

RULE 28 ACTIVITY/ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT:

(High School only)

The Collier County School Board invites all students (hereinafter referred to as participants) who possess the ability, attitude, cooperative spirit, and desire to favorably represent our secondary schools to become candidates and participate in our interscholastic or extracurricular activities programs. For the purpose of this Code, interscholastic or extracurricular activities (hereinafter to include school based meetings, practices, performances, games, contests, etc.) applies to all Florida High School Activities Association, other state sponsored activities and all other Collier County Public Schools High School sponsored organizations, officers, participants and/or members on the following conditions.

Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right. There is a relationship between a participant's behavior on and off school property and the exercise of the participant's privilege to participate in these activities. Participants are representatives of their school and of their fellow students. They have higher visibility and greater recognition, assume leadership roles and become examples for their peers. This creates a duty and responsibility on the part of a participant to conduct himself or herself, on and off school property, in a proper manner. There is a relationship between these activities and a participant's health, physical and mental ability, social competence and discipline. Appropriate behavior by a participant can contribute significantly to the overall character of participants and non-participants.

In order to maintain a high level of performance in interscholastic or extracurricular activities, all candidates are required to subscribe to and abide by the rules set forth in this Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct. However, coaches, music directors and club/class sponsors have the discretionary authority to deviate from the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct only to establish additional standards and rules for their respective activities that are more rigorous and restrictive than those already outlined, if they are consistent with the philosophy of this Code. Such additional standards and rules must be reviewed and approved for their appropriateness by the activities coordinator and the principal before being applied to a participant for an unusual or special circumstance.

It is important that the participant understand that these rules are to be adhered to for as long as the participant is involved in an interscholastic or extracurricular activity throughout the participant's high school career. However, only a wrongful act occurring during the school calendar year, during a summer school session in which the participant is enrolled, or during an interval occurring outside of these time periods if the participant is participating in an interscholastic or extracurricular activity (i.e., pre-season fall sports or band practice), will be the subject of suspension or imposition of restrictions or penalties (except for the additional requirements as stated in Section V (B) regarding felony offense). It is important that the participant and parent understand that participation in these activities is a privilege, not a right, and in no way a requirement for graduation. Participants who believe they will not be able to adhere to the guidelines contained in this Code should make the decision not to participate in the interscholastic or extracurricular activity programs. It is with this understanding that we require our participants to exemplify outstanding character. Participants pledge their support to the high standards of this Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the provisions of this Code, when they participate in one or more of the interscholastic or extracurricular activities covered by this Code.

In the event a participant fails to comply with these high standards, it shall be interpreted by the coach, music director, or sponsor as an indication that the participant does not have sufficient desire to participate in the chosen interscholastic or extracurricular activity program. Failure to comply with the Code may result in temporary or permanent suspension from interscholastic or extracurricular activities, as set forth below.

Copies of the Collier County Public School's Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct will be discussed and distributed to all participating students at their respective schools at the beginning of each activity period or school year, or at the time a student may initially transfer into a Collier County Public School. Parents will be invited to attend an activities meeting to receive information and discuss the Code.

I. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Participants in interscholastic or extracurricular activities must attend their entire scheduled school day to be eligible to practice after school, compete, and/or perform in activities on that day and report to school on time the next day to participate in the next event or activity. Exceptions to this requirement must be cleared IN ADVANCE by the activities coordinator after conferring with the principal. A student who is tardy to school without an "excused reason" as per the attendance policy, is not considered to have attended his/her scheduled day of school.

II. STATEMENT REGARDING 2.0 CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENT AND CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- A. There is no appeal for students who do not meet the 2.0 cumulative G.P.A. academic requirements for the previous semester as stipulated by the FHSAA and the Collier County Public Schools in required courses for graduation.
- B. It should be further understood that the coaches, music directors, and club/class sponsors will be the sole judges of membership and performance of candidates; and if, or to what extent, they are to participate.

III. TOBACCO

A participant who uses and/or possesses any tobacco product shall be in violation of the Code of Conduct. If a violation of the Code for possession or use of tobacco occurs, then the following consequences will result:

- A. **FIRST OFFENSE** - A participant who commits a first offense will be ineligible for the next seven (7) calendar days from the time of administrative action. The first offense does not carry with it a suspension from practice(s). If no activities in which the student would participate are scheduled during this time, the participant shall be ineligible for the first seven (7) calendar days of the next regularly scheduled activity in which the participant would otherwise have participated.
- B. **SECOND OFFENSE** - A participant who commits a second offense shall be ineligible for the next twenty-one (21) calendar days from the time of administrative action. Additionally, a second offense carries with it suspension from all practice(s) for the same period. If no activities in which the participant would participate are scheduled during this time, the participant shall be ineligible for the first twenty-one (21) calendar days of the next regularly scheduled activity in which the participant would otherwise have participated.

C. **THIRD OFFENSE** - A participant who commits a third offense shall become ineligible from any interscholastic or extracurricular activity participation for one calendar year.

IV. PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS*, NARCOTICS, BEVERAGES CONTAINING ALCOHOL AND OTHER ILLEGAL DRUG USE

* A performance-enhancing drug is defined as a drug or supplement used to boost athletic performance, ward off fatigue and/or enhance physical appearance.

A. "IN ASSOCIATION WITH"

A participant who is "in association with" alcohol and/or other controlled substances will be in violation of the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct. "In association with" is defined as, "any participant who is in attendance at any location where alcohol or other controlled substances are being used illegally and who knew or had reasonable belief that such would be used, or who, without foreknowledge of such, chose to remain at the location after the illegal use became known to the participant."

1. **FIRST OFFENSE** - A participant who commits a first offense will be ineligible for the next seven (7) calendar days from the time of administrative action. The first offense does not carry with it a suspension from practice(s). If no activities in which the participant would participate are scheduled during this time, the participant shall be ineligible for the first seven (7) calendar days of the next regularly scheduled activity in which the participant would otherwise have participated.
2. **SECOND OFFENSE** - A participant who commits a second offense shall be ineligible for the next twenty-one (21) calendar days from the time of administrative action. Additionally, a second offense carries with it suspension from all practice(s) for the same period. If no activities in which the participant would participate are scheduled during this time, the participant shall be ineligible for the first twenty-one (21) calendar days of the next regularly scheduled activity in which the participant would otherwise have participated.
3. **THIRD OFFENSE** - A participant who commits a third offense shall become ineligible from any interscholastic or extracurricular activity participation for one calendar year.

B. CONFIRMED POSSESSION AND/OR CONSUMPTION OF PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS, NARCOTICS, BEVERAGES CONTAINING ALCOHOL AND OTHER ILLEGAL DRUG USE

A participant who is confirmed to have consumed and/or possessed any performance enhancing drug, alcoholic beverage or other illegal drug, shall be in violation of the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct. If a violation of the Code for consumption and/or possession of alcohol or illegal drug occur, then the following consequences will follow:

1. **FIRST OFFENSE** - A participant who commits a first offense, under this section, shall be ineligible from the time of administrative action as follows:
 - use, consumption and/or possession of a performance enhancing drug or alcohol - fourteen (14) calendar days
 - illegal use, consumption and/or possession of controlled substance/drugs - twenty-one (21) calendar days.

A first offense also carries with it suspension from all practice(s) for the same period. If no activities in which the participant would participate are scheduled during this time, the participant shall be ineligible for the first fourteen (14) or twenty-one (21) calendar days, respectively, of the next regularly scheduled activity in which the participant would otherwise have participated. A first offense also carries with it a suspension for a minimum of two (2) regular season contests/events or one (1) football game.

2. **SECOND OFFENSE** - A participant who commits a second offense, under this section, shall be ineligible from the time of administrative action as follows:

- use, consumption and/or possession of a performance enhancing drug or alcohol twenty-eight (28) calendar days
- illegal use, consumption and/or possession of controlled substance/drugs – thirty five (35) calendar days.

A second offense also carries with it suspension from all practice(s) for the same period. If no activities in which the participant would participate are scheduled during this time, the participant shall be ineligible for the first twenty-eight (28) or thirty-five (35) calendar days, respectively, of the next regularly scheduled activity in which the participant would otherwise have participated. A second offense also carries with it a suspension for a minimum of four (4) regular season contests/events or two (2) football games.

3. **THIRD OFFENSE** - A participant who commits a third offense shall become ineligible for any interscholastic or extracurricular activity participation for one calendar year. In order to regain eligibility a student must also satisfy the requirements set forth in IV. B.4 of this rule. Additional conditions may also be required for reinstatement.

4. **ASSESSMENT/PREVENTION/INTERVENTION** In addition to the above suspension, under subsection B, (1) and (2), in order to regain eligibility, the participant must undergo an initial assessment through the Collier County Juvenile Assessment Center, the David Lawrence Center, or another facility of the parent's choice pre-approved by the Office of Student Services. The assessment through the Collier County Juvenile Assessment Center is free of charge and may be arranged by calling 239-774-3927. The assessment report will include a recommendation that the student enroll and successfully complete one of two programs:

1. The "Substance Abuse Prevention Group," for adolescents who have experimented with and/or abused substances, or
2. The "Juvenile Substance Abuse Intervention Program" for youth whose substance use has become more problematic than for students who are recommended for the "Substance Abuse Prevention Group." Students age 18 or older could be recommended for a comparable adult program.

The assessment report may also recommend other treatment activities. A student must enroll and complete the recommended activities to regain and retain eligibility.

Students must complete the required program at the David Lawrence Center (239-455-8500) unless preapproval is obtained from the Office of Student Services to complete a comparable program through another certified AODA facility or a licensed substance abuse professional. Parents are responsible for all costs associated with completion of these programs.

A document entitled Substance Abuse Assessment/Prevention/Intervention is available in the Activities Office of each school and at the David Lawrence Center. Students will submit this form when they appear for assessment. The David Lawrence Center or another pre-approved facility will document implementation and completion of the recommendations of the assessment report, including completion of the required “Substance Abuse Prevention Group” or the “Juvenile Substance Abuse Intervention Program.” At the request of the student and one of his/her parents or guardians, a Certificate of Completion from the treatment facility indicating that all requirements of the program have been satisfied must be sent by the treatment facility to the Activities Coordinator along with the Substance Abuse Assessment/Prevention/Intervention form. The participant is suspended indefinitely until these requirements are satisfied.

Resources for help with drug and alcohol problems:

Alanon/Alateen/Alcoholics Anonymous	85 12th Street So.	262-6535
David Lawrence Mental Health Center	6075 Golden Gate Pkwy	455-8500
Narcotics Anonymous	9001 Tamiami Trail E.	775-4500
24-Hour Club	1509 Pine Ridge Rd.	597-5681
Vince Smith House	2450 Prince Street, Ft. Myers	338-2306
Juvenile Assessment Center	3315 Tamiami Trail, Naples	455-8500

C. RANDOM STUDENT DRUG TESTING

1. This section applies only to those students who are participating in an FHSAA-sponsored sport and/or cheerleading: Participants engaging in these activities must agree to submit to a random drug test, without prior warning, whenever called upon to do so by school administrators. The participant and his / her parent or guardian must sign a consent form to that effect before the student will be permitted to participate in any manner. The random drug testing program will be carried out under the authority of school board policy, and every effort will be made to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the students. A positive result of a random drug test will be considered sufficient evidence of a violation of section IV. B of the Activity / Athletic code of conduct, and consequences will be assigned in accordance with section IV. B of the Activity / Athletic Code of Conduct.
2. If it is determined (at the time of sample donation or subsequent to lab testing) that a student has deliberately adulterated or contaminated the sample in some manner, or attempted to use a masking agent, the student shall be informed that he or she will be suspended from all interscholastic or extracurricular activities covered by this rule for one (1) calendar year from the date of notification. In order to regain eligibility a student must also satisfy the requirements set forth in IV. C of this rule.
3. If a student refuses to submit to drug-testing when requested, after having submitted a duly executed consent form, the student shall be informed that he / she will be suspended from all interscholastic or extracurricular activities covered by this rule for one (1) calendar year from the date of notification. The student will be required to sign a form attesting that he/she is refusing to submit to testing and is aware of the consequences. In order to regain eligibility a student must also satisfy the requirements set forth in IV. C of this rule.
4. Once a student who violates this rule, as described in section IV. D.1, D.2, or D.3, regains eligibility, the student athlete will be subject to additional drug tests, at times that would not be previously disclosed to the student athlete. The student athlete will be subject to the additional drug tests for a period of time up to one (1) calendar year from the first positive test result.

V. GENERAL MISCONDUCT

When making a decision about general misconduct, it is important for our professional staff to emphasize to their participants that maintaining the highest standards of behavior at all times is of utmost importance and that "winning at any cost" is not an appropriate goal. The importance of maintaining good physical, moral and ethical behavior as well as a commitment to the core values of sportsmanship and citizenship is the strongest messages we can send to our participants while they participate in our interscholastic or extracurricular activity programs.

- A. The activity coach/club sponsor/music director/activities coordinator or principal shall suspend a participant for other violations considered to be unbecoming to the high standards of our interscholastic or extracurricular activity programs. These violations may include wrongful acts on and off school property, but are not limited to, commission of an act that would be a misdemeanor (other than a minor traffic violation) or a felony under the laws of the State of Florida, violation of the CCPS Student Code of Conduct, disruptive behavior, violations of particular state or local membership rules (e.g., breaking team curfew, being late for meetings, practices, or contests), general disrespect toward the coach/sponsor/teacher, players or fans and unsportsmanlike conduct to the team or program. The coach/sponsor/music director, etc. will report, as soon as reasonably possible, in writing to the activities coordinator, principal and the parents stating the violation(s) and the reason(s) for the proposed suspension and/or loss of office of the participant. Suspension under this category may be both for practice and/or contests. The length of the suspension should be applied fairly and should be commensurate with the violation(s). The principal may **overrule** a coach's, sponsor's, music director's or activity coordinator's suspension if it is deemed insufficient or inappropriate to the violation(s).
- B. Any participant who is arrested or detained by any federal, state or local law enforcement authorities for a felony offense, or for what, if the participant were an adult would be considered a felony offense, shall be suspended from participation in all activities (including contests and practices) until a final determination of the charge(s) and adjudication. If a participant is adjudicated guilty or delinquent of the felony, or in the event that adjudication of guilt or delinquency is withheld, then the participant is subject to, depending on the charge(s), permanent ineligibility for the school calendar year activity period or the remainder of his/her high school activity period of participation or career.

VI. Penalty Carry-Over/Multiple Violations

If any Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct violation occurs at or near the end of a particular activity period (such as sports season) the participant shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next activity in which the participant participates, even if that activity does not occur until the following school year. The penalty clause also applies school to school in the event a participant should move or transfer within our school district. If a participant is involved in multiple violations involving more than one category, each violation shall be dealt with and the penalties will be cumulative.

VII. DUE PROCESS AND RIGHT OF APPEAL

A. Due Process

1. After the initial report, the participant, parent(s), coach, music director or sponsor, and principal will be notified as soon as possible by the activities coordinator that an alleged violation of the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct has occurred. A brief and informal preliminary hearing will be held by the activities coordinator or his designee, with the necessary individuals, to gather information prior to official administrative action. At this hearing, the participant will be informed of the charges against him/her, and the names of witnesses and a brief summary of the facts supporting the charge(s) and the participant shall be given the opportunity to refute the charges and present his/her side of the story.

When a student's initial drug screening indicates a positive result for the presence of one or more of the suspected substances, and the result has been confirmed by the MRO, parents/students may request that an analysis of the "B" sample be performed by the contracted lab or choose to have the "B" sample sent to another certified laboratory facility to perform confirmatory drug testing on the sample. If the confirmatory test is positive, this conclusion is not subject to appeal.

2. If it is determined, during the hearing, that a violation of the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct has occurred, then action will follow according to the Code and in compliance with the required Administrative Due Process procedures.
3. The parent(s) and participant will be notified in writing of the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct violation(s) and the decision, conditions, penalty or action that has been imposed.

B. Right of Appeal

1. The parent(s) and participant shall have the right to appeal the decision of the activity coordinator or his designee to the principal of the school. The request for an appeal must be submitted in writing to the principal within five (5) calendar days after the original decision. During the appeal process, the penalty, action, or condition imposed on the participant by the activities coordinator shall remain in effect until the final decision of the principal.
2. If an appeal is pursued in a timely manner, within five (5) calendar days from the receipt of the notice of appeal, the principal will conduct an informal administrative hearing on the alleged violation. The participant will be informed of the charges against him/her and will have the right to defend, to examine evidence and exhibits, the right to be represented by legal counsel at the student's expense, the right to present, confront and cross examine witnesses, the right that the decision be based on a preponderance of the evidence and have the right to a record of the proceedings and tell his/her side of the story.
3. The principal's decisions concerning the informal administrative hearing will be final and the record will be closed. However, the Area Assistant Superintendent may hear an appeal of the principal's decision. The decision on any appeal will be communicated to the parent(s) and participant in writing.

VIII. STUDENTS TRANSITIONING FROM ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS (e.g., New Beginnings or D.R.I.L.L. Academy)

The District School Board of Collier County recognizes the emergence of alternative programs designed to intervene where specific disciplinary or criminal conduct has indicated a need. It is also recognized that the community as a whole has an interest in supporting students who have successfully completed such programs by providing the students with the opportunity to become eligible to participate in an interscholastic or extracurricular activity. A student who has successfully completed requirements and/or graduated from one of our Alternative Programs or other state certified programs, and who is recommended for transition back to a Collier County Public High School, will be given the opportunity to participate in such activities provided the student meets all academic requirements of both the Collier County Public Schools and the Florida High School Activities Association. Students who have successfully completed an alternative program will not be subject to penalties related to criminal activities or Code of Conduct violations committed prior to their enrollment in an alternative program, which conduct formed the basis for the enrollment. However, written conditions shall be set forth and agreed to between the state or local alternative program administrator and the appropriate coach, advisor, sponsor, music director, activity coordinator and principal before the student is granted the privilege of participating. If at any time during the activity period or season a violation of such conditions occurs, the participant is subject to disciplinary action consistent with the Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct.