

## **Mission Statement**

The Extra-curricular code is designed to state expectations of those students who choose to represent Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Unit School District #5. The Board of Education believes that extra-curricular programs are a means of developing wholesome attitudes and positive human relations, as well as offering participants enhanced learning opportunities. The Board of Education recognizes the participation in all extra-curricular activities is a **privilege** and not a right. Students participating in extra-curricular activities are representatives of the school and community; therefore, when they choose to participate in an activity, the expectations are high, both while in school and out of school on a year-round basis.

## **Covered Activities**

The Board of Education recognizes the students participating in the following activities are representatives of the school and community, and such are subjected to the extra-curricular code:

### **\*All Interscholastic Activities**

Football	Boy's Track	Scholastic Bowl
Golf	Girl's Track	Speech Team
Volleyball	Baseball	Soccer
Tennis	Softball	Dance Team
Boy's Basketball	Cheerleading	Flags
Girl's Basketball	Wrestling	

### **\*Performance-based Activities (academic eligibility only)**

Variety Show  
Spring Musical  
I.H.S.A. Band Competitions  
I.H.S.A. Choral Competitions

## **General Policies and Procedures**

The following general policies and procedures apply to all extra-curricular activities at GCMS High School.

1. Students participating in athletic activities shall have on file in the office proof of a physical examination that covers the entire activity season in advance of being issued any school athletic equipment and /or participating in a school sponsored practice.
2. Students must have a signed agreement to participate in the random drug-testing program before participation in their activity. Students may not participate in any school-sponsored practice until this requirement is fulfilled.
3. All athletes must carry school insurance or have a current waiver signed and on file that verifies insurance coverage. Students may not participate in any school-sponsored practices until this requirement is fulfilled.
4. Each student is to have on file in the office an Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct Verification sheet signed by the student and a parent or legal guardian. Students may not participate in any school-sponsored practice until this requirement is fulfilled.
5. Misconduct at school, school sponsored activities, or in the community reflects on the image of students at Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley High School. Appropriate conduct is expected at all times.
6. Students must be in attendance at least ½ of the school day in order to participate or practice in that day's activity. The principal or his representative may, at his discretion, grant permission in an emergency or unusual situation when the student participant is unable to be in attendance. Doctor's appointments (verified by a note), funerals, white card days, and court ordered appearances would be excused. Students may participate on Saturdays after not being in attendance at school on Friday if deemed appropriate by the head coach.
7. All participants will ride in school-sponsored transportation unless the coach and the administration have approved special circumstances in advance. Any student going on the team bus must return home on the team bus. The only exception will be when a parent/guardian personally makes arrangements in writing with the coach in charge by signing the student out and taking responsibility for the student. Special arrangements to ride home with someone other than the student's parents/guardians must be made in advance of the contest. These arrangements must be made in writing by the parent/guardian and be approved by the administration.

8. Students who drive themselves to any contest will not be allowed to participate unless extenuating circumstances exist and arrangements are made with the coach and administration in advance of the contest.
9. All equipment issued is to be properly cared for and turned in at the conclusion of the season. Students will be responsible to pay for the replacement of all lost or damaged equipment. The student will not be able to participate in another sport or receive participation awards until all equipment has been returned in satisfactory condition and/or all replacement fees have been paid.
10. All injuries should be reported immediately to the coach in charge. The coach shall file an accident report in the office.
11. All participants shall be held responsible for all rules covered in the GCMS High School Student Handbook. Rules in the student handbook may take precedence over the rules in the extra-curricular code if applicable.

### **Extra-Curricular Attendance Guidelines**

1. Students are expected to attend all practices and games.
2. Students who are members of a team are expected to attend all games and practices held during school vacation periods and on Saturdays.
3. Students will be excused from such games and practices when parents give the coach prior written notice that their child will be involved in a family activity. Notice should be given as early as possible, but at least two days in advance. In case of an emergency verbal notice will be accepted.

### **Academic Requirements**

All participating students must meet scholastic requirements as stated by the I.H.S.A. and the Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Board of Education.

To be academically eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity a student must maintain a passing grade in all subjects. Eligibility is compiled and recorded on each Friday. Students who are determined ineligible will not be able to participate for the entire succeeding week. This week runs from Sunday through Saturday. Eligibility is determined by a cumulative grade for the entire semester. Students who are determined to be academically ineligible may not compete in interscholastic competition until ruled eligible. However, ineligible students should practice during this time.

If students receive no more than one failing grade on their weekly student eligibility they may remain eligible for up to three weeks with a failing grade in that subject only. If they receive a failing grade in more than one subject and/or they remain ineligible in a subject for more than three (3) weeks they are immediately ineligible for the succeeding week. Students may use this provision in each course only one time per semester.

Any student who fails two courses on his/her semester report card will be ineligible for all interscholastic competition during the following semester. He/she may begin participation the day following semester report card distribution if he/she has no more than one failing grade.

Students shall, unless entering high school for the first time, have credit on their records for twenty (20) credit hours (4 academic classes) of high school work for the previous semester. These credits must earn the equivalent of two (2) credits and count toward the requirements for graduation.

In all cases students must pass a minimum of twenty (20) credit hours per week. In addition to the above, all I.H.S.A. regulations concerning eligibility will be enforced.

### **Infractions**

A student will be subject to the Extra-Curricular Code if he/she commits any of the following infractions whether on or off school grounds and regardless of the time of year:

1. Any act of misconduct deemed by the coach or a school official to warrant disciplinary action can result in a consequence up to and including a First Infraction consequence. (Wording from previous codes)
2. Possession and or/use of tobacco in any form is prohibited. A violation of this nature will result in a consequence up to and including a First Infraction consequence. (Separated from alcohol violations)
3. Possession and/or use of alcohol, illegal drugs, controlled substances, or look-alike drugs, as well as substances whose use has not been authorized by parents/guardians or prescription. Possession of paraphernalia associated with the use of drugs will also constitute a violation. This includes violations discovered as result of a “positive” test result during random drug testing.
4. Distribution of alcohol, illegal drugs or any controlled substances mentioned in #3 of this section.
5. Hosting of or attendance at gatherings where the student may or reasonably should have know that drugs, alcohol, or any controlled substances mentioned in #3 or this section are being used and/or distributed illegally.
6. Criminal acts (excluding minor traffic tickets). Each case will be evaluated on an individual basis by the administration and coaching staff.

### **Penalties**

Conduct infractions will result in suspension from extra-curricular activities commencing on the date the infraction occurs or the administration learns of the violation. The parents/guardians will receive a letter notifying them of the infraction, the term of the suspension, including beginning and ending date. The letter will also include notice of their right to appeal and the procedures for appealing a suspension.

- The coach/sponsor, except for the infractions listed above, will determine the penalty for misconduct.
- Voluntary admission of a first infraction by a student or the student's parent wishing to seek help with a chronic alcohol, drug, or [tobacco problem](#) will not result in a suspension from extra-curricular activities, if they enroll in, and complete an approved program of treatment, [at their own cost](#). The admission will be counted as a first offense.
- In order to promote honesty, any student who voluntarily admits guilt to a school staff member may have his/her suspension for a First Infraction reduced by ten percent (10%).
- Any student discovered lying to avoid punishment for a First Infraction or Second Infraction will receive an additional ten percent (10%) of additional suspension time.
- If a rule is violated during the "off-season" or summer months the suspension will commence on the day of the first contest of the next extra-curricular activity in which the student should elect to participate.
- Should an infraction occur at the end of one extra-curricular activity, the suspension will commence with the first contest of the next extra-curricular activity in which the student chooses to participate.
- Suspensions may span multiple activities to complete the assigned suspension period.
- During suspension for a First Infraction, students will be required to participate with the team, travel to and from contests with the team bus, and sit with or near the team. The student may not attend the contests in uniform. [It is strongly recommended that students, intent on seeking a reduced suspension for a Second Infraction follow this same procedure.](#)
- A student is required to complete all requirements of an activity/season in order for a suspension to be fulfilled during said activity/season. If the student fails to complete the activity/season he/she will be required to serve the entire suspension during their next activity/season.
- [If a student commits an infraction while serving a suspension for a previous infraction, the student must complete the first infraction suspension before the suspension for the second infraction may begin.](#)

### **First Infraction**

For a first infraction, suspension for at least thirty percent (30%) of the season's scheduled contests rounded up to the nearest whole game and [fifteen hours of community service](#).

### **Second Infraction**

For a second infraction a student will be suspended for one calendar year. The [suspension may be reduced to fifty percent \(50%\) of the next season for which they are eligible, if the student completes a counseling program, approved by the administration,](#)

appropriate for the nature of the offense and completes forty hours (40) of community service.

### **Third Infraction**

Suspension for any third infraction may be for the remainder of the student's high school eligibility. After one calendar year, with no further infractions, completion of an approved counseling program, approved by the administration, and the completion of [eighty hours \(80\) of community service](#), the student and his/her parent/guardian may appeal to the Interscholastic Athletic Appeals Committee for reinstatement. The student and his/her parent/guardian must both meet with the committee to evaluate the student's performance in academics and attendance. Unexcused absences and/or out-of-school suspensions may eliminate the student from further extra-curricular participation. The appeal in no way guarantees the re-establishment of eligibility. Each appeal will be evaluated on an individual basis.

### **Coaches and Sponsors Rules and Guidelines**

Coaches or sponsors may have additional rules above and beyond the extra-curricular code that have been approved and are on file in the Principal's office. A copy of these rules along with the consequences shall be given to each participant at the beginning of the activity. The coaches' and sponsors' rules will be enforced only during the season that the student participates in that activity.

### **Extra-curricular Appeals Committee**

[The Extra-Curricular Appeals Committee will be comprised of two district administrators and two nonparticipating coaches](#), one of whom will be chosen by the principal and the other to be chosen by the student in question. The committee will consider and handle all appeals, which may arise regarding the policies contained within the Code of Conduct. The purpose of the Appeals Committee will be to:

1. Determine if there has been an infraction of the Code of Conduct.
2. Determine if the Code of Conduct was appropriately enforced.
3. Review applications for reinstatement of students after third infraction of extra-curricular code.
4. The Appeals Committee will not have the authority to modify the contents of the Code.

To appeal an athletic suspension the student and his/her parents/guardians must submit, in writing, a request for appeal within seven (7) days of any suspension from extra-curricular activities. The decision of the Appeals Committee will be final.

Participation in extra-curricular activities is to be considered a privilege and not a guaranteed right. To be competitive, proper conditioning and proper attitudes are

necessary. The foregoing training rules are those to which all students are expected to adhere throughout their high school career.

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