

Byron-Bergen Central School District

Extracurricular Activities Student Code

(Revised, August 2013)

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege that entails increased responsibility on the part of students who choose to participate.

Overview:

The Byron-Bergen Board of Education believes that involvement in extracurricular activities is an integral part of a student's total educational program as it forms a connection between the student and the school community and nurtures each student's special interests and abilities. The intent of these regulations is to foster and promote good citizenship, sportsmanship and conduct by all students. Students and their parents will be expected to read and comply with this extracurricular activity code and sign a "Signature of Agreement Form" prior to participation in any and all extracurricular activities **for each school year.**

Extracurricular participation is defined as involvement in any non-credit bearing, school sponsored organization or activity, including class organizations, clubs and athletic teams. As representatives of our school and community, students are expected to exemplify positive role models. For this reason, additional protocols regarding the use of alcohol, tobacco, performance enhancing substances, illegal chemical substances, as well as, citizenship and sportsmanship are required by the Byron-Bergen Central School District. Therefore, students are expected to use good judgment and avoid situations in which alcohol or other drugs are being used illegally. Further, students are expected to engage in behavior that demonstrates the ideals of good citizenship. This code of conduct will be applied for one calendar year from the time you sign. Violations will carry over from year to year. For instance, the first time you violate the drug / alcohol policy you will be on strike one for the remainder of your athletic career, or until graduation.

Decisions involving improper student conduct are made collaboratively between the coach and the Athletic Director for athletic team violations and the activity advisor and Building Principal for extracurricular activity violations. If a student disputes the findings of the investigating administrator decisions involving student conduct relating to drugs, alcohol, and tobacco will be decided upon by the Extracurricular Activities Code Committee.

Citizenship:

Extracurricular participants are expected to follow the rules and regulations of the school district as stated in the District's Code of Conduct. A few examples of unacceptable behavior are: truancy, insubordination, hazing, vandalism, academic dishonesty, bullying/cyber threats, stealing and violation of the rights of others. Each member of an extracurricular activity or athletic team is expected to do the following: attend all practice sessions or meetings, refrain from all profane and vulgar language, demonstrate good sportsmanship and cooperative attitudes, and treat all officials, coaches, advisors, and spectators with respect.

As school representatives, students are expected to be positive role models through their own actions. Actions meant to demean officials and other participants do not support the highest

ideals of interscholastic and extracurricular activities and will not be tolerated. Consequences for displaying poor citizenship and sportsmanship can result in a suspension from the extracurricular activity ranging from one day to one year based on the nature and level of severity of the offense as determined cooperatively by the Athletic Director, coach/advisor and Building Principal.

Behavior and Conduct of Participants:

Good community citizenship is required of all participants of extracurricular activities and involves following a high standard of behavior and conduct while in or out of the school setting. Students are expected to follow all laws, school policies, and regulations. Any student who is arrested or receives an appearance ticket by police may be suspended from all extracurricular activities until the infraction can be investigated by the Athletic Director/Building Principal

- a. Extracurricular participants who violate the Byron-Bergen Code of Conduct may be subject to additional disciplinary action by the coach/advisor. This will result in a variety of consequences ranging from a temporary suspension to dismissal from the activity depending upon the severity of the offense. Disciplinary decisions that may result in a lengthy suspension (for an entire practice, game/performance or more) or dismissal from the extracurricular activity must be approved by the building principal.
- b. Extracurricular participants who violate the law may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach/ advisor after an investigation. This may result in consequences ranging from temporary suspension to dismissal from the activity depending upon the severity of the offense. Disciplinary decisions that may result in a lengthy suspension (for an entire practice, game/performance or more) or dismissal from the extracurricular activity must be approved by the building principal.
- c. Students engaging in criminal activity prior to the commencement of an extracurricular activity may be barred from participation for that activity provided that the Athletic Director/Building Principal determines that the student was, in fact, arrested or issued an appearance ticket which makes participation in all extracurricular activity inappropriate.

Responsibilities of Spectators:

Students representing and attending events involving the Byron-Bergen School District will recognize and show appreciation for both Byron-Bergen and the opposing athletic teams or participants in an extracurricular activity. Admission to an event extends the privilege of observing a contest and is a contract for its holder to act in an appropriate and sportsmanlike manner. Students are expected to respect the integrity and judgment of contest officials and learn the rules of the game so that they may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.

Equipment/Supplies:

Each Student / Athlete / Parent will sign an equipment loan form. Please be aware that you are accepting school property when you join an athletic team. As such, you are responsible for

any and all athletic clothing that you are given. In the event that any piece is not returned please be aware that you will be financially responsible for the cost of replacement.

Attendance:

Students are required to attend all classes during the school day in order to participate in extracurricular activities after school. The exception is made for a bona fide appointment such as dentist, doctor, court, or college visitation or other absences deemed legal by New York State Education law other than illness and must be verified by an appropriate legal written excuse.

- a. **Absences:** If a student has an unexcused absence, is truant, suspended in or out of school, or excused from any part of the school day due to illness, s/he may not participate in any extracurricular activity that day. If a suspension spans a weekend, the student may not participate in any extracurricular events that weekend.
- b. **Tardy:** Any student who is late to school is considered tardy. S/he must sign in at the attendance office and report to the Building Principal to get permission to participate that day. The building principal will consider the circumstance and frequency of previous tardies to determine the student's status for participating in an activity for that day. If tardiness is not a reoccurring problem, permission to participate in extracurricular events will be granted. If tardiness has been a problem, the student is not allowed to participate that day and a suspension of the next scheduled activity may occur by the Building Principal.

Students who are tardy to school and do not report to the appropriate school office upon arrival to school will not participate in that day's activity and may be suspended from the next activity.

- c. **Absence Following Extracurricular Events:** Each student must make every effort to attend school the day following an extracurricular activity. If a pattern of absences develops following an extracurricular activity, the coach/advisor will take appropriate disciplinary action. If absences occurring after an extracurricular event are an ongoing problem as deemed by the Building Principal, participation in the next scheduled extracurricular or athletic activity may be suspended.

Extracurricular Rules Established by Coach/Advisor:

In addition to the extracurricular rules set forth in this policy, the individual coach/advisor may establish rules for the activity above and beyond what is outlined in this policy. Some areas regulated by the coach/advisor rules may be, but are not limited to, curfews, lateness to an activity, or insubordination to the coach/advisor. Violations to these rules may range from a warning, to suspension, to dismissal from the extracurricular activity. Disciplinary decisions that may result in a lengthy suspension (for an entire practice, game/performance or more) or dismissal from the extracurricular activity must be approved by the building principal.

Extracurricular Activities Code Committee (EACC):

The Extracurricular Activities Code Committee (EACC) is responsible for reviewing information

presented regarding an alleged drug/alcohol/tobacco violation in which the student or family of that student disputes the guilt of that student. When needed, the EACC will meet within a reasonable time following an alleged alcohol, tobacco, or drug related incident. The committee will be presented with the facts compiled by the building principal, including any additional statements from the student and/or parent. The committee will make a determination based on the information provided.

The Committee shall consist of the Athletic Director, one school District health professional (school nurse or physician), one teacher (secondary level), and one teacher (elementary level). Student-Athletes awaiting a review from the EACC may be subject to suspension on the interim basis from the coach/advisor, Athletic Director, or Building Principal. The EACC has discretion in assigning penalties in cases it reviews.

Drugs & Alcohol: We believe strongly in educating students in the areas of substance abuse. Any student illegally using or possessing alcohol or tobacco or using, possessing, buying, or selling illegal substances may be denied participation or face suspension of games or contests.

Offenses are defined as drug, tobacco, and/or alcohol use, possession, or attending a gathering where a student knows that drugs, and/or tobacco, and/or alcohol are being used.

First Offense

A. (1) Athletes: For minor infractions (ie. being at a party with alcohol/guilty by association, caught smoking/using chewing tobacco). Exclusion from participation in interscholastic sports for 25 percent of the total number of games. In addition, it may be required that a mandatory evaluation and/or counseling by the Genesee Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse or an alternative source or agency take place.

(2) Non-Athletes in Competitive/Performing Groups: Exclusion from participation in the competitive/performing group. In addition, it may be required that a mandatory evaluation and/or counseling by the Genesee Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse or an alternative source or agency take place. (Due to the variations among the non-athletic competitive/performing groups, the administrator/ review committee needs to have the appropriate flexibility in determining a penalty.)

OR

B. For major infractions (ie. possession of illegal substances, under the influence of illegal substances or alcohol) Exclusion from participation in interscholastic sports and extra curricular activities for five (5) school months to run consecutively into the next school year, if necessary.

Second Offense

A. (1) Athletes: For minor infractions (ie. being at a party with alcohol/guilty by association, caught smoking/using chewing tobacco) Exclusion from participation in interscholastic sports for 50 percent of the total number of games in addition to agreeing to an evaluation and/or counseling by the Genesee Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse or an alternative source or agency acceptable to the District until dismissed from the program by the agency.

(2) Non-Athletes in Competitive and/or Performing Groups: Exclusion from participation in the competitive/performing group. In addition, it will be required that a mandatory evaluation and/or counseling by the Genesee Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse or an alternative source or agency take place. (Due to the variations among the non-athletic competitive/performing groups, the administrator/ review committee needs to have the appropriate flexibility in determining a penalty.)

OR

B. . For major infractions (ie. possession of illegal substances, under the influence of illegal substances) Exclusion from participation in interscholastic sports and extra curricular activities for ten (10) school months to run consecutively into the next school year, if necessary.

Third Offense and all subsequent offenses

For any infraction, minor or major, committed by someone for the third time may include: Exclusion from participation in interscholastic sports and extra curricular activities for ten (10) school months to run consecutively into the next school year, if necessary.

Consequences at all levels of offenses pertaining to this code are in effect from one sport season or extracurricular activity to the next (e.g., student plays football and basketball but is not able to serve all the game suspension during football season, then the remaining games will be served during basketball season).

Offenses are consecutive and penalties accrue from one year to the next.

OR

The student athlete may be excluded from participation for the rest of their academic career.

Consequences for Tobacco Use:

Any student who possesses, smokes, or uses a tobacco product or snuff, on or off school grounds is violating this policy and subject to penalties outlined in this document. The student is encouraged to consult with the family doctor to seek appropriate medical intervention to address their use of tobacco. If the student provides verification from the physician that s/he is actively involved in abstaining from tobacco, the Athletic Director/Building Principal may decide to lessen the period of suspension by not more than half of the period of suspension.

Criminal Offense

In the event you are charged with a crime you will be suspended from the extracurricular activity pending administrative review by principal and/or superintendent.

Self-Referrals for Assistance with Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse

A student who self-refers him/herself for alcohol and/or drug abuse is not exempt from the penalties and procedures outlined in this policy.

If a student verifies that s/he has pursued an evaluation and recommended treatment with a New York State certified substance abuse counselor or agency, s/he lessens the period of suspension by no more than half of the period of the suspension. The student and parents may consult with a member of the student support or counseling staff to obtain an appropriate referral for counseling services.

Attending Gatherings:

A student present at locations where he/she knows that the use of alcohol and/or other illegal substances is/are occurring, will be subject to the same penalty as those involved with use or possession.

Quitting the Team:

It is highly desired that student-athletes refrain from quitting an interscholastic athletic team. If a student quits a team after the team has already begun to compete in games or meets, a meeting will occur between the coach, parent, athletic director, and building administrator. The student will be suspended from 25 percent of the next athletic season in which they choose to participate. In the event of a hardship forcing an athlete to discontinue participation, the athletic director and building principal will determine whether a suspension is warranted.

Violation Reports and Penalties:

Extracurricular Code of Conduct violation reports will be accepted only from coaches, administrators, teachers, school personnel or police officers who have personal knowledge of the violation. Violation Reports are submitted directly to the Athletic Director/Building Principal. It is the responsibility of the coach/advisor to inform the student's parent of the violation. Substantiated violations of this code will result in penalties ranging from suspension to dismissal from the extracurricular activity as listed in the general rules of conduct.

Alleged violations from all other sources must be based on personal knowledge, and addressed directly to the Superintendent of Schools. If reasonable suspicion exists, school authorities will conduct a thorough investigation.

The respective coach/ advisor and the Athletic Director/Building Principal will make a decision on the penalty. The District reserves the right to determine any appropriate penalty based on the circumstances of a violation. When determining the penalty, consideration will be given to the type of violation and previous involvement in other violations by that particular student.

The student and the parent will be notified by the respective coach/advisor within a reasonable amount of time of the determination of the suspension or dismissal, and if they desire, the appeal procedure.

Signature of Agreement Form:

The signatures of the student's parent/guardian and the student are required for participation in any extracurricular activity or athletic team. Any student involved in more than one school activity needs to complete this agreement only once for any school year. A completed Signature of Agreement form with the required signatures **MUST** be on file with the Building

Principal before a student is allowed to participate in any activity. All participation forms will be kept on file on the Building Principal's office.

BYRON-BERGEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Student Extracurricular Code
Signature of Agreement Form**

**For students to participate in
Athletics and Extracurricular Activities**

Through the signature(s) listed below, the individuals named agree that the Extracurricular Activities Student Code has been read and understood. It is also understood that the terms and conditions of the Extracurricular Activities Student Code will be followed so that the student named below may participate in any of the interscholastic athletic and extracurricular activities in the Byron Bergen Central School District.

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____
(Please Print)

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
(Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____ **School Year:** _____