

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.

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 an accredited 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 travel, dress in uniform, associate 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/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 (2) 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), 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

Eligibility is determined by the posted grades of the prior semester at the start of each sport's season. Students must have passed five (5) out of the seven (7) classes in which they were enrolled with a 60% or higher during the previous semester to be eligible. Participating students must also have a 2.0 cumulative GPA to be eligible. If a student does not meet the minimum GPA requirement, they will be placed on a plan created by the head coach, athletic director, and principal that will require students to maintain a 2.0 GPA in their current classes. Once the plan is created, a weekly grade check will be completed to ensure academic progress is being made. If a student fails to maintain the minimum GPA at any time during the sport's season, they will be removed from the team. If an eligible student drops below a 2.0 GPA during the athletic season, the student will be placed on probation for a two week period during which time the student will still be allowed to participate. At the conclusion of the two week period the student must have achieved a minimum 2.0 GPA in their current classes. Students who fail to obtain the 2.0 GPA during the probationary period will be removed from the team for the duration of the season. Students who reach the 2.0 GPA will be required to maintain it, and if at any time they fall below, they will be removed from the team. Students may only be placed on probation once during each sport's season. Students will not be able to gain eligibility in the middle of a sport's season.

## 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.

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, including an in-school suspension, 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 (9) 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 or removed 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.
  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 year.

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 year.

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

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Revised on: