

Appendix I

CODE OF CONDUCT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN ATHLETICS AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Preamble and statement of philosophy

This policy appendix outlines the expectations and rules for student-athletes, coaches, and parents/guardians. It is designed to promote sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and safety in the district's co-curricular program, which includes clubs and interscholastic athletics. The Plattsburgh City School District Board of Education seeks to provide a well-rounded educational experience for its students, and co-curricular activities are part of this desired educational process. As athletics is the most common form of student co-curricular participation, this policy may also be referred to simply as the 'Athletic Code of Conduct', and both terms ('Athletics' and 'Co-Curricular Activities') may be used herein. While the district's primary focus remains academic, enhanced 'whole student' development through athletic experiences which advance students emotionally, socially, and physically are desirable.

Participation, skill development, character development, and athletic success are central objectives of the district's interscholastic athletics program, with differently-balanced priorities at various levels. The Modified level will focus primarily on skill development, broad participation, and positive experience. The Junior Varsity and Varsity levels of competition will feature increasing emphasis on team success, and may feature varying opportunities amongst participants, while still holding positive experience as the primary goal. Despite the inclusion of increasing focus on skill and team success at the JV and Varsity levels, all team members should have some opportunity to participate.

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) has developed the following Code of Ethics for all those involved with interscholastic athletics, and which reflects the district's expectations and values:

- To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play
- To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game
- To stress the value derived from playing the game fairly
- To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials
- To establish a happy relationship between visitors and host
- To respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials
- To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility
- To encourage leadership, use of initiative and good judgment by players on the team
- To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players
- To remember that an athletic contest is only a game – not a matter of life or death for player, coach, school, fan, or community

It is the hope of the Board of Education that understanding and adherence to the guidelines established in this handbook will help ensure a positive experience for everyone involved in athletics and/or co-curricular activities in the Plattsburgh City School District.

Eligibility

Participation in any non-mandated school programming is a privilege granted to students who are willing to take on the added responsibility of representing their school/district appropriately at all times. It is the responsibility of participants in sports and clubs to become familiar with the academic requirements and expectations of the school/district.

Academic Eligibility

All Coaches/Advisors will submit a list of participating students to the Athletic Coordinator or other designee of the Principal.

A student who is deficient in two or more subjects at any instance may not participate in most activities/events, but may still attend and participate in practices and/or meetings. Deficiencies are defined as (a) a negative academic report, and/or (b) a failing grade status in any subject/class, and/or (c) an incomplete grade status in any subject/class. Faculty, coaches, building administration and athletic administration will collaborate to identify students with academic eligibility issues.

A student who is vulnerable to academic ineligibility will follow these procedures to maintain eligibility for participation:

- A). The student will have five calendar days from the release of the school's Eligibility List (or other formal notification of possible ineligibility) to address deficient schoolwork. During this five-day period, the student will remain eligible.
- B). At the close of this five-day period, a check of weekly progress will begin. The student must have an Eligibility Slip reflecting adequate work for the week, signed by all Teachers and approved by the Athletic Coordinator (or Principal, in the case of non-athletic co-curricular activities). If the Eligibility Slip reflects one or more continuing deficiencies, the student will be ineligible for game/activity participation for at least 5-days, pending the status of the next Eligibility List (or other designation).

Parents may request a meeting with Building Administration and/or Athletic Administration to review their own concerns with their child(ren)'s academic performance so as to jointly develop an academic success plan which features more rigid eligibility requirements than those established herein.

A 'carryover' academic eligibility criteria is in-effect in which fall season athletes who failed two or more classes/subjects per the prior June's final report card will automatically be placed on weekly eligibility monitoring as described above, beginning on the second Friday of the new school year.

Attire

Students who represent their school/district will follow the guidelines outlined in the Student Handbook with regards to attire and presentation. It is understood that uniform attire during practice or competition, as dictated by district athletic leadership and governing organizations,

may deviate from such. Individual coaches/advisors may require a more stringent dress code after consultation with the Building Principal and/or Athletic Administrator.

Attendance

As outlined in the Student Handbook, a student who is absent (unexcused) or tardy (beyond the end of their first-period class/activity), will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activity that day. Special dispensation from Building Administration or attestation from a medical care provider that the absence/tardy was due to illness or injury will override this attendance ineligibility. However, any tardy attributable to illness will see the student excluded from that day's participation. Any student with 3 or more tardies (unexcused) in a 10-week period will be ineligible for participation in the next event (practice or contest). Senior-year students with special attendance privileges will be expected to be on-time for their first scheduled daily class.

Conflicting academic and co-curricular obligations

Academic success will be prioritized over co-curricular participation. Generally, but not universally, co-curricular activity events should commence after the close of the Teacher contractual work day so as to allow maximum availability for student help and consultation. Students who are late for afterschool activities because of academic considerations may request a note from the Teacher(s). Coaches/Advisors will accept such notes without penalty to the student.

Student behavior

The Board of Education views interscholastic athletics and other co-curricular activities as an extension of the school setting and expects students who represent their school/district to behave appropriately and to comply with all prescribed standards of conduct as well as those not explicitly stated but which reflect developmentally-appropriate social and/or institutional norms. These social norms include reasonable standards of citizenship relative to out-of-school conduct. Inappropriate substance use will yield specific consequences outlined herein. Other behavior issues – which are impossible to fully address/enumerate – will be addressed through consequences determined by administrative discretion. The school administration and athletic administration will determine the appropriate disciplinary action for each violation on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the severity of the violation, the student-athlete's past behavior, and any extenuating circumstances.

Illicit substance use

Public health research clearly establishes the harmful effects of using tobacco products, nicotine products, alcohol, marijuana, inhalants, vaporizers, and other controlled substances. The Plattsburgh City School District community endorses these findings, and the use and/or possession of such products or related paraphernalia, or the physical presence in a venue where these are being illicitly consumed, will be considered a violation of this code.

It is the intention of the Plattsburgh City School District to offer students the opportunity to make responsible, well-informed choices based on honesty and integrity as well as to offer help to those students who exhibit a substance abuse problem.

The following guidelines are to be used in carrying out the policy:

- A confirmation of a violation is the detection of substance abuse by a coach, teacher, or staff member in the school district, or legal authorities. Reports from other adults will be taken under advisement and will be investigated appropriately.
- “Length of season” is considered to be the first day of activity through the last day of activity, which includes post-season play for interscholastic athletics.
- As student is considered a member of a club/team when they attend the athletic practice (or, for non-athletic co-curricular activities, the first club meeting). For athletics, these dates will reflect season timelines established by Section 7 (or other league/governing body).

First violation. Following confirmation of a first/initial violation, the student will be subject to the following consequences:

- Suspension from the team or club for 50% of the contests/activities. For interscholastic athletics, student-athletes are expected to attend practices during the suspension period. Suspension becomes effective immediately upon confirmation of a violation, and will include scheduled league, non-league, and post-season contests. Suspensions may extend beyond the close of the athletics season in which they are implemented, if the applied consequence so necessitates. *NOTE: The 50% suspension outlined above may be modified to 25% of contests/activities when a student is deemed by administration to have been truthful and forthcoming.*
- Related consequences which may be applied include: loss of captaincy (if applicable), loss of opportunity for selection of Black Letter award in that sports/season, loss of opportunity to be nominated for League All-Star recognition in that sport, loss of opportunity to be nominated for “John J. Herbert” CVAC recognition in that sport, and loss of opportunity to receive athletics-related scholarships/financial awards.
- A parent notification and referral to the School Counseling Office for substance abuse evaluation will also accompany a first violation.

Second violation. A second violation of the substance abuse regulations laid out in this code will yield the following:

- Suspension from all athletic contests for the remainder of the current athletic season and 50% of the contests of the student-athlete’s next season (which may extend to the subsequent school year). The student-athlete must attend practices during the suspension period in order to be eligible for reinstatement.
- Loss of opportunity for school rewards/distinctions (letter, pin, certificate).
- Loss of leadership role(s).
- An additional parent notification and referral to the School Counseling Office for substance abuse evaluation will accompany a second violation.

Third violation. A third violation at any point during the student’s K-12 academic career shall yield the indefinite suspension from all co-curricular activities, including interscholastic athletics, pending the completion of a therapeutic treatment program/substance abuse treatment program. Upon completion of said program, a student may petition the Appeals Committee (see

below) for reinstatement to eligibility for participation in co-curricular activities, following the prescribed consequences outlined above. A parent consultation with district personnel will be required before any appeal will be considered.

Appeals of consequences

Student consequences, including suspension from participation in co-curricular activities, will be applied at the discretion of the building administration and athletic administration. Due process is available to all students deemed to have violated the code of conduct and made subject to consequence. The sequence of possible appeals will be as follows: Building-level appeals committee; Superintendent of Schools; Board of Education; Commissioner of Education. The building-level appeal may take place in-person and will be heard by a group of district personnel to be arranged by the building Principal, and will generally be composed of 4-6 individuals, ideally with representation from building administration, faculty, athletic administration, coaching, and student support services. The Superintendent-level appeal will be made in writing, and will be considered by the Superintendent or designee. The Board of Education-level appeal will be made in writing, and will be considered by the entire Board of Education, or a subset thereof. Requests for appeals must be received within 48-hours of the application of consequence or the determination of the prior appeals stage.

Consequences, including suspension, will be applied immediately, but may be deferred at the building administration's discretion until any/all of the initial three appeals steps can be completed. Building administration will consider the nature of the violation, the duration of the applied consequence, and the point of the season at which violation occurred. Any deferring of consequence is wholly at the discretion of building administration. Under no circumstances will there be a deferring of applied consequence beyond the Board of Education-level appeal.

Coaching expectations

The Plattsburgh City School District expects that Coaches will model expected behaviors for students, including positivity, sportsmanship, integrity, and respect for self and others. Coaches/Advisors will schedule reasonable practice/meeting sessions and communicate changes to participants as early as practical. Practices/meetings will be planned and developmentally-appropriate. Coaches will communicate expectations to students and will periodically communicate about their status, role, strengths and areas of possible improvement.

Coaches will focus on constructive interactions with students and will maintain a growth-focused approach. In keeping, Coaches will remain mindful of students' social and emotional well-being and will minimize derogations and negative reinforcement.

The leadership responsibility of the Coach extends beyond the practice and game setting and includes all relative environments including transportation, change rooms, and other team activities. Active, appropriate supervision of student participants is expected of Coaches at all times. Coaches will engage with students and parents who follow established feedback protocols, and may elect to involve Building Administration or Athletic Administration to assist with resolving disputes or reinforcing expectations.

The Coach will read and be knowledgeable about the Code of Conduct, will explain applicable portions to student participants when initially establishing expectations, and will review/reinforce expectations as necessary throughout the season/year.

Coaches will view officials as a necessary and valuable part of co-curricular activities and will extend respect, patience, and consideration thereto.

Parent expectations

It is expected that parents/guardians will serve as positive role models for students and will demonstrate behavior which reflects the standards outlined in this Code. Parents/guardians should work with students in minimizing conflicts which might impede participation in co-curricular activities, and should assist students in communicating absences, conflicts, and other concerns to the Coach as early as possible.

Parents/guardians will support the prioritization of academics and will value the importance of school attendance. Parents/guardians will read and understand this Code of Conduct and assist district personnel in reinforcing expectations of student behavior.

Parents/guardians will view officials as a necessary and valuable part of co-curricular activities and will extend respect, patience, and consideration thereto. **Nothing outlined, herein, precludes the implication of Section VII (or other governing bodies) rules, processor, and consequences.**

Additional student expectations

In addition to displaying appropriate behaviors which align with the code of conduct. Students should show commitment to the co-curricular activity by being on-time and attending each activity with a positive attitude. Students will demonstrate responsibility by notifying the Coach/Advisor as soon as possible when unable to attend any scheduled activity.

Students should recognize that participation in a co-curricular activity is, itself, something which yields benefits: social, emotional, artistic, physical, and/or cultural. Despite the many benefits of athletic and co-curricular participation, students should recognize that academics are to be prioritized.

Students will review and understand the co-curricular Code of Conduct, and they are responsible for accepting any consequences which arise from their behavior.

Students will view officials as a necessary and valuable part of co-curricular activities and will extend respect, patience, and consideration thereto.

Dropping a sport, club, or activity. Any student who joins a team/activity is expected to continue on that team/activity for the remainder of the season/year. For a student to drop an activity or club, they must do so in writing and explain the reason for dropping the activity. For a student-athlete to leave one sport and go to another, they must (1) see the present Coach and discuss the reasons for leaving, (2) receive that Coach's permission to seek/join another team, and (3) receive approval from the Athletic Administrator. A student-athlete who seeks to leave a team but not join another may simply discuss their intent with the Coach, as above. A student-

athlete who quits a team without going through the appropriate procedures will not be allowed to participate in any other sport that season.

Equipment. Equipment (including uniforms) issued to students must be properly cared for. It is each student's responsibility to return any issued equipment to the Coach at the end of the season. Student-athletes will be financially responsible for any lost or stolen equipment which was assigned to them, and failure to make such restitution may preclude consideration for any athletic awards or designations and participation in any subsequent co-curricular activities.

Injuries. Students are required to report injury to their Coach/Advisor immediately. It is the Coach/Advisor's responsibility to then complete the Accident Report Form and submit such to the School Nurse. If a student is seen by a medical care provider, a written statement describing the injury and ability to return to participation must be obtained and given to the School Nurse before participation may resume. It is the responsibility of the student and/or their family to file the appropriate insurance forms with the District's student accident insurance carrier, if applicable.

School suspensions. Any student who is temporarily suspended from school or who is assigned any form of in-school detention will be precluded from participating in any practices, contests meetings, or co-curricular activities on any day of suspension/detention.

Legal jeopardy. Any student who is charged with a misdemeanor or felony charge shall immediately be precluded from co-curricular activity participation, and shall remain ineligible through the resolution of those legal matters. Even notwithstanding a possible determination of guilt or innocence, the filing of misdemeanor or felony charges is viewed as sufficient failure of citizenship to implicate this code.

Social media and cyberimage. Students are responsible for their online profiles and activities, including comments, posts, photos, videos or other recordings posted by the student or by others in which the student appears. Students will not degrade opponents, teammates, coaches, or officials. Students will recognize that, in participating in co-curricular activities, they are representing their team, school, sport, Section, family, and community, and will do so in a positive, respectable manner.

Hazing/initiation. Rituals designed to humiliate, degrade, abuse, harass, intimidate or endanger other individuals, regardless of the individual(s)' willingness to participate, are considered hazing and are strictly prohibited. No student shall participate in hazing, nor conspire to engage in hazing. Students have a duty to report any act of hazing to a Coach, Advisor, or Administrator.

Participation in Physical Education Class. Students who are medically excused from physical education class will be precluded from participation in interscholastic activities (practice or contest) on the same day.

Co-Curricular Code of Conduct and Parent Consent

I, the undersigned student, have read and understand the Co-Curricular Code of Conduct. For the privilege of participating in a co-curricular activity in the Plattsburgh City School District, I recognize that I am subject to the rules of this code. I also recognize that this document will cover all co-curricular activities at Plattsburgh High School for the current school year. This code of conduct will be in effect throughout my participation in any co-curricular activity.

I (we), the undersigned parent(s)/guardian(s), have read and understand the Co-Curricular Code of Conduct and acknowledge that my/our child is subject to its provisions. I (we) further acknowledge that co-curricular activities involve risk of injury to the participant, which on occasion could be serious. The District carries supplemental student accident insurance which may be accessible to families of injured students, but all expenses incurred must first be submitted to the parents’/guardians’ insurance carrier for payment. Any remaining balances may be submitted to the district’s student accident insurance carrier, which may or may not pay a portion of the balance, per applicable coverage schedules.

Both student and parent(s)/guardian(s) should sign below to acknowledge the terms of co-curricular activity participation.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Name
(printed): _____

Student/Parent Address: _____

Parent Phone Number: