

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINE
APPROVED: August 1, 2015
REVISED:

122AG2 EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

Mission

The mission of the district is to educate and inspire students to achieve their personal best.

Philosophy

The primary purpose of the extra-curricular program in the district is to promote the physical, social, emotional, intellectual and moral well-being of the participants. The extra-curricular program is an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to participation by all students regardless of individual differences.

Through voluntary participation, students give time, energy and loyalty to their extra-curricular program. They also accept the rules, regulations and responsibilities that are unique to the program. In order to contribute to the welfare of the group, each student must willingly assume these obligations because the role of a participant demands that the individual make sacrifices not required of others. Emphasis will be placed on respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, and citizenship in hopes that all participants in our extra-curricular activities will be a positive force in preparing youth for an enriching and vital role in American life.

PIAA- Athletics Only

All high schools in the district are members of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. The PIAA by-laws that pertain to age, awards, attendance, health, transfers and residence participation, representation, curriculum, and seasonal rules will be followed. The PIAA by-laws will be followed by any district sponsored interscholastic athletic program.

Extra-curricular Defined

Extra-curricular programs include extracurricular activities, athletic activities and interscholastic athletics as defined in Board Policies 122 and 123.

Activity Fee

Participants in extracurricular activities shall be responsible for payment of an activity fee in accordance with Board Policy.

Sportsmanship/Citizenship

Students in the district must keep in mind that they are always in the public eye and that their personal conduct will always be subject to the scrutiny of their fellow students, spectators, opponents, and the media. Therefore, they have an obligation to serve as positive role models by subscribing to the following code of conduct:

1. Show respect for authority and property
2. Maintain academic eligibility
3. Maintain training rules
4. Emphasize the ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship, loyalty, ethical conduct, and fair play
5. Denounce and not participate in actions meant to demean opposing players, teams, spectators, and officials.

Any display of un-sportsmanlike behavior toward an opponent, official, or spectator during the season will result in counseling by the coach/advisor and possible suspension from the team or activity.

Academic Eligibility

Academic eligibility for all extra-curricular activities is based on the premise that academic performance is the keystone of a high school education and the standard against which participation is measured.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. To be eligible for extra-curricular activities, a student must be enrolled as a full-time student in the district, a legal home school student or a charter or cyber charter school student whose school does not offer the same extracurricular activity.
2. Eligibility shall be cumulative from the beginning of a grading period and shall be reported on a weekly basis.
3. In the event that a student is not passing four (4) full credit subjects or in the event that a student is failing any two (2) subjects on the weekly report, he/she is ineligible to participate in games and practices for a period of one (1) week. Any student who is not passing at least four (4) full credit subjects or who is failing any two (2) subjects at the end of a grading period will be ineligible for a period of fifteen (15) school days beginning when report card grades are finalized. A student who has not successfully completed four (4) full credits at the end of the school year will be ineligible in the beginning of the following year for a period of fifteen (15) school days unless the failing grades are made up in summer school. The student may practice with his/her team in during preseason practices.
4. In order for a student to be deemed eligible in the middle of a weekly reporting period, direct contact from the teacher of the student's failing class must be made with the Athletic Office.
5. Students that are ineligible for the fifteen (15) day period following a grading period

cannot be deemed eligible under any circumstances.

6. Extenuating circumstances. When extenuating circumstances are negatively impacting on a student's grades, behavior, and/or attendance and that student has become ineligible, a parent/guardian, faculty advisor, or administrator may address the Building Principal or his/her designee (assistant principal). The Building Principal or his/her designee will review those circumstances and decide whether to continue the student's ineligible status or place him/her on probation. He/she will also follow up with the appropriate building staff (i.e., teachers, guidance counselor, psychologist, and social worker) in order to assist the student with his/her problems.

REPORTING PROCEDURES:

7. The Athletic Office will be responsible for compiling a list of students involved in the inter-scholastic athletic program for each season. Special note: Parents of home school or charter/cyber school students must report their grades to the athletic office on a weekly basis.
8. The Athletic Office shall compile extracurricular eligibility reports.
9. The Athletic Director will notify head coaches and activity advisors of the students that are ineligible.
10. The head coach or activity advisor will notify the students who are ineligible.
11. These academic eligibility requirements are applicable to all students who participate in extracurricular activities in grades 9-12 in the district.

School Attendance

Late to School - A student must be in school by 8:30 a.m. in order to participate in an athletic contest/practice/activity that day. An exception will be made if the student has an approved medical appointment, in which case, the student must present to the attendance office a signed statement from the doctor regarding the absence. A note from the parent/guardian for illness will not be acceptable.

Early Dismissal – In order for a student to participate in any extra-curricular activity, he or she must be present in school the day of the activity. If a student needs to have an early dismissal for any reason, he or she is expected to return at a reasonable time. If the student does not expect to return, he or she must receive prior permission from the administration or the athletic office.

The Building Principal or Athletic Director may make exceptions to this policy when a student has extenuating circumstances.

Practices, Meetings, and/or Competitions

Each member of any team or organization is required to make a commitment to that sport or activity. Part of the commitment involves attending every scheduled practice, contest and

activity. Unexcused absence from scheduled practices/contests/activities will result in the following actions:

1. Counseling by the head coach/advisor and notification of parents, if necessary, and
2. Suspension from the team/activity and possible dismissal, if subsequent violations occur.

Travel

Students must travel to and from away contests/activities, in district provided transportation. The only exceptions to this policy follow:

1. Injury to participant which would require alternate transportation;
2. Prior arrangement made in writing between the participant's parent/guardian and the Athletic Director/ Coach/Advisor for the student to ride with the parent/guardian due to special situations which may arise; or
3. If transportation is not provided by the school district.

Equipment and Uniforms

Equipment and uniforms are issued to students on a loan basis and are to be worn only when authorized by the coach/advisor. It is the student's responsibility to take care of the equipment and/or uniform. If any of the equipment or uniform is not returned at the conclusion of the season, an obligation will be issued to the student for the fair cost of replacing it. Until the obligation is resolved, the student will not be eligible for athletic/activity awards and will not be permitted to participate in any future extra-curricular activity.

"In-Season Only"

The rules and regulations in this Code shall apply to any violation that may occur during the period of the extra-curricular activity participation, on and off school premises. Period of activity begins with the first competition, meeting or practice and ends with the last contest, meeting or practice, whichever is the later date. Violations that occur off campus, in-season, will incur a suspension from the student's activity. The suspension length will match the length of the suspension that would have been given if the violation had occurred on campus.

Violation of the "Discipline and Records Policies" and/or other district policies which requires administrative action will be handled in accordance with the provisions of the specific sections as outlined in the policies. For example, if a violation involves a suspension from school, the student will also be suspended from participating in practices/contests/activities of that team/organization during the length of the suspension. Future violations of the "Discipline and Records Policies" and/or other district policies during the period of participation will result in further disciplinary actions as stated in this code.

It should be clearly understood that the same standards of behavior and discipline will be applied to all students and any violations of the "Discipline and Records Policies" and/or other district

policies may result in forfeiture of the privilege to participate on a district extra-curricular activity.

Please note that the student's suspension **will not** be adjusted to meet their practice, competition, or activity schedule.

Tobacco Use – On and/or Off School Premises

Smoking/possession of tobacco products will result in the following action:

First Offense - a three day suspension from all activities.

Second Offense - a ten day suspension from all activities.

Third offense - a suspension from all activities for the remainder of the season.

Violations of the Discipline Code

Level II Offenses

If a student is charged with three Level II offenses under the Discipline and Records Policies during one season, the student will be dismissed from the team/organization and excluded from all team/organization activities for the remainder of the season. For yearlong activities, reinstatement will coincide with the seasonal scheduling of athletics. For example: a student suspended in the fall may resume participation in their activity when the winter athletic season begins in November.

Level III Offenses

If a student is charged with two Level III offenses under the Discipline and Records Policies during a school year, the student will be suspended from athletics/activities for the remainder of the school year.

Substance Abuse

Student/athletes are subject to all of the provisions of the WCASD Drug and Alcohol Abuse Board Policy 227, Controlled Substance and Paraphernalia. In addition, to other discipline under the policy any student who violates the policy, through possession or use, will be subject to the following:

First Offense - The student will be excluded from team or organization for a period of 10 school days.

Second Offense - The student will be excluded from all team or organization for the remainder of the school year.

Selling or Distribution

1. If a student is found selling or providing controlled substance on school property, in the community or on the school bus, he/she will forfeit all rights and privileges for further participation in extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year.

Anabolic Steroid Use/Abuse

The use of, possession, delivery of anabolic steroids or other illegal performance enhancing substances except for a valid medical purpose, by any student involved in school related extra-curricular activities is prohibited. Disciplinary action could include any or all of the following:

First Offense - The student will be suspended from high school extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the season.

Second Offense - The student will be suspended from high school extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year.

Third Offense - The student will be permanently suspended from high school extra-curricular activities in the district.

No student shall be eligible to resume participation in high school extra-curricular activities unless there has been a medical determination that no residual evidence of steroids exists.

Statement on the Pennsylvania Crimes Code

Violations of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code that occur “in season”, outside of school, shall be subject to administrative investigation with the possibility of student being suspended or dismissed from the extra-curricular activity.

Drug Testing

The district reserves the right to require lab testing if a student is suspected of substance abuse.

Hazing

The district has a school board policy on hazing, Board Policy 247.

The district does not condone any form of initiation or harassment, known as hazing, as part of any extracurricular activity. No student, shall plan, direct, encourage, assist or engage in any hazing activity. Students who are subject to hazing or become aware of hazing shall report the incident to the building principal.

Specific Extra-Curricular Activity Rules

Head coaches/advisors may establish additional guidelines through their training/meeting rules with the approval of the Athletic Director/Administrator. Any additional rules and regulations developed by the head coach/advisor of any extra-curricular activity must be approved by the

Athletic Director/Administrator prior to the start of the program. These rules cannot be inconsistent with any provisions of this Code. These additional rules and regulations must be in writing and on file in the Athletic Office/Main Office.

Controlling Policy

Where another Board policy is more stringent than this Code, it shall govern. All district policies are publically available on the district's website, and all participants in extracurricular activities are responsible for compliance with Board policy.