

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC AND CO/EXTRACURRICULAR CODE

PHILOSOPHY

The Deerfield Community School District believes that:

1. Stages, field trips, playing fields, and athletic courts are extensions of the classroom that can provide valuable extracurricular education for students.
2. Social conduct of minors is the responsibility of parents first and the legal system second. The school system supports these efforts.
3. While participation in extracurricular activities is valuable, it is also a privilege, which bears certain academic, attendance, and behavioral responsibilities.

The combination of these three key points leads to the principle that the district's primary effort will be to maximize the student's opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities.

An additional factor in creating this policy is the requirement put forth by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association that each participating school must have a policy on eligibility and expected behavior. The WIAA requires, for example, that the school must have at least a minimum policy regarding the use of controlled and performance-enhancing substances, and that participating students must be academically eligible to play in interscholastic sports.

Note: Students who participate in both athletic and non-athletic extra/co-curricular activities run the risk of sanctions in BOTH types of events at the same time, if they violate applicable sections of the code.

SCOPE

This code applies to all co/extracurricular, including, but not limited to those listed in Appendix C. The standards outlined in this code are the minimum, higher standards may be established by the coaches, advisors, or directors of each activity or organization. These additional rules/guidelines will be reviewed by the athletic director and/or building principal. Enforcement will be the responsibility of the coach/advisor.

SECTION 1: ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the activities covered under the Scope of this code, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Be registered as full-time students, as defined by district policy, throughout the time of extracurricular participation (including both semesters for winter sports and activities).
2. Avoid any grade of "F" or any two grades of "D" at any time, or any incomplete grade that converts to an "F".

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Procedure and Consequences

Progress reports will be done at the end of the 3rd and 6th weeks, as well as the end of each 9-week grading period. Consequences for failure to meet the above criteria will be administered as follows:

- Students who are not registered as full-time students, as defined by district policy, may not participate in co/extracurricular or interscholastic athletic activities.
- Interscholastic athletes and students involved in co-extracurricular activities who are not meeting the academic eligibility criteria at either the 3rd or 6th week will have one week to improve their grades or will lose their eligibility to participate until the grades have improved to meet the criteria.
- Interscholastic athletes whose 9-week grading period final grades do not meet the eligibility criteria must practice and attend events with their teams, but are ineligible to participate in the next 20% of sports events and until there is evidence that grade progress is meeting the eligibility criteria.
- Students involved in non-athletic co-extracurricular activities whose 9-week grading period final grades do not meet the eligibility criteria will be ineligible to participate in the first co-extracurricular event that occurs in the following quarter and until there is evidence that grade progress is meeting the eligibility criteria.
- Students whose 9-week grading period final grades include two or more failing grades (“F”) are ineligible to participate in interscholastic sports and co/extracurricular practices or events for the 9-week grading period that follows.

SECTION II: ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

This section applies solely to students wishing to participate in interscholastic athletics. Before beginning participation, each such student/athlete must:

1. Have an up-to-date physical examination completed before the first practice and with results recorded on a WIAA Examination Card and signed by the examining physician.
2. Have a parent or guardian’s signed permission on the WIAA Examination Card.
3. Submit a Drug Testing Consent Form, signed by the student and a parent or guardian, before the first practice.
4. Meet all eligibility requirements as outlined in the WIAA Handbook.
5. Receive a briefing from the coach, summarizing the WIAA rules.
6. Behave in a manner consistent with school rules and Board of Education policy.
7. Attend the student/parent meeting before the beginning of the school year, or view a recorded presentation of the meeting.

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SECTION III: CO/EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

This section applies solely to students wishing to participate in non-athletic co/extracurricular activities. Before beginning participation, each such student must:

1. Submit a Drug Testing Consent Form, signed by the student and a parent or guardian, before the first practice.
2. Behave in a manner consistent with school rules and Board of Education policy.
3. Attend the student/parent meeting before the beginning of the school year, or view a recorded presentation of the meeting.

SECTION IV: ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

Students wishing to participate in an athletic or other co/extracurricular practice or event are expected to attend school the entire day of such practice or event.

Students who are tardy or absent (excused) due to illness must be in school no later than 9:30 am to be eligible to participate that day. Students who are absent(excused) for reasons other than illness (e.g. doctor or legal appointments, funerals, etc.) and will not be in school by 9:30 am, should make every effort to have prior approval from the athletic director or principal to insure eligibility for athletic or co/extracurricular participation and, whenever possible, provide documentation explaining their absence.

Any unexcused absence will result in the student being ineligible to participate in athletic or co/extracurricular practices or events that day or the day it is discovered.

A pattern of excused absences or tardiness (more than three in a season) will result in the student being ineligible to participate in the next event.

Attendance of student athletes at games and of student participants at other co/extracurricular events is mandatory, with the exception of injury or illness, or with the specific consent of the coach or advisor. Consequences will be determined by specific coaches and advisors.

Students serving an out-of-school suspension may not participate in practices and games or events during the suspension and until they have attended one day of classes after completion of the suspension.

Students serving an in-school suspension may not participate in practice, games or events during the suspension and until they have attended one day of classes after completion of the suspension. Such students are expected to attend the events to support their fellow students.

SECTION V: BEHAVIORAL STANDARD

Participation in an athletic or co/extracurricular activity in Deerfield High School/Middle School is a privilege. The participants in these programs must earn the privilege to represent Deerfield High School/Middle School in such a manner as to uphold the ideals and principles established by the Deerfield

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Board of Education and the WIAA. Any participant whose conduct reflects poorly on himself/herself, the team, the organization or activity, or the Deerfield School District, whether or not such behavior takes place during or outside school hours, at Deerfield High School/Middle School, or while representing Deerfield High School/Middle School, is unacceptable and will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the coach/advisor/athletic director and reviewed by the building principal. Such disciplinary action may include suspensions from athletic contests or co/extracurricular events.

Criminal behavior is prohibited. Any student who commits a felony crime will be suspended from all participation in athletics or co/extracurricular activities.

Note: Appropriate behavior is expected of all students, whether a participant or spectator, at all school sponsored athletic and co/extracurricular events.

SECTION VI: SEASON PARTICIPATION

Athletes may not quit one sport and begin another during the same season, without the written agreement of both coaches provided to the Athletic Director.

An athlete who is suspended from a team in one sport may not participate in another sport during that season.

An athlete who fails to be selected for a team in one sport may try out for another sport. Deerfield Community Schools strongly urges students to participate in no more than one sport per season. If, however, an athlete chooses to participate in two sports during the same season, there must be a written agreement among both coaches and the student's parents. The student will declare the primary sport in writing.

SECTION VII: INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS GENERAL TRAINING RULES

BANNED SUBSTANCES

Consumption of tobacco products can cause cancer, increase risk of heart disease, greatly reduce athletic performance, and generally shorten a person's life span. Consumption of alcohol and illegal drugs can greatly impair judgment, slow reaction time and reflexes, greatly reduce athletic performance, negatively affect speech, become highly addictive, lead to dangerous and even fatal accidents, and generally shorten a person's life span. Consumption of anabolic-androgenic steroids and performance-enhancing substances can destroy the body's normal functioning and can result in death or severe disability.

Therefore, in order to participate in WIAA-sanctioned athletic events and in accordance with Board of Education policies, students participating or wishing to participate in interscholastic athletic activities are prohibited from consuming or possessing alcohol, tobacco, anabolic-androgenic steroids and performance-enhancing substances, or illegal drugs; AND from knowingly attending events where such items are being illegally consumed. This prohibition is in force 12 months a year throughout the athlete's tenure at Deerfield Community Schools.

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Procedures and Consequences

Attending Parties or Events: Athletes who knowingly attend an event at which any of the above items are being illegally consumed, but who do not themselves consume banned substances, will be sanctioned as follows:

- **First offense:** athlete must continue to practice and travel with the team, but is suspended from participation in the number of athletic events equivalent to 20% of a full season, and must attend 2 hours of counseling with the school's AODA Coordinator, or an outside AODA professional at the student's own expense. The suspension carries over into the athlete's next season if necessary.
- **Second offense:** athlete must continue to practice and travel with the team, but may not participate in the equivalent of 40% of the season's athletic events and must attend 2 hours of counseling with the school's AODA Coordinator, or an outside AODA professional at the student's own expense. The suspension carried over into the athlete's next season if necessary.
- **Third offense:** athlete is suspended for the equivalent of a full season, and may not practice or travel with any team until the suspension is completed. The suspension carried over into the athlete's next season if necessary.
- Subsequent violations will be treated as third offenses.
- Suspended athletes will be ineligible for major team awards (MVP, MIP, or all-conference nomination) in the season the sanction began, or, for inactive athletes, the next season in which the athlete participates.
- Suspended athletes may not be named as Team Captains during any season in which they are serving suspensions.
- A student who completes one (1) year without any violation will have his/her last violation dropped.

Exception: *A student finding him- or herself at a party or event at which any of the above items are being illegally consumed can avoid sanctions by leaving immediately upon learning of the illegal consumption.*

Note A: *Students in the circumstance are encouraged to call their parents and report the illegal party or event so that dangerous driving can be prevented. Note that records of a cell phone call can be evidence of the time a student has left an event.*

Note B: *Sanctions will not be avoided if the student has consumed any of the items listed.*

Consuming or Possessing Controlled Items: Athletes, who through witness evidence, medical or forensic tests, or admission, are determined to have consumed any of the above items or who are found possessing such items (whether during a season or event preparation, or not) will be sanctioned as follows:

- **First offense:** athlete must continue to practice and travel with the team, but
 1. may not participate in the equivalent of 20% of the season's athletic events. The suspension carries over into the athlete's next season if necessary.

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2. must perform eight (8) hours of school-approved community service.
 3. must write a letter and read it aloud to his or her teammates explaining the negative effects of substance abuse.
 4. must attend four (2) hours of counseling with the school's AODA Coordinator, or an outside AODA professional at the student's own expense.
- Second offense: athlete must continue to practice and travel with the team, but
 1. may not participate in the equivalent of 40% of the season's athletic events. The suspension carries over into the athlete's next season if necessary.
 2. must perform sixteen (16) hours of school-approved community service.
 3. must write a letter and read it aloud to his or her teammates explaining the negative effects of substance abuse.
 4. must attend four (4) hours of counseling with the school's AODA Coordinator, or an outside AODA professional at the student's own expense.
 - Third offense: athlete is prohibited from participating in interscholastic athletics in any way for the equivalent of a school year (36 school weeks). Athletes under a one-year suspension may, after 18 school weeks, petition the Extra-Curricular Advisory Committee of the Board of Education to request a reduced suspension if positive steps and results have been documented regarding substance abuse issues that led to the suspension.
 - Subsequent violations will be treated as third offenses.
 - Suspended athletes will be ineligible for major team awards (MVP, MIP, or all-conference nomination) in the season the sanction began, or, for inactive athletes, the next season in which the athlete participates.
 - Suspended athletes may not be named as Team Captains during any season in which they are serving suspensions.
 - A student who completes on (1) year without any violation will have his/her last violation dropped.

SECTION VIII: CO/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES GENERAL RULES

BANNED SUBSTANCES

Consumption of tobacco products can cause cancer, increase risk of heart disease, destroy musical and speech breath control, and generally shorten a person's life span. Consumption of alcohol and illegal drugs can greatly impair judgment, slow reaction time and reflexes, affect speech and musical ability, become highly addictive, lead to dangerous and even fatal accidents, and generally shorten a person's life span. Consumption of anabolic-androgenic steroids and performance-enhancing substances can destroy the body's normal functioning and can result in death or severe disability.

Therefore, in order to participate in co/extracurricular events and activities, and in accordance with Board of Education policies, students participating or wishing to participate in such activities are prohibited from consuming or possessing alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs; AND from knowingly attending events where such items are being illegally consumed. This prohibition is in force 12 months a year throughout the student's tenure at Deerfield Community Schools.

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Procedure and Consequences:

Attending Parties or Events: Students who knowingly attend an event at which any of the above items are being illegally consumed will be sanctioned as follows:

- First offense: student is suspended from participation in the next co/extracurricular event or activity.
- Second offense: student is suspended from participation in the next two co/extracurricular events or activities.
- Third offense: student is suspended from participation in the next three co/extracurricular events or activities.
- Subsequent violations will be treated as third offenses.
- A student who completes one (1) year without any violation will have his/her last violation dropped.

Exception: A student finding him- or herself at a party or event at which any of the above items are being illegally consumed can avoid sanctions by leaving immediately upon learning of the illegal consumption.

Note A: Students in this circumstance are encouraged to call their parents and report the illegal party or event so that dangerous driving can be prevented. Note that records of a cell phone call can be evidence of the time a student has left an event.

Note B: Sanctions will not be avoided if the student has consumed any of the items listed.

Consuming or Possessing Controlled Items: Students, who through witness evidence, medical or forensic tests, or admission, are determined to have consumed any of the above items or who are found possessing such items (whether during a season or event preparation, or not) will be sanctioned as follows:

- First offense: student is suspended from participation in the next one co/extracurricular events or activities; must perform eight (8) hours of school-approved community service; and must attend two (2) hours of counseling with the school's AODA Coordinator, or an outside AODA professional at the student's own expense.
- Second offense: student is suspended from participation in the next two co/extracurricular events or activities; must perform sixteen (16) hours of school-approved community service; and must attend four (4) hours of counseling with the school's AODA Coordinator, or an outside AODA professional at the student's own expense.
- Third offense: student is prohibited from participating in the next three co/extracurricular events or activities OR in any co/extracurricular events or activities in any way for the equivalent of a semester (18 school weeks), whichever is greater.
- Subsequent violations will be treated as third offenses.
- A student who completes one (1) year without any violation will have his/her last violation dropped.

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APPENDIX A: NOTIFICATION OF VIOLATION & PENALTIES

Notification: After determining that a student has committed a code violation, the building administrator or designee shall prepare a letter, addressed to the student, the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), the student's coach or advisor, the building principal, and District Athletic Director. The letter shall:

1. describe the violation and summarize the penalty to be assessed
2. advise what penalties may be assessed for subsequent violations
3. inform the procedure for appeal.

The building administrator or designee shall meet with the student and deliver the student's copy of the letter during the meeting. A copy of the letter shall be mailed to the student's parent or legal guardian and a copy delivered to the student's coach. The athlete immediately becomes ineligible for participation upon notification of the administrator's determination of code violation.

A student who has been determined to have committed a code violation and/or the student's parent or legal guardian may appeal the decision of the building administrator or designee according to the appeal procedure set forth in this Athletic Code.

Suspensions and penalties, as a result of a code violation, will be enforced during the appeal process.

APPENDIX B: APPEAL PROCESS

A student or the student's parent or legal guardian may appeal the determination of the building administrator or designee that a violation of the Athletic Code has occurred by delivering a written notice of intent to appeal to the office of the building administrator no later than 3:00 PM on the third school day subsequent to receipt by the student of written notice of the violation as required in Notification of Violation and Penalties as stated above.

There may be two primary purposes for an appeal:

1. A parent and/or student may want to better understand why the student is being punished.
2. A parent and/or student may want to present information which they feel could change the initial finding by the school's administration.

However, unless otherwise stated in this code document, the appeal board does NOT have the authority to change a punishment because the parent and/or student, or members of the appeal board believe the code and its provisions are inappropriate. The decision of the appeal board OR hearing examiner, in respect to the appeal, shall be final. Only the Board of Education may modify this code and the listed punishments for its violation.

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APPENDIX C: ACTIVITIES COVERED BY THE SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

- Academic Decathlon
- Art Club
- Dramatics – Cast
- Dramatics – Crew
- Forensics
- Math Team
- National Honor Society
- Science Club
- Solo/Ensemble Music Festival
- Student Council
- Technology Club
- Yearbook Staff (non-credit)
- Weight Lifting
- Interscholastic Athletics – Deerfield High School
- Interscholastic Athletics – Cooperative Sports Programs
- Cheerleading
- Jazz Band
- Show Choir (non-credit)
- School Musical
- WDEE or other internships
- Out of state and/or overnight trips