

CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS

Participation on or in any athletic team, music group, club or co-curricular/extracurricular activity is a privilege which should elicit great pride in both the student and his/her family. It is also an acceptance of responsibility which requires an extra commitment from students who represent their school and community. Willingness to meet these standards is a condition for being a member of one of the Sachem School District's co-curricular/extra-curricular activities.

Our staff members are responsible for providing leadership, encouragement and direction to assist the student in meeting his/her personal commitment to their co-curricular/extracurricular activity. They are also responsible for providing the student with an opportunity to participate in an environment that fosters courtesy, respect and social responsibility. Staff members strive to enhance the academic pursuit of the student through participation in any of the district's co-curricular/extra-curricular activities.

Coaches/Advisors/Staff will:

1. Strive to enlarge their technical knowledge and develop wisdom and competency in the activity which they participate.
- 2 Enhance and protect the physical and mental well being of their students.
3. Teach students to respect self and all other individuals who are participating in any part or portion of the activity.
4. Strive to instill in students a desire to know and live by the spirit of the rules of the school district.
5. Help create an atmosphere of friendly participation wherein mutual respect and courtesy to all involved is the major focus.
6. Cooperate with administrators, faculty and other staff in maintaining and improving the quality of our schools.
7. Encourage the highest standards of academic and social achievement among our students.

A. Application of the Code

At the beginning of each year, as co-curricular/extra-curricular activities are approaching their respective starting dates, each student and their parent/guardian will be provided a copy of the Sachem School District "Student Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct." Attached to the code of conduct will be an acknowledgement and consent form which must be signed by both the student-participant and the parent/guardian prior to participation in any meeting, practice or activity with any district sponsored co-curricular/extra-curricular activity.

All violations of the code shall be considered cumulative for the school year. This does

not prohibit the district, building principals or program administrators from reviewing a student's discipline history when determining such student's eligibility to participate in any co-curricular/extra-curricular activity.

B. Conditions for Student Participation

1. Eligibility

The Board of Education has the authority to establish reasonable standards as prerequisites for eligibility for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. These standards apply to entry qualifications as well as continued participation in such activities.

Eligibility requirements should include academic standards, behavioral standards, and training standards. These standards should be applied equally to all student participants. All student participants, including athletes, should be informed that they have the obligation to act in a reasonable manner because of the leadership roles they play in the school environment.

Eligibility for co-curricular/extra-curricular activities shall be limited to children who are enrolled as students of the Sachem Central School District.

All students who participate in any co-curricular/extra-curricular activity will be expected to be academically eligible. Academic Eligibility will be determined by the official grades posted on a student's report card. Advisors/coaches must specify minimum school attendance requirements, and the minimum grade point average (GPA) they expect student participants to maintain. All such standards must be reasonable. The relationship between a student's GPA and his/her eligibility must be clearly explained to all student participants. Any student who fails 2 or more classes at the end of the marking period shall be placed on academic probation for the next 5 weeks. During the period of academic probation, the student will be permitted to continue his/her co-curricular/extra-curricular participation if the student demonstrates both of the following actions:

- (1) The student, in conjunction with the failed subject teacher, develops an action plan for academic improvement. The plan is subject to approval of the Co-Curricular Committee.
- (2) The student must demonstrate that he/she is no longer failing in more than one course by the time interim reports are submitted.

Any student who fails to demonstrate they have successfully completed both of the actions above shall be declared ineligible for participation in any co-curricular/extra-curricular activity for the duration of the marking period in which he/she was placed on probation.

NOTE: A student's eligibility for Quarter 1 will be determined by that student's report card for grades earned in Quarter 4 the previous school year. Any student who is denied

credit (DC) for failure to maintain regular attendance in one or more classes shall be academically ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity for the duration of the school year.

2. Attendance

Students who commit themselves to an activity membership are expected to be in attendance at meetings/practice/contests for the duration of the activity calendar. When this commitment is not fulfilled, the student's position in the activity shall be reviewed by the supervising staff member and a recommendation of consequences shall be forwarded by the supervising staff member to the building principal, program administrator (or both) for review.

Students are expected to attend all practices, meetings and contests unless excused by the staff supervisor. It is the student's responsibility to notify the staff supervisor, in advance, of any circumstances which would prevent the student's participation at practice(s), contest(s), or meeting(s) other than absence from school. Failure to comply may result in a dismissal from the activity, dependent upon the nature and/or seriousness of the offense.

A student who is absent from school will not be eligible for participation in any co-curricular activity session on the day he or she is absent. The building principal or program administrator may permit participation when, in his/her judgment, the absence is unavoidable and supporting documentation signed by a parent/guardian is provided. Students are, therefore, advised to make requests for absence(s) in advance.

Students who are members of co-curricular/extra-curricular activities are expected to be in school on a regular basis. Students will be ineligible for practice or contest participation that day if they do not sign in at the attendance office prior to the end of period 4 with a legitimate written excuse signed by a parent or guardian in order to be eligible for participation.

The activity supervisor will establish rules appropriate for the nature of the activity regarding attendance and participation. All student members shall be given a written copy of the team rules and the supervisor will review the rules with student members. Student members are expected to comply with and abide by the rules established for their respective activity.

A student's absence(s) from practice(s), meeting(s), and or contest(s) due to mandatory participation in school sponsored session extra-help will not jeopardize the student's membership status.

3. Misconduct

The use, sale and/or possession of any controlled substance(s), or other substances, including but not limited to, alcohol, tobacco products, drug paraphernalia, or

prescription medication, other than those prescribed by a physician for that student, or illicit substances as defined by the New York Penal Law is strictly prohibited.

As a member of any co-curricular/extra-curricular activity, students should be mindful that they represent their school and community. Student members are expected to and have an obligation to conduct themselves as productive citizens both in and out of school and the community. Students are expected to refrain from negative behavior(s), which violate the principles of good citizenship, and may bring embarrassment or unfavorable view to you, your classmates, teachers or community.

A student who participates in activities resulting in his/her arrest or formal charges being filed for breaking any law may face additional penalties under this Code. If the school district has adequate and corroborating evidence that the student participated in the offense for which he or she is charged, a penalty may be imposed under this Code prior to completion of the criminal proceeding. If the student is convicted of a crime (misdemeanor or felony), the penalty pursuant to this Code of Conduct shall be imposed upon conviction.

C. Offenses/Penalties

1.Prohibited Student Conduct (not intended to be all-inclusive)

Possession and/or Use of Drugs-The possession and/or use of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, and/or drugs or medications without a prescription for the person using the medication are strictly prohibited.

Possession and/or Use of Alcohol and Tobacco Products-The possession and/or use of alcohol and tobacco products are strictly prohibited.

Hosting or Drinking/Drug Parties-Students are prohibited from hosting/organizing or attending any gathering that involves, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, marijuana or illegal substances as defined by New York Penal Law.

Sachem School District Student Code of Conduct Violations-Any violation of the Sachem Schools Student Code of Conduct, resulting in an out-of-school suspension, will result in progressive levels of discipline as described within the Student Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activity Code of Conduct. The consequences imposed by the Student Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activity Code of Conduct will be in addition to those consequences imposed by the Sachem Schools Student Code of Conduct.

Hazing/Initiation Ceremony-Sachem Central School District staff will not permit any student to stage any type of "initiation ceremony" or hazing for any co-curricular activity or club, at any level.

Poor Sportsmanship-Students, whether participants or spectators, will portray appropriate behavior during all co-curricular/extra-curricular events. Booing, whistling, name calling, obscene gestures or arguing with the referee will not be tolerated.

Stealing-Stealing of any kind, including equipment, supplies, uniforms or any personal items belonging to the Sachem Central Schools or any staff members or student will not be tolerated.

Vandalism or Property Destruction-Vandalism or property destruction offenses may result in external suspension and appropriate penalties for violation of the Co-curricular/Extra-curricular Code of Conduct.

Verbal and/or Physical Abuse-directed at any individual will not be tolerated at any time.

Academic Achievement-Any student who fails 2 or more classes may be deemed ineligible for co-curricular/extra-curricular participation (see Conditions for Student Participation: Eligibility). Any student who receives one or more Denied Credit (DC) shall be deemed ineligible for co-curricular/extra-curricular participation (see Conditions for Student Participation: Eligibility).

2. Penalties

Students who are found to have violated the Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination:

- (1) Oral warning
- (2) Parent/Guardian notification
- (3) Written warning
- (4) Suspension from activity
- (5) Expulsion from activity for duration of co-curricular/extra-curricular season.
- (6) Ineligible for participation in any other activity for duration of school year.
- (7) Ineligible for participation in any activity for a period of one year, determined by the date of notification to the parent/guardian.

D. Due Process

Prior to the impositions of any penalty under the Code, the building principal and/or program administrator will notify the student of the nature of the infraction and the student will be given an opportunity to present his or her side of the issue.

E. Appeal Procedure

Students have a privilege, not a right, to participate in co-curricular/extra-curricular activities. Although the suspension and/or expulsion from participation in a co-

curricular/extra-curricular activity does not require a full hearing pursuant to Section 3214 of the Education Law, a student must be given the opportunity to appear informally before the Co-Curricular Review Committee. Appeals must be made, to the building Principal, in writing within three days of assignment of a penalty, for a violation of the code. The building Principal will notify the chairperson of the Co-Curricular Review Committee who will assemble the group. The Committee will consist of one district office administrator, one district administrator, one building administrator, two teachers and two parents.

The Co-Curricular Review Committee will meet within 48 hours upon receipt of a written notice from the affected student's penalty unless the committee members are unavailable. In such a circumstance, the committee will meet as soon as these individuals may be assembled.

Upon review of the appeal, the committee will render a decision. The building principal and/or program administration will notify the parent/guardian of the decision in writing.

F. Distribution of Policy

At the beginning of each school year, a copy of this policy will be distributed to all students attending grades 6-12. Students and their parents/guardians must review the policy, then sign and return this policy acknowledgement form to the administration office.

During the first meeting of the year for any co-curricular/extra-curricular activity, the activity advisor/coach shall review the policy with the respective participants to ensure the participants know and understand the policy contents.

In addition to this policy, all activity participants are subject to the terms of all other applicable Sachem Central School District Policies.

Revised Date: July 2, 2007

SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CO-CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS

Student Acknowledgement

I, _____, acknowledge that I have read the Sachem School District Co-Curricular Code of Conduct. I understand that my participation in any co-curricular activity is contingent upon my adherence to the Code. Finally, I acknowledge that any behavior on my part that violates the Code shall result in consequences described within the Code, which ultimately can result in dismissal from any and all co-curricular activities offered by the Sachem School District.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

I, _____, the parent/guardian of the above-named student acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree my son/daughter has my permission to participate in _____ (activity).

I understand that any behavior on my part that violates the Code shall result in consequences described within the Code which ultimately can result in dismissal from any and all co-curricular activities offered by the Sachem School District.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)