIFICATION

If a student cannot complete his/her suspension in one season – including postseason contests in which his/her team competes within the season in which his/her offense was committed – the student's suspension will carry over and be completed in the next season in which the individual participates. For example if a volleyball player is suspended for one season and has only 20 percent remaining in the season, the student would serve an equivalent of the remaining 80% of the suspension in his/her next season, regardless of the sport (i.e., basketball, track, etc.). The athlete must complete the next season in good standing to satisfy the completion of the suspension. (*During any athletic suspension, the student is expected to be at all practices and competitions, but will not be allowed to participate in contests.*) If a student fails to complete the season for any reason, the entire penalty will be assigned to the next season of participation.

Athletes may not join an activity in order to serve out their suspension.

Students and their parents /guardians should remember that athletics are a year-round commitment. The Code of Conduct is in effect 365 days a year.

The consequences listed for violating the Code of Conduct serve as a guideline. Once the information regarding the nature of an offense is gathered, the school's administrative team will determine the category of the offense and the appropriate consequence. Should the school

administrators consider a student's actions extreme in nature or severity, it may take more serious action than listed above.

Students are also subject to discipline in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and the district's disciplinary policies and procedures. Students may appeal disciplinary action to the principal. The principal is the final level of the appeal process.

| Sport               | Total Number of contests | 10% of contests | 33% of contests | 50% of contests |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Baseball            | 35                       | 4               | 12              | 17              |
| Basketball          | 21                       | 2               | 7               | 11              |
| Cross-country       | 15                       | 2               | 5               | 8               |
| Golf                | 18                       | 2               | 6               | 9               |
| Football            | 9                        | 1               | 3               | 5               |
| Badminton           | 16                       | 2               | 5               | 8               |
| Soccer              | 17                       | 2               | 5               | 9               |
| Swimming            | 14                       | 2               | 5               | 7               |
| Tennis              | 18                       | 2               | 6               | 9               |
| Volleyball          | 21                       | 2               | 7               | 11              |
| Wrestling           | 18                       | 2               | 6               | 9               |
| Softball            | 35                       | 4               | 12              | 17              |
| Track & Field       | 18                       | 2               | 6               | 9               |
| Cheerleading Fall   | 9                        | 1               | 3               | 5               |
| Cheerleading Winter | 26                       | 3               | 9               | 13              |
| Poms                | 16                       | 2               | 5               | 8               |
| Bowling             | 18                       | 2               | 6               | 9               |
| Water Polo          | 30                       | 3               | 10              | 15              |