

# EXTRACURRICULAR/CO-CURRICULAR STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

## Purpose

Students in the Des Moines Public School District who are involved in extracurricular and co-curricular activities represent themselves and their school whether they are away from or at school. They must understand that they are expected to conduct themselves in a way that serves as an example to others that will favorably reflect on their school. Extracurricular and co-curricular activities are completely voluntary and are a privilege conditioned upon meeting both eligibility criteria and by demonstrating lawful and respectful conduct. Students are held to high expectations with regard to training rules established by individual activity coaches and the *Code of Conduct*. All athletics and extracurricular and co-curricular activities are covered by the *Code of Conduct*. This *Code of Conduct* does not prohibit a coach or sponsor from establishing his or her own rules for the respective sport or activity with which the student is to follow.

## Violations

Violations identified for inclusion in the *Code of Conduct* are identified below. All other violations will be covered by the school district discipline code, which may still include a suspension period. One reminder, the mere presence at an activity involving illegal activity constitutes a violation of the code, unless the student immediately leaves. A student will be deemed to have immediately left if he or she exited the location immediately upon becoming aware that an illegal activity was occurring on the premises. Mere presence means that the activity is occurring in the same room as where the student is located. However, if the illegal activity is occurring in another room of the same premises where the student is located and the student is aware of the illegal activity and fails to leave, he or she will be deemed to be in violation of the *Code of Conduct*.

1. Possession/Consumption of alcohol, drugs or any controlled substances, or tobacco\*
2. Intoxication/Under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any controlled substance
3. Delivery and/or sale of controlled substance
4. Mere presence at a location involving illegal activity
5. Assault
6. Robbery
7. Gang activity
8. Arson
9. Theft
10. Weapons
11. Sexual harassment
12. Hazing
13. Committing any act that would be a violation of the law and grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system, excluding minor traffic offenses, regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted or adjudicated of the act(s).

\* The following situations are exempted from the Code of Conduct: (1) activities related to religious events (i.e., drinking wine at communion); (2) activities identified in Iowa Code Section 123.47; and (3) consuming alcohol in a foreign country, territory, or area where such an activity is legal. However, if a student is traveling abroad through a school-sponsored trip or foreign exchange program, or is accompanied by school personnel as a chaperone(s)

who is acting in his or her capacity as a DMPS employee, the provisions of the Code of Conduct are applicable and will be enforced.

### **When in Effect**

The *Code of Conduct* will be in effect during the entire calendar year including the regular school year as well as all vacation periods, weekends, and evenings. The *Code of Conduct* is in effect 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The *Code of Conduct* is in effect at all times even if a student travels out of the city, state, or country.

### **Reporters**

Valid reporters of violations:

1. All reports and evidence from a reliable source will be investigated by the school administration. Reliable information may include but is not limited to witness statements, police reports, photographs, or information from social networking Web sites such as MySpace and Facebook. Anonymous reports will not be considered.
2. Each school administration will determine the reliability of a reporting source and any evidence presented.

### **Penalty Details**

If the student is not competing in an activity at the time of the violation, the penalty will be enforced during the next activity in which the student normally participates. The student may generally be allowed to practice during the period of ineligibility, but shall not be allowed to compete in any interscholastic competition. Violations under the *Code of Conduct* are cumulative and shall run the duration of the student's high school career. In other words, if a student is in violation of the *Code of Conduct* as a 9<sup>th</sup>-grader and is found to be in violation during his or her 10<sup>th</sup>-grade year, the violation in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade will be deemed a second offense.

1. First Offense: Depending on the violation, the student will undergo an alcohol, substance abuse, or mental health assessment by an evaluation agency approved by DMPS. Assessment arrangements and fees are to be made by the student and/or parent. It shall be the student's responsibility to provide the Activities Director with written verification that the required assessment has been completed. If the assessment cannot be completed for reasons beyond the student's control prior to the completion of the penalty, the student will be allowed to return to participation. However, if the student fails to provide evidence that he or she completed the assessment; the student may be deemed ineligible until evidence that the assessment has been completed is provided to the Activities Director. The Student shall be suspended from participating in 1/3 of the extracurricular or co-curricular activity season (including post season competition). A student who self reports\* may receive a reduced penalty of being suspended for the greater of either 10% of the season or one event as opposed to 1/3 of the season.
2. Second Offense: Depending on the violation, the student will undergo an alcohol, substance abuse, or mental health assessment by an evaluation agency approved by DMPS. Assessment arrangements and fees are to be made by the student and/or parent. It shall be the student's responsibility to provide the Activities Director with written verification that the required assessment has been completed. If the assessment cannot be completed for reasons beyond the student's control prior to the completion of the penalty, the student will be allowed return to participation. However, if the student fails to provide evidence that he or she completed the assessment; the student may be

deemed ineligible until evidence that the assessment has been completed is provided to the Activities Director. The Student shall be suspended from participating in 2/3 of the extracurricular or co-curricular activity season (including post season competition). A student who self reports\* may receive a reduced penalty of being suspended for the greater of 15% of the season or half of the events as opposed to 2/3 of the season.

3. Third Offense. Depending on the violation, the student will undergo an alcohol, substance abuse, or mental health assessment by an evaluation agency approved by DMPS. Assessment arrangements and fees are to be made by the student and/or parent. It shall be the student's responsibility to provide the Activities Director with written verification that the required assessment has been completed. The Student shall be suspended from participating in any extracurricular or co-curricular activity season (including post season competition) for a period of one full calendar year from the date of the violation. A student, who self reports\* may receive a reduced penalty of being suspended for six months as opposed to one full calendar year.
4. Fourth Offense. The student shall be suspended from competition for the remainder of his/her high school career.

\* Self reports means that the student reports his/her involvement in an activity prohibited under the *Code of Conduct* to the school administration or coach/sponsor within 24 hours of when the activity occurred. If the student is unable to report and the parent reports the violation, the student may receive the reduced penalty.

### **Consistency**

Any penalty will travel with a student transferring within the District. It is the responsibility of each school to deal with all violations at the school. Non-enforcement issues will be handled by a committee of district athletic directors. Any violations will also transfer with a student moving into the Des Moines Public Schools.

### **Determination and Appeal Process**

The student who is charged with violating the *Code of Conduct* will be notified of the alleged violation and the information that supports the allegation. The student will be given an opportunity to respond. There does not need to be a delay between the time that notice of the allegation is given to the student and the student's opportunity to respond. The Activities Director shall review all evidence and circumstances relevant to the allegation and shall make a decision regarding the alleged violation of the *Code of Conduct*. In the event the Activities Director determines the student has violated the *Code of Conduct*, the Activities Director will determine the period of ineligibility pursuant to the Penalty Details as set forth in the preceding section.

In the event a student/parent seeks to appeal the decision of the Activities Director, the following appeal process shall apply:

- The appeal must be in writing within five (5) school days.
- The appeal must be made by the parent, guardian, or student.
- The appeal must be made to the principal or designee.
- The student will be allowed to practice during the appeal.
- The student will not be allowed to participate in any contests or performances during the appeal.

The administrative decision on the appeal will be made within five (5) school days following receipt.

The Activities Appeal Committee will consist of:

Activities Director

Principal or designee

Two coaches/sponsors (not involved with student's activity)

One teacher

A student charged with or who admits to an involvement in a criminal act not covered elsewhere in the Code may have his/her case brought up for review by the Activities Appeal Committee.

The decision of the appeal committee is final.

# CODE OF CONDUCT SIGNATURE PAGE

Please sign and return this page to the Activities Director's Office where it will be kept on file during the 20\_\_\_\_-20\_\_\_\_ school year.

I am aware of the Des Moines Independent Community School District's Code of Conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature