

# HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY CODE

**THIS ACTIVITY CODE** establishes the rules governing the conduct of all district high school students participating in a district sanctioned extra-curricular or co-curricular activity. Such activities are a privilege, not a right or an obligation or a requirement for advancement or graduation. Students participating in such activities are representing this community and district, their school and their team, regardless of the time of day or their location. Every student should be able to expect that teammates will commit themselves to this Code. Accordingly, students not conducting themselves in accordance with the high expectations set by this Code should sustain ineligibility for those privileges in order to maintain a disciplined, just, educational experience for all students participating in district activities.

## **A. SCOPE**

The Activity Code shall apply to all district enrolled students participating in district sanctioned activities (National Honor Society, Student Council, athletics, cheerleading, instrumental music, vocal music, speech, drama, debate, dance or any other district extra-curricular or co-curricular activity), beginning the last day of 8th grade until the last day of their high school activities career, in addition to and separately from any consequences administered by the criminal justice system or the district's Student Code.

## **B. ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible to participate in activities, students must comply with all applicable requirements set out by the district's Activity Eligibility Policy (503.6) (specifically including the State of Iowa's "Scholarship Rule", which can be found at [www.siouxcityschools.org](http://www.siouxcityschools.org) or in the office of your Activity Director, and that you sign, and have a parent/guardian sign, an acknowledgment that you have read, understood, and agreed to be bound by this Activity Code).

## **C. VIOLATIONS**

1. It shall be a violation for a student within the Scope of this Activity Code to: Commit, at any time or location, a Crime as defined in paragraph B (1) of the Student Code.
2. Consume or possess, at any time or location, alcohol or tobacco products, regardless of parental permission.
3. Commit a violation of paragraphs B (3-5) of the Student Code.
4. Maintain or frequent a disorderly house in violation of Sioux City Code. The Activity Code does not address insubordination, unsportsmanlike behavior, appearance, or attendance issues. Activity directors and/or sponsors have discretion, within the bounds of the laws and the respective policies of the district, to impose consequences for such behavior irrespective of this Code, by adopting "team rules". To the extent that there is a conflict between application of a "team rule" and this Code, this Code shall govern.

## **D. PROCEDURE FOR CODE VIOLATIONS**

Violations of this Code should be reported to the student's Principal or Activity Director (the "Administration"). When the Administration has reason to believe that a student has committed a violation of this Code, whether by notification from law enforcement officials, by notification from staff, by self-admission by a student, or otherwise, the Administration shall deliver to the student and parent/guardian written notice ("the Notice") of (a) the nature of the alleged violation (which may consist of a juvenile citation), (b) the immediate imposition of the student's ineligibility dates under paragraph E for his/her various activities, and (c) the right of the student and parent/guardian to meet with the Administration to discuss the violation alleged and ineligibility imposed (the "meeting")

At the meeting, the student and parent/guardian shall be allowed to be heard and to present evidence regarding the alleged violation. The Sponsor of the relevant Activity(ies) is encouraged to attend the meeting. (In the case of a National Honor Society member, the Administration shall defer the foregoing duties to the NHS Sponsor and Faculty Council).

If the next scheduled activity date, for which the student would be ineligible, will occur within five (5) calendar days of the delivery of the Notice, the student or parent/guardian may request

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an expedited meeting. This request must be made in writing to the student's Principal or Activity Director. The expedited meeting will occur within two (2) school days of the Administration's receipt of such request. If a request for an expedited meeting is timely made, and the student is cooperative in scheduling the expedited meeting, the period of ineligibility will be suspended until after the expedited meeting has occurred and a written decision has been delivered.

By requesting an expedited meeting, the student and parent/guardian will acknowledge that the Administration is deemed to have met all procedural due process requirements including, but not limited to, those regarding notice.

Within five (5) school days of any meeting or expedited meeting, as the case may be, the Administration shall deliver to the student and parent/guardian its written findings on the alleged violation, and on any ineligibility imposed under paragraph E. Any period of ineligibility sustained by the Administration's written decision shall remain in effect during any of the following levels of the appeal process, unless modified by subsequent decision.

The student or parent/guardian shall have seven (7) calendar days after delivery of the Administration's written decision to file with the Administration a written appeal of the decision. Within seven (7) school days of receipt by the Administration of the written appeal, a hearing shall be scheduled by the Administration before an Activity Hearing Officer. Notice of the time and place of hearing shall be delivered to the student and parent/guardian not later than five (5) school days before the hearing. The student and parent/guardian shall be allowed to be heard and present evidence to the Hearing Officer. Within ten (10) calendar days of the hearing, the Hearing Officer shall deliver his/her written decision to the student and parent/guardian.

The student or parent/guardian shall have seven (7) calendar days after delivery of the Hearing Officer's decision to file with the Administration a written appeal of the decision. Within nine (9) school days of receipt by the Administration of the written appeal, a hearing shall be scheduled by the Administration before the Panel of Activity Directors (composed of the Activity Directors from each high school, or his/her respective designee). Notice of the time and place of hearing shall be delivered to the student and parent/guardian not later than five (5) school days before the hearing. The student and parent/guardian shall be allowed to be heard and present evidence to the Panel. The Panel shall deliver its decision in writing to the student and parent/guardian.

The student or parent/guardian shall have seven (7) calendar days after delivery of the Panel's decision to file with the Secretary of the Board of Education a written appeal of the Panel's decision to the Board of Education, which shall be heard at its next regularly scheduled meeting falling more than five (5) calendar days after such filing, which shall be heard in closed session unless waived by the student and parent/guardian, and which shall be final.

For purposes of this paragraph, notice shall be deemed delivered (a) to a student and/or parent when either mailed to their last known address or hand-delivered, and (b) to the Administration when hand-delivered, faxed or mailed to the student's Principal's office.

### **E. INELIGIBILITY FOR CODE VIOLATIONS**

#### 1. Provisions Applicable to all Violations.

- The student must complete the season or activity in good standing for the period of ineligibility to count.
- If a student is in two or more activities at the time the period of ineligibility must be served, the period of ineligibility will be served concurrently in all activities in which the student is participating. For example, if a student is in soccer, track, and dance, the student will be ineligible for the applicable percentage of dates in each of the activities.
- If a student is not participating in any activities at the time of a violation of this Code, the period of ineligibility shall be served in the next activity(ies) participated in by the student (unless a period of 12 months has expired since the student's last activity (exception: National Honor Society shall determine eligibility for that activity). Similarly, if a student is also a member of the National Honor Society and/or the Student Council, the applicable periods of ineligibility for National Honor Society and for Student Council shall apply concurrently.
- For purposes of calculating the percentages of ineligibility, only those dates that appear on an

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activities calendar at the beginning of the school year will be counted. Cancelled dates will not reduce the period of ineligibility. Dates that are added subsequent to the publication of the activities calendar will not be counted and students will not be allowed to perform or compete on the added dates.

- All percentages will be rounded up to one complete date.
  - The record of any violation of this Code and period of ineligibility will travel with the student if transferred within the district. Any period of ineligibility shall not apply to concerts or any non-competitive graded activity that is part of the curriculum.
2. First Violation within the Student's Activities Career The student shall be ineligible for:
- National Honor Society: any participation during the remainder of his/her career.
  - Student Council: two meetings, which will count as unexcused absences.
  - Athletics, Cheerleading: 25% of dates scheduled during the regular season with any un-served percentages to be carried over to post-season play and, if necessary, to the next activity.
  - Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Speech, Drama, Debate and Dance: 10% of the scheduled dates appearing on the activity calendar, with any un-served percentages to be carried over to post-season competition and, if necessary, to the next activity. Concerts or any non-competitive graded activity that is part of the curriculum will be exempt from this policy.

Students who have fulfilled the requirements following their first violation, and thereafter remain violation free for twelve (12) consecutive months, start over with a clear record. This opportunity applies only once during a student's school career.

**REDUCTION FOR SELF ADMISSION OR EVALUATION:** Upon a first violation, a student may reduce his/her period of ineligibility in athletics or cheerleading from 25% to 20%, and in instrumental music, vocal music, speech, drama, debate or dance from 10% to 8%, if they either

- Self admit the violation within 48 hours of its occurrence, or
- Seek an appropriate evaluation from a recognized counseling service at the student's or parent/guardian's expense. The student must agree to waive confidentiality to allow the facility/counselor to report back to the superintendent or superintendent's designee regarding recommendations for treatment or follow-up care.
- This reduction is not available for a second or third violation and may be used only once during a student's activities career.

Regardless of the availability of any above period of reduction, the student shall always be required to be ineligible for at least one event.

3. **SECOND VIOLATION WITHIN THE STUDENT'S ACTIVITIES CAREER:** The student shall be ineligible for:

- Student Council: any participation during the remainder of his/her current term.
- Athletics and Cheerleading: 50% of dates scheduled during the regular season with any un-served percentages to be carried over to the next season.
- Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Speech, Drama, Debate and Dance: 20% of the scheduled dates appearing on the activity calendar, with any un-served percentages to be carried over to the next activity calendar. Concerts or any non-competitive graded activity that is part of the curriculum will be exempt from this policy.

4. **THIRD VIOLATION WITHIN THE STUDENT'S ACTIVITIES CAREER:** The student shall be ineligible for:

- Student Council: any participation during the remainder of his/her career.
- Athletics, Cheerleading, Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Speech, Drama, Debate and Dance: twelve (12) calendar months.

5. **EACH SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION:** The student shall be ineligible for: an additional twelve (12) calendar months.

## **F. REINSTATEMENT/ADJUSTMENT**

1. Application for Reinstatement: A student who has been deemed ineligible for participation for twelve (12) calendar months upon a third or subsequent violation may apply for reinstatement

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after six (6) months of non participation. The student shall be required to demonstrate, among other things, an understanding of why the original violations are considered detrimental to the student personally; a commitment to meeting the standards established by this Code in the future; the student's ability to represent the district and the community; and compliance with any reinstatement conditions established by the Panel of Activity Directors, such as proof of appropriate treatment and ongoing obligations for the student's continued participation. In addition to granting reinstatement, the Panel shall have discretion to revoke any period of reinstatement. The Panel of Activity Directors shall establish and implement procedures for administration of this section, including, but not limited to, the use of procedures that ensure compliance with student privacy rights. All applications that have been approved by the Panel of Activity Directors shall be subject to approval, without hearing, of the Director of Secondary Education. The decisions of the Panel denying reinstatement shall be final.

2. ADJUSTMENT IN APPLICABLE PERIOD OF INELIGIBILITY: Dismissal of criminal or juvenile justice proceedings will not automatically affect the application of this Code to a student; however, a student may apply to the Activities Hearing Officer that his/her record of violations under this Code be adjusted to reflect dismissal of a criminal charge. If the Hearing Officer is satisfied that the evidence (including statements or evidence gathered independently from the criminal/juvenile justice process) indicates that the violation did not occur, the student's record of such violation shall be adjusted and expunged. The Hearing Officer shall establish and implement procedures for administration of this section including, but not limited to, the use of procedures that ensure compliance with student privacy rights. The decision of the Hearing Officer regarding any adjustment shall be final.

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## Acknowledgement

I hereby acknowledge that I have read this Activity Code and agree to comply with its provisions as a condition to exercising the privilege of participating in activities sanctioned by the Sioux City Community School District. I understand that this Code is revised annually by the Board of Education, and I will be required to sign each revision as a condition to continued participation.

Executed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student printed name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian printed name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian signature)