

# Grosse Pointe Public School System Extracurricular Handbook and Code of Conduct

Effective Date: September 1, 2018

## Introduction.

The Grosse Pointe Public School System's Extracurricular Code of Conduct identifies the purpose of extracurricular activities, defines eligibility for participation, and identifies behavior expectations and disciplinary consequences for all participants.

Participation in extracurricular activities in the Grosse Pointe Public Schools System (GPPSS) is an honor and a privilege that entails a commitment by a student to an individual school, the District and the community. The Extracurricular Code of Conduct is in effect from the first day a student joins a GPPSS extracurricular activity. The Code remains in effect 24 hours a day, 365 days a year (regardless of time of day, week, month, or year, location of events / place of events, and/or particular sport season) until completion of a student's participation in extracurricular activities.

The Grosse Pointe Public Schools System Extracurricular Code of Conduct has been developed to provide a common set of rules for all students participating in athletics and extracurricular activities. The Extracurricular Code of Conduct deals with specific violations that apply within every program; however, the code is not intended to be all-inclusive. If an infraction occurs that is not included in the code, the coach or advisor has the authority to determine the consequence.

All Grosse Pointe students are also governed by the Student Code of Conduct. In addition, students who participate in extracurricular activities may be further governed when applicable by the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), National Federation, league rules and specific team/activity rules. For additional rules pertaining to Michigan high school athletics, visit [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com).

This Extracurricular Code of Conduct only pertains to extracurricular activities, not co-curricular activities. All school sponsored activities that are not co-curricular as defined by Board Policy 2430\* are considered extracurricular.

\* Board Policy 2430 identifies co-curricular activities as those activities in which:

- A. the subject matter is actually taught or will be taught in a regularly offered course;
- B. the subject matter concerns the District's composite courses of study;
- C. participation is required for a particular course;
- D. participation results in academic credit.

## **I. Purpose of Extracurricular Activities:**

The District believes that the opportunity for participation in a wide variety of extracurricular activities is a vital part of the student's educational experiences. However, such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the activity, to the student body, to the community and to the student themselves.

Extracurricular activities play an important part in the life of our students. Young people learn a great deal from their participation in extracurricular activities. Lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition and how to win and lose gracefully are an integral part of each team in our extracurricular program. Extracurricular activities also help students develop a healthy self-concept as well as a healthy body. Competition adds to our school spirit and benefits all students - spectators, as well as participants, develop pride in his or her school.

Leadership should be of the highest quality so as to exemplify the desired type of behavior to be developed from the extracurricular program. Measurement of leadership success should not be in terms of the tangible evidence of the victory and defeat record, but rather in the intangible personality development factors that are an outgrowth of the major objectives of the extracurricular program.

Within every extracurricular activity, student-leaders are held to the highest standards and expected to exemplify responsible and desirable behavior as a representative of their extracurricular activity, their school, and their community. To this end, leadership success is not measured merely by win and loss records, but rather by the quality of attitude and behavior modeled by the student-leader year-round.

## **II. Eligibility to Participate.**

The following applies to both athletic and non-athletic extracurricular activities.

### **A. Academic Eligibility:**

#### **1. To be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities a student must meet the following minimum academic criteria established by the MHSAA:**

- a. A student must have passed four out of six classes if the student took six classes or have passed five out of seven classes if the student took seven classes the previous semester.
- b. A student must currently be passing four out of six classes in the current semester if taking six classes or five out of seven classes.

When evaluating a student's eligibility status grades of D- or better and a mark of G are considered passing.

#### **2. The student must also meet the academic criteria established by GPPSS:**

The Grosse Pointe Public School System, however, requires its students to demonstrate a much higher standard of academic achievement in order to participate in extracurricular activities. Therefore, a student must be successfully passing five out of seven classes or four out of six classes if taking a tutorial, of which at least three classes must be a grade of C- or better (a “G” is a passing grade and will be counted towards the three “C-’s”). If a student is taking less than six classes they must be passing all of those classes with no more than one class being below a C-.

As an additional incentive for academic excellence, those student-athletes achieving a grade point of at least 3.0 during their season of competition are honored at their season-ending Athletic Awards program. Varsity athletes who receive a grade point average of at least 3.0 receive a league Academic Team Certificate. Junior Varsity and Freshman level athletes receive a Grosse Pointe Public School System Academic Certificate.

**3. If the student is ineligible based on the previous semester final grades, the student will be ineligible for participation for the entire following semester (subject to the eligibility reinstatement process described below).**

All new 9th graders are initially eligible for extracurricular activities for the Fall season of their freshman year.

Final grades that do not meet the eligibility requirements, including incompletes and failures from a previous semester, may be made up using an appropriate credit recovery process. Eligibility may be reinstated if the school accepts the credit.

### **Enforcement Process**

#### **Grade Checks:**

Administration shall conduct grade checks of all extracurricular participants every three weeks. Additionally, administration shall review grades after progress reports and report cards are distributed. Administration shall identify for advisors, coaches, teachers and students the dates for grade checks at the beginning of each school year.

If after any grade check, progress report or report card the student falls below the academic ‘eligibility’ requirements as set forth above, he or she will have one week to reestablish eligibility. During this week, students may participate in extracurricular activities if the coach and administration feels it is appropriate. If after one week the student has not reestablished eligibility, the student must sit out at least one week from competitions to allow the student to focus on academic obligations. At any point after sitting out for one week the student may re-establish eligibility as defined under #2 above.

**Academic Probation:**

If at any point (either at the start of a season or after a grade check) a student falls below the Eligibility Requirements set forth above, the student will be placed on Academic Probation. For students who start a fall sport on academic probation due to low grades (but they meet the minimum MHSAA

Once on Academic Probation a student will have 3 school weeks to demonstrate he or she has met the Academic Extracurricular Expectations identified below. While on academic probation a student may practice, however, playing in contests while on academic probation will be at the discretion of the coach and athletic director. At the conclusion of the three week period, if the student has met the Academic Extracurricular Expectations, he or she will be removed from Academic Probation. If after three weeks the student has not met the Academic Extracurricular Expectations below he or she will be ineligible for all extracurricular activities until he or she establishes that he or she has met the requirements to be removed from Academic Probation.

In the event the student starts the Fall season on Academic Probation based on his or her performance during the spring semester of the preceding year, he or she will have three school weeks to meet the expectations listed below.

## **B. . Attendance Based Eligibility**

### **1. Competition Based Extracurricular Activities**

- a. **Regular Practices:** Practices are essential for proper conditioning, improvement of techniques, and acquisition of teamwork skills. Therefore, participants are required to attend all scheduled practices. Participants who are absent from school are excused from practice on the same day as the absence. Participants who are suspended or temporarily separated from school may not participate in practices or competition during the suspension. Participants assigned a partial day of in-school separation may not participate on the same day unless granted the privilege by administration. Participants suspended from school or temporarily separated from school twice during the same season are suspended from the team/activity for the remainder of that season. Participants must attend a minimum of 3 classes in middle school and 4 in high school the day of a competition unless the absence is approved administratively.
- b. **Vacation Practices:** Practice schedules and attendance rules are set by coaches and advisors and are approved by the assistant principal before implementation. Students are required to attend all scheduled vacation practices unless approved in advance by a coach. Students who miss scheduled vacation practices, even with prior approval, may be subject to activity-specific consequences as a result. Attendance procedures are developed for the protection of both the student and the coach/advisor and for the orderly progression and development of the total team. Athletes who do not train during an extended vacation could be seriously injured if allowed to participate under highly competitive game conditions. Teams cannot be developed to their fullest potential when all members are not present.

### **1. 2. Non-Competition Based Extracurricular Activities**

Participation and attendance expectations for non-competition based extracurricular activities shall be determined on an activity specific basis by the faculty advisor.

## **C.. Conduct Based Eligibility**

Students participating in extracurricular activities are required to maintain good conduct at all times and all locations, whether on or off-campus, and may not engage in any conduct or behavior which brings discredit to themselves, their family, their team, school, or the District, to be determined in the sole discretion of the appropriate school administrators. Consequences will depend on the severity of the offense/violation, and will be determine and enforced at the sole discretion of the appropriate Determiner of Discipline, who may consider any relevant factors including prior conduct and leadership roles in their determination.

## Violations and Consequences

**Student Code of Conduct Violation:** Violation of Grosse Pointe Public School Student Code of Conduct severe enough to also merit consequences related to participation in extracurricular activities.

Consequence: In addition to any applicable consequences established by the Student Code of Conduct, warning through removal of activity for up to one year.

Determiner of Discipline: Assistant Principal

**Extracurricular Attendance Violation:** Unexcused absence from a practice, event or contest.

Consequence: Warning through removal of activity for up to one year

Determiner of Discipline: Coach/advisor in consultation with Assistant Principal

**Failure to Cooperate with an Investigation:** Impeding or intentionally failing to support the investigation of a potential violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Consequence: Warning through removal from the activity for up to one year

Determiner of Discipline: assistant principal

**General Misconduct:** Inappropriate behavior including, but not limited to: engaging in illegal, unethical or inappropriate conduct including insubordination; harassment, racial or ethnic slurs expressed in any form, forum, or format, during participation in the activity or otherwise, including on a student's private social media accounts.

Consequence: Warning through removal from the activity for up to one year

Determiner of Discipline: Coach/advisor in consultation with the assistant principal

**Lack of Sportsmanship:** Extracurricular participants are expected to demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship at all times. Extracurricular participants are to display personal control under practice and game conditions toward their teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, and spectators.

Consequence: Warning through removal from the activity for up to one year

Determiner of Discipline: Coach/advisor in consultation with the assistant principal

**Possession or Use of Illegal Substances:** Possessing, using, or being under the influence of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, drugs, vaping substances or paraphernalia for any of the same, or any other behavior-altering substances of any kind and in any form or format, as determined in the sole and final discretion of the relevant school administrators. Exceptions may be made for medication as prescribed by a licensed physician for the student user and used only as prescribed.

If this violation occurs before the competitive season or during an “off” season, the competitive suspension will begin during the next competitive season. The summer vacation period is part of the “off” season.

Consequences:

First Offense of the School Year:

1. The student will be suspended from a set number of the season’s competitions or organization’s activities (see Consequence Chart below). Suspensions from games or activities could impact two sports seasons/periods of the applicable activity, which may carry over to a subsequent school year.
2. The student will lose captancy, leadership positions or leadership role for the current school year.
3. The student who violates this policy after club, activity or sports seasons, or school government elections in the spring will be removed from office, captancy or leadership positions for the next school year.

Second Offense During a School Year:

Removal from all Extracurricular Activities for an amount of competitions double the first offense per the range chart below.

Third Offense During Secondary Enrollment:

Permanent removal from all Extracurricular Activities for the remainder of the student’s school career.

Determiner of Discipline: Assistant Principal

**Supporting the Use of Illegal Substances:** Intentionally being in the presence of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, drugs, or other behavior-altering substances, except medication as prescribed by a licensed physician without using the illegal substance. A student will not be in violation of this portion of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct if the student makes a reasonable effort to remove himself/herself from the inappropriate situation.

If this violation occurs before the competitive season or during an “off” season, the competitive suspension will begin during the next competitive season. The summer vacation period is part of the “off” season.

Consequence:

First Offense of the School Year:

1. The student will be suspended from Extracurricular Activities for half of the noted period of time identified for Possession or Use of Illegal Substances (see Consequence Chart below). Suspensions from games or activities could impact two sports seasons or two terms of the applicable activity. In the event a suspension results in a fraction of a competition, the student shall sit out for that fraction.
2. The student will lose captaincy, leadership positions or leadership role for the current school year.
3. The student who violates this policy after club or school government elections in the spring will be removed from office, captaincy or leadership positions for the next school year.

Subsequent Offenses in the Same School Year:

Further suspension from participation in activities through removal from all activities for the remainder of the season.

Determiner of Discipline: Assistant Principal

### **Activity Specific Consequence Chart for First Offense for Possession or Use of Illegal Substances (“Consequence Chart”)**

Because each extracurricular activity offered in GPPSS schools has a different number of competitions and activities, the following chart will be used to determine the competition suspension consequence for violating the Possession or Use of Illegal Substances or Supporting the Use of Illegal Substances portions of this Code of Conduct.



Number of Games/Competitions/Performances	Length of Suspension
1 - 9	2 games/competitions/performances
10-18	3 games/competitions/performances
19-27	4 games/competitions/performances
28-36	5 games/competitions/performances
36-45	6 games/competitions/performances

**Definition of ‘competition’:** For the chart above, a competition is defined as one complete competitive or performance activity (does not include practices, scrimmages, or rehearsals). By way of example only, one competition in football would be equal to one game. One competition in wrestling would be equal to all the matches in one specific meet/invitational. One competition in theater would be equal to one performance (not dress rehearsal.) All calculations using this chart shall be based on the initially scheduled number of competitions identified at the start of the season or activity.

**D. Other Eligibility Requirements.**

In addition to the academic eligibility requirements as established above, extracurricular participants must also meet any academic and non-academic criteria or requirements established by an extracurricular team or program, which may be in addition to or stricter than the above requirements. Such team/program requirements are enforced by the designed team/program administrator, in conjunction with the appropriate school administration.

**III. Other Enforcement Provisions:**

**A. Consequence for Year Round Activities:** For extracurricular activities that are year round (such as French Club) the student shall be suspended from participation for one quarter. For extracurricular activities that are less than year round, but that do not have competitions, the administrator shall identify an appropriate period of time for the student to be suspended from participation that is consistent with the ranges below.

**B. Applying Consequences for Students in Multiple Activities:** For students that participate in multiple extracurricular activities, the Assistant Principal has the sole discretion to apply consequences as appropriate. However, if at the time of a violation, the student is participating in multiple extracurricular activities, the student’s participation in all of these activities shall be impacted.

Students shall be impacted in both the competition/performance based extracurricular activities as well as year-round activities. Examples of competition/performance based

extracurricular activities include all sports, DECA and musicals. Examples of year round extracurricular activities include SADD, the Diversity Club and the German Club.

**C. Attempts to Circumvent Consequences:** To avoid a student simply electing to participate in an activity solely to complete their consequence as identified below, an administrator has the sole discretion to determine whether a student legitimately serves their consequence. For example, a student who joins a sport with a suspension previously in place must serve the suspension and legitimately complete the season of that sport. If the student quits an activity after serving a suspension but prior to the formal conclusion of the activity, the suspension will be voided and applied to the student's next activity. Additionally, a student with a consequence in place shall not join a year round based extracurricular activity (such as French Club) to simply complete his or her suspension.

If a student receives a consequence for violating this Extracurricular Code of Conduct, the consequences shall be applied in such a way that participation in performance based activities is impacted rather than a student simply serving a consequence in a non-performance based activity. For example, if a student receives a 3 game suspension from a performance activity, that suspension will not be fulfilled solely by not participating in a non-performance based activity.

**D. Duration/Timing of Suspensions:**

Administration shall use good judgment and reason when making decisions regarding the application of suspensions. Other than for the most severe violations,, suspensions shall not typically carry on beyond one year from the incident occurring. For example, a 9th grader in the Diversity Club who consumes alcohol is suspended from Diversity Club for one quarter. If in her junior year she tries out for volleyball and makes the team she does not have a suspension to serve and can participate in matches at the start of the season.

Suspensions that cross multiple seasons shall be prorated across those seasons. For example, a football player who receives a 2 game suspension prior to the final football game of the year shall sit out one football game. If the student then elects to play basketball in the winter he or she would still have an outstanding suspension of one football game which equates to a two basketball game suspension.

**E. Practicing and Attending Competitions While Suspended:**

When a student is suspended from competing in an extracurricular activity for violation of this Code of Conduct, he or she may participate in practices at the discretion of the coach/advisor. Students may not be in team uniform while suspended from participating in a competition.

**F. Examples of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct Being Applied:**

**Example #1:**

In September a GPPSS student who is currently participating in boys soccer and French Club is identified as having consumed alcohol on the weekend. The student is simultaneously serves a 3 game suspension from the soccer team as well as is suspended from the French Club for one quarter.

**Example #2:**

In December a student who is in the French Club is identified as drinking on the weekend. The student is removed from French Club for one quarter. Additionally, when the student joins the track team in the spring the student must serve a 3 meet suspension from the track team.

**Example #3:**

In November a student in the Diversity Club is identified as having violated the code of conduct of the consumption of alcohol. This student is suspended from Diversity Club for a quarter since Diversity Club is a non-performance activity. The student then is selected to be in the chorus of the musical. The musical has 5 performances (excluding dress rehearsal). Per the chart below, the student is not permitted to perform in the first two performances of the musical. Since this student served his participation-related suspension via the musical, he can participate in baseball games at the start of the spring season.

The examples above are intended for illustrative purposes only and do not encompass the entire range of situations and scenarios of violations and enforcement of this Code. The appropriate administrators have the sole and final discretion to apply consequences in a manner consistent with this Code.

#### **IV. . Appeal of Consequence**

Students who receive a consequence that results in the loss of more than 2/9ths of a season or participation period may appeal within five days of the imposition of the consequence to the applicable Principal. The Principal shall meet with the student and his/her parent(s) as well as the coach/advisor and/or Assistant Principal. During this meeting, the student will have an opportunity to explain his/her rationale for the alteration of the consequence imposed. Within five school days of this meeting, the Principal shall issue a written decision that either (1) upholds the imposed consequence; (2) determines an alternative consequence (consistent with this Code) or (3) refers the matter back to the Assistant Principal for some other consequence less than the previously imposed consequence.

The principal of the school building attended by the school has the final authority to hear all appeals. Students may not appeal a disciplinary decision resulting from this Code of Conduct beyond the building level.

#### **V. Reinstatement**

A student who is permanently removed from all extracurricular activities due to a violation of this Code of Conduct may apply to the applicable principal for reinstatement after one full year from the

date of the imposition of the consequence. The applicable Principal has the final authority to determine whether reinstatement will be granted.