

## **Appendix J: Student Activity Code of Conduct**

### **I. Introduction**

The Cherokee County School District has determined that participation in interscholastic/extracurricular activities is a privilege for students enrolled in the School District. A student participating in such activities is considered to be a school leader; and, with leadership comes additional responsibility, so students must adhere to the standards and expectations contained in the School District's Activity Code of Conduct. As such, if a student violates these standards, schools may withdraw the privilege of participating in these activities, regardless of whether the violation occurred at a school-related or non-school-related activity. Schools may also withdraw the privilege of participating in these activities if the student violations occur outside of the scope of the activity's "season"; or, beyond the scope of the school day/year.

### **II. Student Infractions and Standards of Behavior**

Student Infractions: Any student who commits the following infractions may be suspended or permanently dismissed from the team:

- 1.) Hazing other students—school clubs and student organizations will not use hazing or degradation of individual dignity;
- 2.) Missing practice, rehearsal or activities (unless excused by the coach or sponsor);
- 3.) Truancy and/or skipping classes;
- 4.) Acting in an unsportsmanlike manner when representing the school;
- 5.) Violating team curfews (as established by the coach or sponsor);
- 6.) Any behavior which results in discipline by the school administration; and
- 7.) Any behavior which, in the opinion of the administration, reflects in a negative manner on the team, activity, athletic program or school.

Standards and Expectations for Behavior: Students participating in interscholastic/extracurricular activities must comply with the following standards and expectations for behavior:

- 1.) Establishing and promoting a positive self-image for the program, school and School District.
- 2.) Exhibiting good sportsmanship.
- 3.) Supporting team/activity rules developed by the activity's coaches or sponsors.
- 4.) Adhering to the School District's Student Discipline Code.
- 5.) Observing all standards and guidelines established by the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Constitution and by-laws.
- 6.) Obeying local, State and Federal laws governing behavior and conduct.\*

*Note: Provisions for dealing with starred (\*) items above are contained in Section V of this document.*

### **III. Dispositions for Student Infractions and Standards of Behavior**

Dispositions for student infractions and violations of standards and expectations of behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Additional practice or conditioning time
- Conferencing between sponsor/parent or sponsor/student athlete
- Loss of position or awards privileges
- Suspension and/or removal from team

### **IV. Suspensions for Student Infractions and Standards of Behavior**

Applying Suspensions: Relative to suspensions, progressive discipline processes will be utilized in order to create the expectation that the degree of discipline will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior, as well as consideration given to each student's previous discipline history and other relative factors.

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| 1st Offense: | Amount of suspension will be at the discretion of the Principal            |
| 2nd Offense: | Suspension will be a minimum of twice the suspension for the first offense |
| 3rd Offense: | Permanent suspension   |

Reporting Suspensions: Parent/guardian will be notified of the student's suspension. A suspension report will be filed with the Office of Student Activities and Athletics.

Transferring of Suspended Student Athletes: Students suspended from activities will not regain eligibility by transferring to another school within the School District.

#### V. Dealing with Student Arrests

Reporting of Misdemeanor or Felony Arrests: A student (or his/her parent/guardian) is responsible for informing a school official, which may include the Principal, Athletic Director or his/her Head Coach or sponsor, of misconduct which results in a misdemeanor or felony arrest. This report must occur within five calendar days of the arrest or the student faces disciplinary action up to, and including, partial or permanent suspension.

Confirming Student Arrests: Student arrests that are verified through a reliable source (school administrator, teacher, coach/sponsor, staff member, parent of involved student, School District Police Department, etc.) will be appropriately investigated by the school administration or designee.

Investigations arising from student arrests will be reviewed by a panel comprised of staff from the offending student's school, to include, but not be limited to the following: a school administrator, the school's athletic director, the coach/sponsor of the student, one additional coach/sponsor (as selected by the Principal), and one teacher (as selected by the Principal). It will be the role of this panel to review all information available as a result of the investigation and recommend potential dispositions for any confirmed infraction to the Principal for his/her consideration—it will ultimately be the responsibility of the Principal to administer discipline. The student may present a written response to the alleged infractions being presented to the panel, but the student will not be present at the panel hearing. The student's parent/guardian will be notified in writing of the panel's decisions.

The school reserves the right to suspend and/or permanently dismiss a student from all extracurricular/interscholastic programs for the remainder of their school career for misconduct, which could result in the arrest or conviction of select misdemeanor or felony crimes.

Addressing Felony Arrests and/or Convictions: Felony arrests constitute an immediate suspension from activities. Relative to that arrest, any subsequent felony conviction of a student may result in a permanent dismissal from activities.

Addressing Misdemeanor Arrests and/or Convictions: Misdemeanor arrests and/or convictions that will cause suspensions from activities may include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Disruption of school or school events
- Threats of violence or acts of violence against school employees or students
- Sexual Offenses
- Weapons Offenses
- Alcohol or Drug Offenses

#### VI. Duration of Code of Conduct

The Student Activity Code of Conduct will be in effect year-round.

_____ Signature(s) Parent(s)/Guardian(s)	_____ Date
_____ Signature of Student	_____ Date

