

## **7.240 Students, High School Co-Curricular Participation Code**

The Superintendent, using input from coaches and sponsors of high school co-curricular activities, students and parents of students involved in high school co-curricular activities, athletic directors and deans of student activities, shall develop a Co-Curricular Participation Code (“the Code”) for all participants in co-curricular activities. The Code shall be subject to Board of Education approval. The Code should provide and give notice to participants that failure to abide by the Code could result in their suspension from co-curricular participation for up to one calendar year.

Annually, coaches and sponsors of all co-curricular activities shall review the Code with participants and provide participants with a copy of the Code.

### **HIGH SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION CODE**

#### **General Information**

This information shall be considered the High School Co-Curricular Participation Code and is prepared for the benefit of prospective and current students at District 203 high schools and for their parents. In addition to the Code, there are other requirements and commitments that are asked of participants. They will be made known to the participants by school staff members and/or school announcements. Where applicable, the District 203 Discipline Policy (See Board Policy 7.190) and Illinois High School Association requirements, as published, must also be met. Parents, as well as sponsors, are expected to be responsible for requiring that their participants adhere to the Code. The Code is in effect at all times, 12 months a year, in season or out of season, whether school is in session or not.

Please note: All co-curricular participants and their parents are expected to sign the co-curricular participation code. This is included at registration. Failure to sign the co-curricular participation form does not exclude you from being held accountable for the Code.

Parents and family members are expected not to host a party for high school students at which illegal consumption of alcohol and/or use of controlled substances, steroids, or look-alike drugs occur.

#### **Philosophy**

The Co-curricular activities in District 203 high schools are organized to allow for the fullest possible participation for those students willing to make a definite commitment to co-curricular activities. Participating in co-curricular activities is viewed by District 203 high schools as a worthwhile endeavor to enhance adolescent development. Participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege and, as such, carries certain expectations. Co-curricular means all activities, inclusive, offered by District 203 high schools in addition to the curricular offerings. The important goals of the co-curricular activities are to offer participants direction in developing healthful living habits, discipline, leadership, teamwork, citizenship skills, and respect for structure, rules, and responsibilities. It is to these ends that a “Code” is established for those students choosing to take part in the co-curricular activities program. Every student who chooses or is chosen to be a participant in a co-curricular activity will be offered the opportunity to practice, and whenever possible, to participate in events, contests and activities relative to their demonstrated abilities.

Important advantages of individual initiative, character, and teamwork can be developed only when there is team cooperation with established procedures. Team success without such cooperation is deemed impossible. No attempt to infringe on a student's individual rights is intended, and such standards are applied on participants with the knowledge and recognition that the established goals of character development, team spirit and morale and success cannot be achieved by any other alternative.

### **Participation Fee**

The Board of Education annually establishes a fee assessed to each participant in most co-curricular activities.

### **Rules for Co-Curricular Participation**

Participants in co-curricular activities in District 203 will be obligated to observe the District 203 Discipline Policy as well as the following established requirements.

Participants must refrain from:

1. Possession, consumption, purchase or sale of tobacco products.
2. Possession, consumption, or purchase of alcohol. Possession is also considered to be any presence while illegal transportation is taking place.
3. Possession, consumption, or purchase of controlled substances, steroids, look-alike drugs or related paraphernalia. Possession is also considered to be any presence while illegal transportation is taking place.
4. Theft, possession of stolen property, or vandalism.
5. Acts of violence, or other illegal acts in this or any other jurisdiction.
6. Attending a function where there is illegal consumption of alcohol, use of controlled substances, steroids, or look-alike drugs. (See Attendance under 1<sup>st</sup> Offense)
7. Sale, distribution of, or providing location for the illegal consumption of alcohol, steroids, or controlled substances. (Such a violation will carry a 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense consequence)
8. Driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.  
(Based on zero tolerance for use, such a violation will carry a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense consequence.)
9. Hazing in any co-curricular activity or any school program. (See Discipline Code in Board Policy 7.190) High School Administration (Deans, Athletic Director, Activities Director, Principal) to clarify in advance any practice or behavior. A statement exists at the District level that clarifies unacceptable behavior.
10. Harassment in any co-curricular activity or school program. (See Discipline Code in Board Policy 7.190) Building Administration (Deans, Athletic Director, Activities Director, Principal) to clarify in advance any practice or behavior. A statement exists at the District level that clarifies unacceptable behavior. (Ref. Admin. Reg. #7.20R)

NOTE: Violations of the above are considered together in terms of determining 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> offenses, and are cumulative over a student's high school career.

**DISTRICT 203 CONSEQUENCES FOR  
CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION CODE VIOLATIONS**

**a. 1<sup>st</sup> Offense**

Suspension from co-curricular participation for the number of regularly scheduled contests listed in Table I, Column 1 and/or the activity participation listed in Table II, Column 1. (Please refer to Adm. Reg. 7.240 for these tables.)

**Carry Over:** If the season for a co-curricular activity does not allow the participant to successfully complete the suspension, the suspension will carry over to the next season in which participation occurs. No awards for such participant will be given until the suspension is completed. The participant may be required to practice with his/her team during this period of suspension.

**Self Admission:** Self-admission of any behavior that could be construed as a violation of the Code without the knowledge of civil or school authorities may result in the consequences for a 1st **Offense** being waived. The purpose of this option is to provide a mechanism in which the participant can receive assistance.

**Consumption:** An assessment will be required of all 1<sup>st</sup> offense violations. The assessment program must be approved by the schools Student Assistance Coordinator and the results of the assessment will be released to the Student Assistant Coordinator. Failure to obtain an assessment will result in continued suspension from the activity for up to one calendar year.

**Attendance:** A participant who violates 6. above and for whom there is deemed sufficient proof of non-use, shall be suspended for one contest or one week, which ever is appropriate, for the sport/activity.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> attendance offense has the same consequence as a 1<sup>st</sup> offense involving consumption.

**b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense**

Suspension from co-curricular participation for the time listed on Table I, Column 2, or Table II, Column 2 of the next regular season of participation, or the current season. The participant may be required to practice/meet with his/her activity during this period of suspension. (Please refer to Adm. Reg. 7.240 for these tables.)

Before regaining eligibility from a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense violation, participants must arrange for and hold a meeting involving the participant, parent(s) and the administrator overseeing the program. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss efforts undertaken by the student and family to correct problems. Failure to hold such a meeting will result in continued suspension from the activity for up to one calendar year.

If less than half of the regular season remains, this will result in dismissal from the team or activity. Participant may not compete or practice and will receive no school award.

The participant will remain suspended from interscholastic competition or activity season for the balance of the suspension remaining from the season during which the violation occurred.

c. **3<sup>rd</sup> and Subsequent Offenses**

Participant is suspended from co-curricular participation for one calendar year.

Students may, at the discretion of the coach/sponsor, practice/meet with the activity only if eligibility is to be re-instated during the course of that season.

**Process of Parental Notification and Review**

Once administrators have determined that a violation has occurred, the parents of the student involved will be notified orally or in writing. The parents have a right to have the decision reviewed by the high school principal, whose determination is final.

LEGAL REF.: Clements v. Board of Education of Decatur, 478 N.E.2d 1209 (4th Dist. 1985).  
105 ILCS 5/24-24 and 5/34-84a.

CROSS REF.: 6:190, 7:190 (student discipline)

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