

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
SUSQUENITA SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS
PARTICIPATING IN CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

This Code of Conduct applies to student behavior in school and off campus during normal school hours as well as when school is not in session.

Philosophy

The Susquenita School District offers numerous activities, which are an extension of the classroom. The goal and purpose of these activities is to TEACH students the meaning and understanding of sportsmanship, commitment, sacrifice, teamwork, and hard work. Additional goals include learning how to win and lose, increasing the knowledge of the activity, realizing potential, developing a healthy lifestyle and skill development. The Susquenita School District's Board of Directors, administrators, teachers, and coaches/advisors are committed to excellence and providing the best opportunities for students. The participants must keep in mind that they are often in the public eye and that their personal conduct must always be above reproach. They have an obligation to present themselves in a favorable light and to respect their peers and adult citizens of the community.

Student participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities is voluntary and is a privilege, not a right. Those who choose, or are selected, to participate in these activities must be aware of and abide by the Code of Conduct for the Susquenita School District. Each participant will receive a Code of Conduct, be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding and is expected to operate within the framework of the Code and regulations.

This Code of Conduct is designed to further describe expectations of the District's philosophy and objectives, and appropriate Board policies. The Code of Conduct and the Memorandum of Understanding will be distributed the first day of practice during the season.

I. Definitions - The following definitions shall apply:

Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Activities – Include, but are not limited to the following: athletics, student clubs, academically competitive groups, music and/or drama participation outside of an academic requirement, National Honor Society, Student Council, and Student Advisory Council.

Social Functions and Events – Homecoming and prom court, school dances and class trips (as defined in Policy 231.)

Suspension – Exclusion for a given period of time from practices, competitions, events, and any other functions (trips, banquets, etc.) related to the activity. A suspension will not necessarily be limited to the season during which the infraction occurred, but may be imposed during subsequent seasons. Where applicable, a suspended athlete's name may be removed from the team records, from award consideration, and from similar recognitions.

Exclusion – A period of time, defined by policy, to be excluded from athletics, activities or on-campus parking.

Investigative Committee – Body to conduct informal hearings, comprised of one building administrator, the District Athletic Administrator, and the group advisor/coach.

Review Committee – Body to conduct necessary secondary hearings comprised of all other building principals and the Director of Curriculum.

Substantiated – Found to have committed a stated offense based on an investigation of an event.

Expulsion – Loss of participation privileges in the activity.

Sport Season – The interval commencing with the approved PIAA starting date of practice, and terminating with the final competitive event for the sport.

Probation – Imposed for school related offenses that result in students being ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities until such probation is formally lifted by the Board or administration.

Random Drug Testing – A Board approved program, Policy 227.1, created to test students randomly for selected illegal substances.

Hazing – Hazing of any kind will not be tolerated (Board Policy 245) and will result in the immediate removal from the activity for the remainder of the school year.

Bullying /Cyberbullying– Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated (Board Policy 249) and will result in the immediate removal from the activity for the remainder of the school year.

Expectations

In addition to the Susquenita School District Discipline Code, the following rules have been developed for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

II. General Rules

- A. Students will not practice or participate in any activity during a period of in-school or out-of-school suspension. If a student is suspended on a day at the end of an academic week, he or she will not be permitted to participate in any co-curricular or extra-curricular activities until school resumes. Students may be dismissed from the team for a second in-school or out-of-school suspension.
- B. Equipment issued for practice and competition should be cared for properly. Loss or failure to turn in materials belonging to the co-curricular or extra-curricular organization at the end of the school year will result in payment to be assessed to a student for the replacement of the item(s). In addition, a student will not be issued equipment for another sport or activity until the equipment from the previous season has been returned. Any awards due to the student will be withheld until restitution is made.
- C. The student must participate in and finish the activity as a member in good standing for the year to qualify for any awards sponsored by the School District, booster club, and co-curricular or extra-curricular organization. Advisors and coaches will determine the types and numbers of awards to be presented.
- D. Students will stand at attention during the playing of the National Anthem and Alma Mater. Talking, laughing, and horseplay will not be tolerated, and will result in consequences.
- E. Participation in all activities is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, the advisors or coaches have the responsibility to prohibit any student from leaving class on an early dismissal for an activity due to poor academic performance. Advisors or coaches may decide to increase their individual group's rules on unacceptable academic performance, but it must at least meet District requirements.
- F. If a student quits a sport he/she will not be permitted to participate in another sport during the same season unless all coaches and the Athletic Director are in agreement to allow this.
- G. When traveling away from school as an organization/team, students are the responsibility of the advisors or coaches until the organization returns to the High School or Middle School. Participants must travel to events on District provided transportation. Exceptions should be cleared with the principal or athletic director. If students wish to be released to their parent(s) or guardian(s) following an event away from school, they should follow established guidelines. The final decision to allow parents or guardians to transport their child home from an activity or from a central drop off point will be a decision made by the advisor/coach, and/or team and may vary from time to time among activities. These guidelines will be included in each organization('s) /team('s) expectations.

H. The rules listed below are to be read both in addition to and in conjunction with the District's discipline policy. The substantiated offenses below represent SERIOUS violations of the Code of Conduct and may result in the consequences as listed with each action in addition to any penalties imposed pursuant to the District's discipline code. Offenses are cumulative for the year except in the case of #1, which is cumulative for the student's discipline as provided for in other District policies.

- 1. Possessing, using, delivering, or selling alcohol, or any controlled substance as defined by the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device, and Cosmetic Act while on school property or at a school sponsored activity or while on the way to or from a school sponsored activity or in uniform regardless of location. The term possession includes but is not limited to having previously ingested alcohol, a controlled substance or drug while on the way to school or school sponsored activity. (See District Policy 227 and 227.1.)**

Consequence:

- Immediate suspension from the activity for a minimum of forty-five (45) calendar days as per District Policy 227.1. Violators will be referred to the school's Student Assistance Team (SAT) for possible assessment recommendation. An athlete may not participate in the sport until the assessment has been completed, and until any assessment recommendations have been followed.
- If the student is at a school event, they may receive up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension as per District Policy 227 and may include expulsion from school.
- In addition to the penalties set forth in (b) above, a second offense will result in **suspension** from participation for one calendar year.
- In addition to all above penalties a third offense will result in the **expulsion** of the student in **ANY** school or co-curricular or extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the student's school career.

- 2. Action as stated in #1 above occurring offsite and not at, on the way to or from any school sponsored activity during the athletic season of the team on which the student participates.**

Consequence:

- Immediate suspension from the activity for fifteen (15) calendar days and referral to the school's SAT. Should the offense occur when the SAT is not functioning, the principal and/or athletic director and coach will make a referral to a licensed provider appropriate to the offense for an assessment and recommendation. Failure to complete an assessment will result in continued suspension from the activity until the assessment is conducted.
- Second offense results in suspension from the activity for the remainder of the season.
- A subsequent offense will result in expulsion of the student in ANY school co-curricular or extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the student's school career.

- 3. Substantiated offenses as stated in #1 above occurring offsite and not at, on the way to or from a school sponsored activity during off-season.**

Consequence:

- Fifteen (15) calendar day **suspension** from activity beginning on the first day of the season.
- Second offense results in **suspension** from activity for one season.
- A subsequent offense will result in **expulsion** of the student in **ANY** school co-curricular or extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the student's school career.

- 4. Possessing or using tobacco in any form, whether on or off school property (off property only applies if the athlete was in uniform) as applies to Policy 222.**

Consequence:

- An activity participant who violates the tobacco policy of the School District will be **suspended** from participation for fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the incident.
- A second offense will result in a thirty (30) calendar days **suspension**.
- A third offense will result in a one calendar year **suspension** from the date of the third violation.

5. Intentional damage (vandalism) or theft of school or person's property from any location on school property or off school property during any school sponsored event or related to any school sponsored activity.

Consequence:

- a) See District discipline policy for possible penalties including administrative probation, suspension or expulsion depending on the severity of the offense and other penalties, including referral to law enforcement authorities as allowed by District policy.
- b) Immediate **suspension** from the activity for up to seven (7) calendar days, depending on severity of the incident, payment of restitution or return of property.
- c) Subsequent offenses could lead to **expulsion** from all co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

6. Failure to return District equipment.

Consequence:

Suspension from program participation until equipment is returned or paid for.

7. Acts that constitute a violation of the Pennsylvania Criminal Code, regardless of whether or not criminal charges are filed and whether or not delineated as part of the student code of conduct.

Consequence:

- a) Immediate **suspension** from the activity for the remainder of the season or the school year depending upon the severity of the offense.
- b) The student must petition to have the **suspension** lifted after the period of suspension.

8. Failure to carry out the directions or rules and regulations established by the advisor/coach. (Such rules and regulations must be distributed in writing to all athletes and be approved by the principal and athletic director.)

Consequence:

As established by each advisor/coach.

9. Students are expected to show respect for all in authority, as well as the proper care for school facilities, property, and equipment. Disrespect toward any staff member, faculty member, support staff, or administrator will not be permitted.

Consequence:

- a) The first offense is a three (3) day **suspension** from participation in the events of the activity.
- b) The second offense will result in the **expulsion** of the student from the activity.

10. Any improper conduct during a co-curricular or extra-curricular activity, which either violates District policy or constitutes behavior inappropriate for a District student representative, including but not limited to, disrespect of opponents, officials, or coaches.

Consequence:

- a) Severe or continuous behavior issues and/or ejections may result in consequences up to and including **expulsion** from the activity.
- b) Any action resulting in ejection from a contest will result in student being **suspended for a MINIMUM** of the next contest.

11. Use of Anabolic Steroids. The use of anabolic steroids is prohibited. A violation of this policy of School Board Policy 123.1 shall result in immediate suspension from the group for the remainder of the season and may result in expulsion from athletics.

12. Whenever offenses occur outside of school and/or out of season, the investigative committee consisting of a building administrator, the activity advisor/coach, and the athletic director will review the individual situation and recommend appropriate action.

Procedural Guidelines for Code of Conduct

- (1) If an infraction is reported, the advisor or coach shall notify the building administrator of the alleged conduct or violation. Either the advisor or the coach at the direction of the administrator shall investigate, to determine if a violation of the code has occurred.
- (2) If, after investigation, a violation of the Code can be substantiated, the coach, after consultation with the principal and/or athletic director, shall impose the appropriate consequence by giving written notice to the athlete, the athlete's parents or guardian, the building administrator, and/or the athletic director. Imposition of disciplinary consequences by the athletic director is in addition to any disciplinary penalty imposed by the building administration pursuant to District policy.
- (3) The athlete or parent/guardian may appeal the coach's decision to the principal who will convene a Review Committee to hear the appeal and render a decision. Such decision will be made within ten (10) business days of the appeal. During the ten (10) business days, the initial disciplinary action imposed will remain in effect. Appeal of the discipline penalties imposed by the building administrator under District policy is governed by the school code.
- (4) If the parent or athlete is not satisfied with the decision of the Review Committee, a hearing may be requested within five (5) business days of the decision. The appeal shall be in writing and directed to the Superintendent of Schools or designee. The Superintendent or designee has complete discretion whether or not to hear the appeal. If the Superintendent or designee decides to hear the appeal, such hearing shall be conducted within ten (10) business days of the date of the appeal. If such hearing is granted, the initial disciplinary action will remain in effect. The appeal hearing shall be informal and the decision of the Superintendent or his/her designee shall be final.
- (5) Once a suspension or expulsion has been imposed, the student will not be permitted to participate in any activity unless the recommendation for suspension/expulsion is reversed after appeal.
- (6) An expulsion includes forfeiture of any school awards for that season.
- (7) Nothing in the Code shall preclude any building principal or assistant principal from suspending or excluding a student from an activity or team for any violation of the disciplinary rules of the Susquenita School District even if the offense committed by the student would also be an offense under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- (8) Co-curricular and extra-curricular Code of Conduct/Policy infractions and discipline imposed there under are not limited to the season in which the infraction occurred.

Code of Conduct Memorandum of Understanding

We have read the co-curricular and extra-curricular Code of Conduct. We understand the guidelines, rules, and philosophy of the activity's program. We also understand that some co-curricular and extra-curricular activities will provide an addendum to this Code of Conduct. The signatures below indicate we will support and comply with this Code of Conduct in order to participate, or to permit our child to participate, in the specifically named co-curricular or extra-curricular activity.

Name of Activity_____

Is there an addendum attached to the Code of Conduct for this activity:

___ Yes or ___ No

Participant's Name _____

Participant's Signature_____

Date_____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature_____

Date_____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature_____

Date_____