

## *ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES*

### **STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY SPORT IN AND EDUCATIONAL SETTING**

#### **Positive Experiences**

Extra-Curricular activities in District 99 provide students with opportunities for success and UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES. In the history of athletics/activities at District 99, there have been many outstanding programs and individuals. Many conference, district, regional, and sectional championships have been won. Many teams have been state place winners and many individuals have received recognition at the state and even national level. It is now time for you to add to this rich tradition. What legacy will you leave...as an individual...as a teammate? Welcome to District 99--one of the best programs in the state. Enjoy every minute of the experience because before you know it you will be an alumni wondering where the time went. While you are here remember our mantra—"good things happen to good people who work hard!"

#### **Student Centered Extra Curricular Program**

Our program is student-centered and reflects that we maintain the proper perspective of extra-curricular in an educational setting. That means we emphasize the core values of our program above all other things. We seek to instill the values of hard work, discipline, team work, confidence, character, academic success, and love of the game. We teach these values as we prepare our students to win. We feel that if we focus on these values we will build people of character that will be prepared to succeed after high school in whatever life endeavors they choose to pursue. Focusing on these values has also proven to bring us great success; a pleasant outcome of fulfilling the true purpose of activities in a school.

### **EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Attendance**

Students shall attend school daily and adhere to the specific attendance requirements for each activity/sport. We firmly believe that for students to attain their fullest potential, daily practice is essential. Non-attendance may result in a range of consequences from suspension from contests to dismissal from the team. Additionally, students shall NOT be allowed to participate in contests or practices unless they have attended at least a half a day of school (4 periods). Any special requests must be approved by Athletic Director or Assistant Principal for Activities.

#### **Academics**

It is an Illinois statute that students meet academic requirements in order to be eligible for IHSA competition (No Pass, No Play). All athletes at District 99 must be passing five (5) classes (2.5 credit hours including P.E.). Initial eligibility shall be checked at the beginning of the semester. Any athlete who did NOT pass five classes shall be ruled ineligible for the entire next semester. Additionally, weekly grade checks shall take place while sports are in season. Athletes must pass five classes each week to be eligible to compete. Those NOT passing five classes shall be suspended for the entire following week. Thus, the grade report on Friday shall be applied to the following Monday-Saturday playing schedule. Athletes who are ineligible due to academics shall be expected to practice and follow all team rules as per the rules and guidelines outlined by each Head Coach.

## Communication

As with everything we do, we believe in the primacy of “teachable moments.” When athletes are having an issue, we need to seize this opportunity to teach life skills to resolve conflict. Therefore, we expect athletes and parents to follow the “chain of command” when dealing with issues.

1. Athlete contacts the coach
2. Athlete contacts the Head Coach
3. Parent contacts the coach
4. Parent contacts the Athletic Department
5. Parent contacts Principal.

If these steps are followed, concerns shall be heard by the appropriate person in the proper venue and resolution will follow.

## Exemption for Participation in Interscholastic Athletics (Board policy 6.50)

An eleventh or twelfth grade student enrolled in a District 99 school may request exemption from physical education activity if he/she is participating in interscholastic athletics. The decision to exempt will be made on a case by case basis and shall not be automatically renewed. A P.E. Exemption form (available in the athletic office) must be completed by the student and the parent/guardian and submitted to the AD Office. A request for exemption from P.E. may be approved for one semester only, may be extended within the same school year pending verification of continued student eligibility. A student exempted from P.E. under the provisions of this policy must maintain a full schedule of classes during the entire period of the exemption. I understand that if a PE exemption is approved for participation in interscholastic athletics and I do not participate in the sports or if I drop out of the sport, I must re-enroll in a Physical Education class immediately. I also understand that it is my responsibility to initiate this action. If it is late enough in a semester where earning credit is not possible, I understand that I will be responsible for making up the PE credit in order to meet District 99 graduation requirements. Making up the PE credit may require changes in a student’s schedule and loss of a scheduled course(s).

## Athlete Code of Conduct

### Application

1. This code shall apply year round to all students who participate in extra-curricular activities involving competition or public performance—it is not a seasonal code.
2. Violations are accumulated throughout a student’s career at DISTRICT 99; thus the number of violations carryover from year to year as the athlete progresses from freshman to senior status.
3. *Reports of Code violations shall be reviewed by administration.*
4. *Any violations of the Code should be reported to the administration immediately. Any extended time between the violation and the reporting may limit administrative ability to enforce the Code.*
5. Students who violate the code must serve the penalties as outlined herein and/or complete prescribed programs as outlined prior to re-entry into extra-curricular activity.
6. While on suspension from and activity/sport, students must nevertheless practice, unless barred from practice as part of their disciplinary action, and follow all rules

- and regulations for the sport/activity if they intend to rejoin the team/squad.
7. Students who are serving a code violation consequence must complete their suspension during the season and finish the season in good standing. This means the suspension will not be declared served if the student quits the team or does not finish the season—even a partially served suspension.
  8. If a Code suspension cannot be served in its entirety during a particular activity/sport, the remaining portion of the suspension shall continue to the next activity/sport season in which the student participates.
  9. Failure to sign/accept the Code of Conduct does not exclude a student from being held accountable for the rules and regulations of this policy. Those choosing not to sign/accept the Code shall not be allowed to compete.

The Athlete Code of Conduct cannot anticipate every circumstance that may occur and, therefore, the District reserves the right to revise, supplement, deviate from or rescind any provision or portion of the Code from time to time **as school administration deems appropriate in its sole and absolute discretion**. The District will endeavor to post the most current version of the Code on the athletic web site and also make copies available in the Athletic Office. It is the responsibility of the student/family to check for updates and be aware of revisions regardless of the sport season in which they are active.

### Violations

The following rules apply regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property; before, during or after school hours; and apply year round regardless of whether the student's sport or activity is in season or not:

- A. Students shall not possess, actively seek, solicit, sell, or be under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs/controlled substances, look-alike drugs, steroids or other illegal performance enhancing drugs/supplements, or possess drug related paraphernalia.
- B. Students shall not attend or host a party primarily attended by students or for the benefit of students at which alcohol, tobacco, or any controlled substances are provided or at which the use of any such substances is permitted.
- C. Theft, possession of stolen property, or destruction of property.
- D. Hazing acts, initiations, or bullying (as outlined in appendix 1)**
- E. Serious acts which are determined by the Administration to be detrimental to the individual, the coach, the team, or the school.
- F. Acts which violate the Student Handbook.

### Consequences

The following consequences are guidelines which will be followed by the Athletic Director, Activities Director, or the Administration. Should such person or persons determine that the violation or violations committed are sufficiently serious to warrant such, any step may be omitted and any more serious consequence, up to and including permanent removal from athletics/activities, may be imposed.

1st Offense: The student shall lose eligibility for upcoming interscholastic contests or public performances totaling 25% of the total schedule. In cases of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs, a reduction to 10% of the total schedule may be awarded should a substance assessment and intervention program\* be completed through the

Student Assistance Coordinator. Programs must be approved by the Student Assistance Coordinator and all costs incurred are the responsibility of the student and his/her family. Please see below for specific regulations regarding the reduction option.

2nd Offense: The student shall lose eligibility for the next interscholastic contests or public performances the equivalent of one full season. The exact amount shall depend upon the activity in which the student has or shall be participating.

3rd Offense: The student shall be permanently suspended from participation in extra-curricular activities for the remainder of their high school career. The student may appeal the Principal in writing for reinstatement after one calendar year.

\*Programs must be approved by the Student Assistance Coordinator OR Athletic Director, Activities Director, or Principal and all costs incurred are the responsibility of the student and his/her family. The assessment must occur within 10 business days of the first consultation with the Student Assistance Coordinator.

If a program is recommended by the assessor, the student/family are responsible for submitting written proof of registration to that program within 5 business days of that recommendation to the appropriate school Administrator. Failure to comply with these deadlines will result in the full 25% suspension being reinstated.

Students may participate in contests/performances while completing the recommended program from the assessor. Written notification of completion of the program must be presented to the Administration within 10 business days of the concluding date of the program as outlined in the initial enrollment in the program.

#### Voluntary Admission for Violations A and B

The purpose of this provision is to allow the student to seek help and be accountable for their decisions. At any time, the student may voluntarily admit a personal code violation prior to school official's knowledge. In these cases, the student may continue uninterrupted eligibility when it is verified that enrollment in and continuing participation is taking place in a school recognized substance assessment and intervention program. Programs must be approved by the Student Assistance Coordinator OR Athletic Director, Activities Director, or Principal and all costs incurred are the responsibility of the student and his/her family. The voluntary admission will be counted as one code violation. Voluntary admission may be used by a student one time during high school. All evaluations and treatments will be at the parent/student expense. Voluntary admission cannot be used for cases in which there was an arrest or other official documentation filed. Administration reserves the right to nullify the application of this provision if violations are of such a serious nature and are determined to be detrimental to the student, the team, or the school.

## *Appendix 1*

### **HAZING**

It is the policy of Community High School District 99 (7.180) that no student organization or any person associated with any organization sanctioned by the School Board shall engage or participate in hazing.

Hazing is an act that subjects a student to electronic, written, physical, or verbal harassment, mental or physical discomfort, intimidation, embarrassment, ridicule, or demeaning activity committed by an individual student or group of students for the purpose of initiation, maintaining membership, or holding office in any organization, club, or athletic team.

“Endanger the physical health” shall include, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as:

- whipping;
- beating;
- branding;
- forced calisthenics;
- exposure to the elements;
- forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage, drug or controlled dangerous substance;
- or any forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.

“Endanger the mental health” shall include any activity, except those activities authorized by law, which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as:

- prolonged sleep deprivation,
- forced prolonged exclusion from social contact which could result in extreme embarrassment,
- or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

Any hazing activity, upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization sanctioned or authorized by the School Board is conditioned, directly or indirectly, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if the student willingly participates in such activity.

Examples of behavior that could be considered hazing include being forced to:

1. Destroy or steal property.
2. Be tied up, taped or confined in a small space.
3. Be paddled, whipped, beaten, kicked or beat up others.
4. Do embarrassing, painful or dangerous acts.
5. Be kidnapped or transported and abandoned.
6. Consume spicy or disgusting concoctions.

7. Be deprived of sleep, food or hygiene.
8. Engage in or simulate sexual acts.
9. Participate in drinking contests.
10. Be tattooed or pierced.

## **Hazing Complaint Procedure**

### **Complaints**

A student who feels that he or she has been bullied, hazed, harassed, or cyber bullied should inform a School District staff member. All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the principal or his/her designee. All other members of the school community, including students, parents/legal guardians, volunteers and visitors, are encouraged to report any act that may be a violation of this policy.

More Information and examples of hazing can be obtained at: [Stophazing.org](http://Stophazing.org)

## **CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

A current list of clubs and sponsors is available in the Student Activities Office and on the Student Activities Website.