

Evanston Township High School EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY CODE

Revised July, 2007

Name _____ Activity _____ ID# _____

BEHAVIOR REQUIREMENTS

Evanston Township High School encourages student participation in extra-curricular activities. Participation can provide enjoyment and at the same time teach discipline, leadership, teamwork, respect for rules and healthful living habits. Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Each student who participates in an extra-curricular activity represents not only himself/herself but Evanston Township High School as well. Student participants in extra-curricular activities always bear the responsibility of representing themselves as good citizens and positive role models. ETHS has the authority to restrict or revoke a student's privilege to participate in an extra-curricular activity.

Code Participants

Students involved in the following activities ("participants") are responsible for adhering to the rules of this Code: Aquettes, athletics, cheerleading, Chess Club, choral music (music department performance groups), DECA, debate team, Esande dance, FCCLA, instrumental music (performance groups/ensembles), JETS, WKIT News, Mathletes, Mock Trial, Model UN, PomKits, Scholastic Bowl, Science Olympiad, speech team, student athletic trainers, theater companies and stage crews, Ultimate Frisbee, Willie Wildkit, Writers' Showcase and YAMO.

Period & Scope of Code

Extra-curricular participants are expected to adhere to the Code not only during their scheduled season of activity, but also during the entire regular school attendance year, including weekends and school holidays. This Code is also in effect during periods before and after the regular school attendance year when athletic teams are formally practicing or when other school activities subject to the Code are in progress. The code is in effect throughout a participant's high school career at ETHS.

This Code applies to any ETHS participant, before or after school hours, on or off school property, whose conduct at any time or place has a direct or immediate effect on the safety and welfare of the school community. School officials are not expected to monitor off-campus activities; however, if violations of this Code are brought to their attention, the appropriate administrator will be notified and the administrator will take action.

School Discipline

Participants are also responsible for adhering to the rules in *The Pilot*. If a participant is suspended from school (inside or outside), he/she is not allowed to practice, participate or attend the activity on or during the day(s) of the suspension. The participant may return to his/her activity the day following the suspension. The rules of behavior as detailed in *The Pilot* are also in effect for participants during their participation at school sponsored activities.

Violations

The following behaviors are unacceptable and violate the Extra-curricular Activity Code:

1. Use, distribution or possession of alcohol or other mood-altering chemicals, or abuse of prescription or non-prescription drugs, as stated in *The Pilot*.
2. Attending a gathering or riding in a vehicle where there is a verified report of drinking or drug use.
3. Any inappropriate behavior, as set forth in *The Pilot*, that results in a 5-day out of school suspension. This includes, but is not limited to, violations such as: cheating; fighting; gambling; verbal abuse which is disruptive or which is profane, vulgar or obscene; robbery, theft or vandalism of any school, personal or public property; and participation in illegal gang activities, including gang-related intimidation or harassment.
4. Any criminal offense.
5. Any gross unsportsmanlike conduct while a participant in or spectator at an ETHS sponsored event.

Consequences

Code violations accumulate throughout a student's high school career at ETHS. The following consequences are entirely separate from those provided in the District 202 disciplinary policies as stated in *The Pilot*.

First offense: A participant is required to successfully complete a school-based educational program appropriate to the infraction (if a program is available). Educational program meetings may not align with suspension days. In addition, the participant is suspended for 5 consecutive days of the activity, including practices, rehearsals, contests, and performances occurring during this five-day period (not to exceed one calendar month). In addition, if there is no contest or performance during this five-day suspension period, then first offenders will also be suspended the next contest or performance. If the violation occurs prior to the start of the activity, students will be permitted to attend the full tryout/audition, if required, in order to participate in that activity. The suspension will take place immediately following the conclusion of tryouts/auditions. If the participant chooses not to attend the school-based educational program, the consequence is doubled.

Regarding Co-Curricular performance-based activities, i.e. Jazz Band, Marching Band: a participant is suspended from the next performance. All school-based educational program requirements as stated above apply.

Second offense: A participant is suspended from competitions/performances for a minimum of 1/3 (one-third) of his/her season and is required to successfully complete the school-based educational program appropriate to the infraction. For athletics, the number of competitions in a season is defined by the maximum number of competitions allowed during the regular season by the IHSA. Attendance or participation at practice/rehearsal during the suspension is mandatory.

Regarding Extra-Curricular culminating performance-based activities with 3 or less total performances, the student will forfeit 2 performances.

Third offense: A participant is suspended from all activities for one calendar year and is required to successfully complete the school-based educational program appropriate to the infraction.

Fourth offense: A participant is no longer eligible to participate in ETHS high school extra-curricular activities for the duration of his/her high school career.

Senior Code violation: Any senior who has completed his/her extracurricular activity and commits a Code violation is given a choice of successfully completing a school-based educational program appropriate to the infraction or social probation, which includes no participation in prom or graduation ceremonies.

A participant must participate for the entire length of his/her activity in order for the consequences to be considered fulfilled. A student who drops out of an activity will be required to fulfill the consequences of his/her violation in the next activity in which he/she participates.

Each coach or sponsor, with approval from the appropriate administrator, may develop rules for his/her specific activity in addition to *The Pilot* and this code.

Self-Reporting

If a participant has no prior Extra-Curricular Activity Code violations, his/her voluntary admission of alcohol or drug use to a school administrator will not result in a suspension, but will be considered the participant's first Extra-Curricular Activity Code offense. In such cases, a mandatory conference with the Student Assistance Services coordinator is required. The purpose of this provision is to assist students in changing behaviors and to allow them to seek help. Voluntary admission must occur prior to any school personnel or police being aware of the incident through other sources than the student.

Procedure

Participants charged with any of the above violations will be informed by an administrator of the nature of the charges and the facts gathered and will be given an opportunity to respond before any consequences are imposed. If a participant disagrees with the administrator's final decision, a written request for appeal must be received by the administrator within 3 school days of the participant being informed of the decision. The written request must include a statement of the reasons for the student's disagreement and any special circumstances which apply to the situation which should be considered during the appeal. The appeal for athletics shall be before the Assistant Superintendent/Principal. The appeal for all other non-athletic extra-curricular activities shall be before the Associate Principal, grades 11 and 12. The decision of this administrator shall be final.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Semester Eligibility

Academic success for all ETHS students is a priority of the school. In order to participate in an extra-curricular activity, a student must have earned a minimum 2.0 GPA for the semester immediately preceding his/her participation. Summer school grades are included in second semester grades. For eligibility purposes, the participant's **physical education grade is included** in the GPA. In addition, an **N/C or grade of Incomplete is computed as an F** for the purpose of extra-curricular eligibility.

Extra-curricular Activity Program

Students who do not meet the 2.0 GPA requirement from the previous semester may qualify for the Extra-curricular Activity Program ("EAP"). The EAP provides the participant with academic support for the entire semester and allows the participant to participate in extra-curricular activities that semester. In order to qualify for this one-time opportunity, a student must either be: 1) a freshman/sophomore who earned between a 1.7 and 1.999 GPA the previous semester or 2) a junior/senior who earned between a 1.7 and 1.999 GPA the previous semester and has a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above. An EAP contract must be signed by the parent, student, coach/sponsor and the Extracurricular Academic Support Advisor (EASA) and approved by the Athletic Director/Fine Arts Chairperson/Extra-Curricular Activities Director. If the EAP participant does not meet the requirements and expectations of the EAP, he/she may be suspended from the activity for the duration of the semester. **Students may access this EAP opportunity only once during their high school career.**

Weekly Eligibility & Required Academic Support

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) has specific academic requirements, which must be met on an ongoing basis. Specifically, a participant must be passing a minimum of four classes in order to participate in contests, meets, or performances for the next week beginning on Monday. Weekly grade checks are done for participants while they are participating in their activity to determine their eligibility.

In addition, the new Systems of Support program (SOS) identifies students who are in need of extra academic support. If a student is placed in the SOS program while participating in his/her extra-curricular activity, he/she must comply with the SOS weekly requirements in order to remain eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities.

AVAILABILITY OF THE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY CODE

This Code is posted and available in the Athletic Office, Student Activities Office, Fine Arts Office, on the ETHS web site and is summarized in the ETHS *Pilot*. All participants and their parents/guardians are expected to have obtained a copy of the Code from one of these sources, and to have read the Code prior to the students' participation in an extra-curricular activity. Participation in an extra-curricular activity constitutes a student's understanding of, and agreement to abide by, the provisions of the Code. Any questions regarding the Code should be addressed to the coach or sponsor of the activity. Any specific rules developed by a coach or sponsor for a particular activity will be posted in an appropriate location and distributed to each participant.

Failure to return a properly signed Code will prevent a student from participating in an activity.

I have read and I understand the above expectations and consequences of the Extra-Curricular Activity Code.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date