

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 cocurricular 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* including vaping/electronic cigarette juuling
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 as defined in Iowa Code Chapter 723A
8. Arson
9. Theft
10. Weapons
11. Sexual harassment
12. Hazing
13. Committing and/or participating in 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(3); 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 media.
2. Anonymous reports will not be considered.
3. 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 9th-grader and is found to be in violation during his or her 10th-grade year, the violation in the 10th grade will be deemed a second offense.

- Coaches/Directors and sponsors have the right to establish guidelines up to and including removal from the organization for individuals in violation of this code. Such guidelines shall be in writing and approved by the Activities Director.
- Students must continue to participate in the activity in which they have been suspended from for the length of the season. Failure to do so will result in the suspension being carried over to the next activity.
- Students must continue to practice with the team and meet the expectations of the coach/sponsor relative to all other participants during the suspension.
- Students unable to serve their suspension completely in one activity due to the end of that activity will have their suspension pro-rated in a consistent manner between activities.
- Students found in violation of the Co-Curricular Activities Code of Conduct may not register for a new activity after the state mandated/district defined start date to avoid penalty at a later time from another activity.
- Students involved in multiple activities will serve their suspension concurrently. For instance, a student involved in Basketball and Show Choir will serve the suspension in both activities. No student will be permitted to participate in one activity while serving a suspension in another for a violation of the Code of Conduct.

- Self-Report Defined. An individual making a truthful report of a violation of the co-curricular code to a school administrator within 72 hours of the event taking place.
 - Individuals participating in a school event after violating the co-curricular code but prior to making a self-report or administrative discovery will be suspended with no opportunity for a reduced suspension.
 - Individuals with a first violation that earn a second violation prior to completing the suspension for the first violation will have both penalties added together and suspensions will be served back to back.
 - Individuals that are academically ineligible will serve their suspension upon regaining their academic eligibility.
1. First Offense: 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: 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: 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 (365 days) 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 72 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 in or out of District. It is the responsibility of the incoming school to deal with all violations at the school. 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 from the date of the decision by the Activities Director.

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 by the Activities Appeal Committee will be made within five (5) school days following receipt or such longer period of time as is reasonably necessary to complete the processing of the appeal.

The Activities Appeal Committee will consist of:

1. Principal or designee
2. One coach (not involved with student's activity)
3. One sponsor (not involved with student's activity)

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