

# WEST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL

## ATHLETIC & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

### **RATIONALE**

West Aurora High School encourages all students to take advantage of school sponsored athletics and extra-curricular activities. These programs are designed to enhance the well-balanced educational programming offered by District 129 and provide students with life lessons and skills necessary for success. Students, who choose to participate in an activity with a performance-based element, represent West Aurora High School, District 129, and the Aurora community. Participants make a commitment to their peers and coaches/sponsors to follow rules and conform their conduct, at all times, to the highest standards. Participants, whether in or out of uniform, are not only responsible for their own reputations, but also that of their families, team, and school. Participation is a privilege, not a right.

### **THE CODE APPLIES TO**

The Code of Conduct applies to all students attending West Aurora High School, who participate in an activity, outside of the school day, with a performance-based element. All extra-curricular activities are exempt from academic merit. Activities covered under the Code include, but are not limited to the following:

- |                     |                      |                         |            |              |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------|--------------|
| *All Athletic Teams | *Pom and Cheer Teams | *Theatrical Productions | *Madrigals | *Club Sports |
| *Speech Team        | *Chess Team          | *CAD Drafting Team      | *FCCLA     | *DECA        |

### **WHEN THE CODE APPLIES**

The Code of Conduct is activated the first time a high school student becomes a member of an athletic team or extra-curricular activity. The Code applies to all student participants, twelve (12) months of the year, seven (7) days of the week, twenty-four (24) hours a day. It remains in effect in and out of season, on and off school grounds, and until commencement or withdrawal from District 129.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS**

Student participants must conduct themselves as good citizens and exemplars of West Aurora High School and District 129. Disciplinary violations that enact the Code of Conduct are as follows:

- Possession/use/distribution of tobacco, hookah, and/or electronic-tobacco products
- Possession/use/distribution of illegal drugs, look-a-like drugs, or drug paraphernalia
- Possession/use/distribution of illegal performance enhancing drugs or supplements
- Possession/use/distribution of alcoholic beverages
- Engaging in hazing or any type of bullying or aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to another or urging of other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to any use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear, harassment, or hazing (either in person or by electronic means).
- Criminal acts or serious acts, including but not limited to, theft, possession of stolen property, or destruction of property, which are determined to be detrimental to the individual, the coach, team, or school district by the Athletic Director, Activity Director, or Building Administration.
- Acts resulting in arrest or a pending police report

### **CONSEQUENCES**

#### ***First Offense***

A student, who violates the Code of Conduct for a first offense, will be issued a suspension totaling 50% of the entire competition season of an athletic or performance-based activity. The suspension must be served during the dates assigned by the athletic director or administration. Depending on the time left in the season, the suspension may transfer to the next season, activity, or school year.

#### ***First Offense Reduction Option:***

This option allows a student who violated the Code, for the first time, to reduce their suspension from 50% of the entire performance season, to 25%. A student wishing to utilize this reduction option will need to participate in a District 129-approved assessment, counseling, or community service option, appropriate to the offense. *Note: District 129 is not responsible for any cost incurred in an assessment or counseling option. This option is not available when there is a pending police report or when an arrest has been made.*

#### ***Second Offense***

A student being issued a Code of Conduct violation for a second offense will be issued a suspension totaling 50% of the entire competition season of an athletic or performance-based activity. The suspension must be served during the dates assigned by the Athletic Director or Administration, and depending on the time left in the season the suspension may transfer to the next season, activity, or school year. *Note: There is no reduction option available for the second or subsequent offenses.*

#### ***Third Offense***

A student being issued a Code of Conduct violation for a third offense will be permanently removed from all West Aurora High School athletics, extra-curricular activities, contests, practices, or performance events for the remainder of the student's high school career.

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#### **CONDITIONS OF THE REDUCTION OPTION**

When a student chooses to participate in the first offense reduction option, he or she is required to follow the recommendations resulting from the evaluation or treating professional. Documentation of such program or evaluation must be provided to the Athletic Director or Administration. Once treatment is completed, documentation verifying the completion should also be presented to the Athletic Director or Administration. *Note: District 129 is not responsible for any cost incurred in an assessment or counseling option. This option is not available when there is a pending police report or an arrest has been made.*

#### **REVIEW PROCESS**

A student or parent/guardian may request an appeal to the disciplinary actions as a result of the Code violation to the building Principal or designee within five (5) days of notification. The request to appeal must be given in writing to the athletic director or administration. During the appeal process, the imposed discipline will remain in effect. The principal or designee's decision on the appeal is final.

#### **IHSA SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

IHSA Board Policy states that students must pass five classes per week to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics and activities. Additionally, students must pass five classes per semester in order to be eligible for participation in the subsequent semester. No student that has graduated from a four-year high school or its equivalent is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics or activities.

Any student that transfers to West Aurora High School should contact the athletic director to determine his/her eligibility for athletics in accordance with the IHSA By-Laws.