

Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Participation Policy

Extracurricular or co-curricular activities are supplements to the regular instructional programs and afford students opportunities for enrichment. However, participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right, as pursuant to Idaho Code. As representatives of their school and District, students participating in such activities are expected to meet high standards of behavior.

Because extra-curricular activities provide an opportunity in the total education of students and may provide motivational links to school success, students and coaches/advisors will strive to meet the following objectives:

1. Practice good sportsmanship and citizenship through competition;
2. Develop a high degree of individual and team skills;
3. Practice good health and safety habits;
4. Engage in physical, intellectual, and artistic development;
5. Represent the team, the school, and the community in a positive manner;
6. Instill and promote a strong feeling of responsibility and loyalty to others;
7. Develop self-discipline; and
8. Show courtesy and respect.

School authorities strive to maintain a healthy atmosphere in all activities and model the above objectives to activity participants. When any out-of-class activity sponsored by the school shall be under the direct supervision of appropriate school officials with students' interest, safety, and welfare of paramount concern. Participants in any extracurricular activities shall abide by all rules of conduct established by the District for students during normal school hours regardless of where or when the activity occurs. The District will evaluate its extracurricular activities programs annually to ensure that they are in compliance with District policy and that they provide equal opportunities for all students.

General Definitions for Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Participation Policy

Unless the context otherwise requires, in this policy:

“Extracurricular Activities” means District and/or school authorized activities which take place outside of the regular school day and do not involve class credit, including (but not limited to) athletics, student groups or organizations, and community activities for which high school letters are awarded.

“Co-Curricular Activities” are District and/or school authorized activities held in conjunction with a for-credit class, but taking place outside of the regular school day including, but not limited to, debate, drama, drill team, band, or choir.

“Activity Suspension or Suspension from Extracurricular or Co-Curricular Activities” means that suspended students shall not dress in uniform or participate with the team or group at its scheduled event(s). Suspended students may be allowed to participate in practices/meetings; however, the principal or designee may deem it necessary for students to be withheld from practices or meetings for the duration of the suspension.

“Controlled Substances” include (but are not limited to) opiates; opium derivatives; hallucinogenic substances, including cocaine; and cannabis and synthetic equivalents or the substances contained in the plant; any material, compound mixture, or preparation with substances having a depressant effect on the central nervous system; and stimulants.

“Drugs” include any alcohol or malt beverage, any inhalant, any tobacco product, any controlled substances, any illegal substance, any abused substance, any look-alike or counterfeit drug, any medication not approved and registered by the school authorities and/or any substance which is intended to alter mood, and/or any substance which is misrepresented and sold or distributed as a restricted or illegal drug.

“Drug Paraphernalia” is defined as any or all equipment, products, and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use, or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivation, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into the human body a controlled substance as defined in this policy.

“Emergency Activity Suspension” is defined as imposition of an activity suspension by a principal or his or her designee prior to an informal hearing when it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the individual(s) involved and immediate action is appropriate.

“Event” is defined as a match, game, meet, or other competitive event, including regional and/or state tournaments, and competitions. “Event” is also defined as any band or choir performance(s).

“Knowingly Present” shall mean that a student attended a gathering of two or more individuals at which one or more of the attendees other than the student at issue were using or in possession of drug paraphernalia, controlled substances, drugs, pornography, alcohol, or tobacco and the student knew or reasonably should have known that such use or possession was occurring.

“Minor Infraction” shall mean a minor deviation from acceptable behavior or stated student expectations which occurs while the student is engaged in the extracurricular or co-curricular activity and which is not material or substantial. Students will be given notification of the first minor infraction. Students and parents will be given notification of the second minor infraction

through a conference and will be informed that a third minor infraction may result in activity suspension.

“Major Infraction” shall mean a material or substantial deviation from acceptable behavior or stated student expectations which occurs while the student is engaged in the extracurricular or co-curricular activity, including but not limited to insubordination toward or non-compliance with the person in charge of the activity, verbal or physical abuse, hazing, fighting, and refusal of a student to identify him or herself to school personnel upon request.

“On any school premises or at any school sponsored activity, regardless of location” includes, but not is limited to buildings, facilities, and grounds on the school campus, school buses, school parking areas; and the location of any school sponsored activity. “On any school premises or at any school sponsored activity, regardless of location” also includes instances in which the conduct occurs off the school premises but impacts a school related activity.

“Scholastic Year” is defined as the period of time beginning with the first day of the fall extracurricular and co-curricular activities season and ending with the last day of school.

“School Days” include only those days when school is in session.

Eligibility Requirements for Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Participation

To take part in any extracurricular or co-curricular activity, students must maintain a 2.0 GPA.

Every three weeks throughout the semester, all participating student in grades 7 through 12 will have their grades reviewed in all of their classes. Grade checks will take place every third Thursday during the grading period. Ineligibility begins the following Monday until a student resumes a passing grade in all classes. Eligibility will be reinstated immediately when the instructor informs the building principal the student has a passing grade. If a student is ineligible at the end of a semester they are ineligible for competition until the next grade check which occurs 3 weeks into the new semester. The school administration and the Board have the authority to waive their respective eligibility rules when, in the opinion of the administration or the Board, the rule fails to accomplish the purpose for which it is intended. Students who are ineligible to participate in games or contests may still be allowed or required to attend practices and games.

To participate, a student must have written parental permission and qualify under the rules of the Idaho High School Activities Association

Students must have their activity fee paid to be eligible to participate in the activity program. Students must attend all classes the day of a contest unless excused by the school principal. Students must also attend the full day following the activity unless he or she has sustained an injury or is ill.

Each student participating in extracurricular activities will be required to purchase a non-transferable activity card. All other students are encouraged to purchase activity cards

A student must complete the sports season to be eligible for a letter award.

Extracurricular or Co-curricular Activity Suspension

The Board believes that the safety and welfare of other students may be adversely affected when students who are involved in extracurricular or co-curricular activities commit major infractions or repeated minor infractions at school or during school activities, and/or are involved in criminal conduct or drug use in any location.

Student athletes will abide by all school rules according to the Prairie Junior/Senior High School Handbook. They must also abide by the universal training rules established by the coaches and administration. These rules will be published annually and participating students will each sign a copy showing their understanding and acceptance.

Student athletes must turn out within the first three days of practice unless prior clearance is given by the coach, athletic director, or principal. Failure to turn out will result in one missed contest per absence, except in football where students shall be penalized will be ½ missed contests per absence.

At the beginning of each semester, teachers or coaches of co-curricular courses will identify for students how participation in the co-curricular activity impacts their course grade. Co-curricular students who are suspended as a result of this policy will have their co-curricular course grade affected only if the reason for the suspension was related to course work or course expectations. Students who miss a co-curricular activity because of a suspension may ask to do, or be required to do, alternative assignments or special projects to make up the missed activity.

1. Activity Suspension as a Result of a School Suspension: A student will be immediately suspended from all extracurricular and co-curricular activities when he or she receives a suspension from school, not including an in-school detention, for any reason.

Consequences:

- A. The activity suspension is automatic, is for the duration of the school suspension, and runs concurrent with the school suspension; and
 - B. This type of activity suspension cannot be appealed.
2. Activity Suspension for Repeated Minor Infractions or a Major Infraction During an Activity: A student may be suspended from an extracurricular or co-curricular activity when he or she commits a third minor infraction, or a major infraction, while engaged in an extracurricular or co-curricular activity on any school premises or at any school-sponsored activity, regardless of location. The coach or advisor will recommend suspension to the Principal.

Consequences:

- A. The incident will be reviewed pursuant to the Informal Hearing Process at Section 5 of this policy;
 - B. If the evidence supports the recommendation, the student may be given an activity suspension for a period of time up to and including the remainder of the season or duration of the activity in that scholastic year for that activity only; and
 - C. If the activity suspension exceeds nine school days, the parent/guardian may request an appeal as outlined in the Appeal Process at Section 4 of this policy.
3. Activity Suspension for Criminal Conduct or Drug Use in Any Location During the Scholastic Year: A student may be suspended from extracurricular and co-curricular activities when he or she has been arrested or it reasonably appears to the District that he or she has violated criminal law, other than infractions or minor traffic violations; or has been involved with drug paraphernalia, controlled substances, or drugs, including alcohol or tobacco, in any location, either on or off campus, during the scholastic year, in any of the following ways: attempting to secure or purchase; using, or having reasonable suspicion of having used; possession; intending or attempting to sell or distribute; selling or giving away; or being knowingly present when any of the above are used, possessed, or consumed.

Consequences:

A. Knowingly Present

- I. First Violation: When a student violates the “knowingly present” prohibition of this policy for the first time during a scholastic year, the school resource officer (“SRO”), principal, or athletic director:
 - a. Will hold a conference with the student;
 - b. Will notify the student’s parent/guardian and the student of the violation;
 - c. May arrange a conference with the parent/guardian and the student; and
 - d. Will inform the student and parent/guardian of consequences for future violations of the policy.
- II. Second Violation: When a student violates this “knowingly present” prohibition of this policy for the second time during a scholastic year, he or she is subject to the consequences outlined below in part 3.B “Other Violations” of the policy.

B. Other Violations

- I. First Offense: The student will be suspended from competition or performance for 14 calendar days and must sit out a minimum of two competitions or performances. The student will be directed to meet with the school counselor to receive information on substance abuse. Students are to attend all practices during the fourteen-day penalty and are to attend all regular season home competition/performances, but must not participate in them. Traveling with the team for competition outside of regular school time will be left to the discretion of the coach/advisor. Suspended activity students are not allowed to miss school time to travel to away competitions or performances. The level and intensity of practices rests with the coach or advisor of each activity. The student may also quit the activity in which he or she is participating realizing. If a student quits the activity, the penalties will be applied to the next activity in which he/she participates.
 - II. Second Offense: The student will be suspended from participation in activities for the next 45 calendar days during a school year. The building administrator will begin the 45 day count as soon as he or she is notified that an infraction has occurred. School holidays and breaks will be included as part of the forty-five days. Consequences may overlap from one school year to the next. Summer vacation days do not count as penalty days for the second infraction.
 - III. Third Offense: The student will be suspended from participation in activities for the next 12 calendar months. The building administrator will begin the 12 month count as soon as he or she is notified of the infraction. Summer vacation days count as penalty days for the third infraction.
 - IV. Fourth or Additional Offense: The student will be suspended from all activities pending a school board due process hearing scheduled by the Superintendent at the parents request or at the next available scheduled Board meeting. The activity student may then be suspended from participation in activities for the remainder of his or her high school career.
4. Infractions Which Occur in Out-of-School Trips: During an out-of-school trip, if the authorized person in charge of the activity determines that a student should be sent home early because of criminal conduct, drug use, or a major infraction, the authorized person will notify the parent/guardian, and ask him or her to take charge of the return of the student. The parent/guardian will assume any expenses incurred for the return of the student.

5. Informal Hearing Process: Prior to giving an activity suspension to a student, the principal or athletic director shall grant the student an informal hearing on the reasons for the activity suspension and the opportunity to challenge those reasons unless an emergency activity suspension is necessary. If an emergency activity suspension is necessary, an informal hearing will be held as soon as possible after the emergency ceases to exist.
6. Student travel to or from an extracurricular or co-curricular activity: Unless other travel arrangements are authorized, students will board the bus at the school designated as point of origin for the trip and will return to the point of origin in the bus. There will be no stops along the designated route to pick up or discharge students.

The only variation allowed in this regulation is the release of students to parents in a face-to-face situation at the close of the activity before buses begin the return trip. Such release will require a signed, dated note from the parent.

The activity must provide at least one instructor, coach, or adult sponsor for each bus on a special trip. The bus driver will be responsible for the safe operation of the bus. The sponsor will be responsible for supervision of students and enforcement of bus rules. Any adult designated by the principal as a sponsor will have such authority.

Students must follow all school bus rules with this exception: Food and drink not in glass containers will be allowed on the bus with permission of the principal. However, any debris must be cleaned up at the end of the trip and before students leave the bus.

If a student causes a disruption or hazard on the bus, a hearing will be held with the principal, driver, instructor/coach/adult sponsor, parent/guardian, and student. The driver, instructor/coach/adult sponsor, parent/guardian, and the student will have the opportunity to share with the principal their perceptions of the problem. If the principal finds that there has been an infraction of bus rules, he will take the following action:

- A. On the first infraction, the student will be warned that following any further infraction he or she will be declared ineligible for transportation to the extracurricular or co-curricular activities for one event;
- B. On the second infraction during a semester, the student will be declared ineligible for transportation to the extracurricular or co-curricular activity for two events; and
- C. On the third infraction during a semester, the student will be declared ineligible for transportation to the extracurricular or co-curricular activities for the remainder of the semester.

Based on the severity of the problem as it relates to respect and safety for others, the principal may bypass step #1 and/or step #2 above and immediately declare the student ineligible for transportation for two weeks or for the remainder of the semester.

7. Appeal Process

- A. This appeal process may be used by students and their parent/guardian only in those instances where an activity suspension or transportation to extracurricular or co-curricular activities exceeds nine school days.
 - B. The parent/guardian must request an appeal in writing within two school days from the notification of the activity suspension decision.
 - C. The Superintendent will appoint a three member panel composed of certificated staff members who have not been involved in the disciplinary action in question. The hearing panel will notify the student and the parent/guardian of the date, location, and time of the hearing; the student will have an opportunity to present additional evidence regarding the circumstances of the suspension or reasons to reduce the length thereof. The appeal must be scheduled within five school days of the request.
 - D. If the panel determines that the evidence reviewed at the appeal supports the suspension, the suspension of the student from extracurricular and/or co-curricular activities shall be continued.
 - E. The student and the parent/guardian will be notified in writing of the panel's findings and determination with respect to the student suspension from extracurricular and/or co-curricular activities within two school days of the panel's decision.
 - F. The panel's determination is final, and is not appealable to the Superintendent or Board of Trustees.
8. Elementary Students: Students in kindergarten through sixth grade who are in violation of this policy may have the length of the activity suspension reduced by the principal or other authorized administrator.
 9. In addition to the penalties specified, it shall be within the discretion of the principal, athletic director, and coaches or advisors to determine whether or not a participant will be eligible for continued participation, awards, or honors after a conduct that tends to bring discredit to the activity student's high school, or is a violation of a stated policy or procedure.

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-512(12) Governance of Schools

Policy History:

Adopted on: August 15, 2016

Revised on: